

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board

Tuesday, December 13th, 2022 at 5:00 pm

MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham, MI

The regular meeting of ACD was held on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Highlen. Board members present at roll call: John Highlen, Rowan Bunce, James DeDecker, Hans Eriksen. Staff present: Matt Watkeys, Christy Foye. Sara Kelso, Misa Cady Staff absent: Landen Tetil, Kelly Sippl, Elise Desjarlais, Holly Wendrick-Moss.

Guests: Rachael Guth, Hilary Ludecke, Barb Isom, Charlie Todd

Public comment: None

Correspondence: Watkeys passed around correspondence.

Approve agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Bunce, seconded by DeDecker; MCUC

Motion to approve minutes of the November 8th, 2022, regular meeting by Bunce, seconded by Eriksen; MCUC

Introductions of AmeriCorps VISTA Member, Jane Watson: Watson introduced herself and talked about her background

STAFF REPORTS: Written reports reviewed by board.

- a. NRCS DC: Report received.
- b. NRCS SC: Report received.
- c. FAP FORESTER: Report received.
- d. DM: Report received.
- e. CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Report received.
- f. MDARD: Report received.
- g. PRODUCE SAFETY: Report received.
- h. L2L CISMA: Report received.
- i. MAEAP: Report received.

MEETING REPORTS: Watkeys and Kelso reported on the MACD conference.

Old Business:

- a. OTHER GRANTS & FUNDING UPDATE:
 - 2023 SCRAP TIRE GRANT: Watkeys submitted a proposal for up to 5 sites in Alger County. Township staff will need to assist with collection events. Marquette Solid Waste Facility will be hauling and accepting the tires
 - CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS: Watkeys and Foye put together a proposal that will be submitted by the December 16th deadline.
 - AU TRAIN LAKE FISHSTICKS FISHERIES HABITAT PROJECT: Watkeys will start planning workdays over the next month. Compass Land Management will provide 30 trees for the project.
 - GLRI MDOT GRANT SUBMISSION: Watkeys submitted a proposal for approximately \$185,000 to plant up to 1,000 trees along the Au Train/Christmas corridor.
 - DHIPI: Watkeys met with 2 landowners for possible DHIPI sites
 - MISG SURVEY&TREATMENT: Dejarlais submitted a grant proposal for ACD to continue work at CGP in Grand Marais as well as survey high priority areas around Alger County.
- b. DISCUSS AND APPOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCY: There were 4 applicants for the position. The board had a discussion and voted. The votes were counted by Kelso with Hilary Ludecke receiving the majority of votes. A motion was made by DeDecker to appoint Hilary Ludecke to the Board of Directors, seconded by Eriksen; MCUC. Ludecke's appointment goes until the March Annual meeting/Director Election.
- c. ACD VEHICLE DELIVERY AND DECALS: Watkeys and Highlen will pick up the truck on 12/16/22.
- d. ACD VEHICLE USE POLICY REVIEW: The policy was reviewed and discussed. Watkeys will make recommended revisions and additions.

New Business:

- a. APPROVE OATH OF OFFICE AND DIRECTOR EXTENSION FOR JOHN HIGHLEN: A motion was made to extend Highlen's oath of office until the Annual Meeting/Director Election in March by Eriksen, seconded by Bunce; MCUC.
- b. BOARD ORGANIZATION: After discussion, newly appointed board member Ludecke will take over Wiener's position as Treasurer. Ludecke will need to be added as signatory on bank accounts, and Wiener will be removed.
- c. ACD ANNUAL BANQUET DISCUSSION: After discussion, the Annual Meeting and Director Election will be held on Thursday, March 23rd. Watkeys, Foye and Watson will finalize details for the meeting.
- d. ACD PLAN OF WORK: The board looked over and discussed the plan of work.
- e. DISCUSS PURCHASE OF MERCH FOR RETAIL: Watkeys will order bird feeders, bat and butterfly houses based on recent demand. They will be offered at the office, tree sale, the ACD Square retail site, and at other functions as permitted with time and permissions.
- f. DISCUSS SOIL AND SEDIMENTATION PROGRAM FOR ACD: Watkeys will shadow Joe Cilc in early summer in preparation for ACD taking over the program.
- g. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BURT TWP SPARK GRANT: Elise Cormier asked Watkeys and the board for a letter of support for a grant application Burt Twp is submitting to build a recreation trail linking Grand Marais to Pictured Rocks and the School Forest. Watkeys will draft a letter of support and get it to Cormier.

ACCEPT TREASURY REPORT/PAY BILLS: Motion to accept treasury report and pay bills made by Bunce, seconded by DeDecker; MCUC

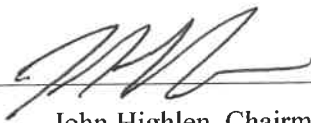
PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Motion made by Eriksen; seconded by Bunce to adjourn at 7:00pm; MCUC.

Submitted by Matt Watkeys, District Manager

These Minutes are subject to approval until signed below.

APPROVED: _____


John Highlen, Chairman

OR

James Dedecker, Secretary

Date: 11/10/23