

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board

Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00 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 6:00 by Chairman Highlen. Board members present at roll call: John Highlen, Liz Wiener, Rowan Bunce. Board members absent: Mike Saberniak, Diane Kay-Hougaboom. Staff present: Teri Grout, Matt Watkeys, Christy Foye, Sara Kelso, Misa Cady. Staff absent: Kelly Sippl, Holly Wendrick, Landen Tetil.

Guests: Rachael Guth-MDARD Regional Rep, Michael Paling-ABC Forester

Public comment: None.

Motion to accept agenda by Bunce; Wiener seconded; MCUC.

Motion to approve minutes of the November 2021 regular meeting by Wiener; seconded by Bunce; MCUC.

Introduction and presentation from Michael Paling, ABC Forester: Paling presented on golden-winged warbler and Kirtland's warbler forestry conservation programs that are now available for Alger County residents. He gave Watkeys brochures and business cards for the ACD office. Paling will coordinate with Watkeys on hosting a workshop in the near future and will do a small write up for the ACD newsletter.

STAFF REPORTS: Written reports reviewed by board, highlighted by staff present.

- a. NRCS DC: Cady highlighted written report.
- b. NRCS SC: Written report highlighted by Cady.
- c. FAP FORESTER: Kelso highlighted written report.
- d. ED: Grout highlighted written report.
- e. DM: Watkeys highlighted written report.
- f. CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Foye highlighted written report.
- g. MDARD: Guth reported that per the Open Meetings Act, as of January 1<sup>st</sup> boards cannot meet virtually. Guth said that ACD will need an assessment survey by July 7<sup>th</sup> containing the districts resource priorities. This information will be passed on to MACD. Guth said that Q1 reporting is due January 7<sup>th</sup>. Guth also reported that there will be a MAEAP vacancy in Delta County in the coming weeks.
- h. PRODUCE SAFETY: Written report received.
- i. MAEAP: No report received.

MEETING REPORTS: Watkeys attended a Balsam Woolly Adelgid meeting, UPRC&D meeting, 906 Recycling Committee meetings and MiCorp Annual Conference.

### Old Business:

- a. INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM:
  - RC&D:* Grout & Watkeys reported that there is another \$5000 for winter phrag surveys & cutting. Highlen asked about staffing. Watkeys and Andrew Haugh will spend a couple of days doing the cutting. The district has a brush cutter that can be used.
  - DISTRICT:* Grout reported work at this time is all data entry.
- b. MISG/LAKE-TO-LAKE CISMA:
  - HWA:* Watkeys reported that surveys are beginning this week and that there is funding for 2 people, 2 days per week for 2 1/2– 3 months.
  - MISG 2019 Survey & Treatment:* Grout reported that she turned in the final reporting and the money should be coming soon.
  - MISG Knotweed:* Grout reported that she had a MTRI conference call and that MTRI will be using GIS analysis and monitoring data for a predictive model of Japanese knotweed in high value ecological areas for use this coming field season.
- c. SOGL 2019 – Grout reported that we are still waiting for a payment.
- d. FISHERIES HABITAT GRANT(FHG) – Grout reported that the grant is wrapped up except for the reporting.

- e. NEW GRANTS & FUNDING UPDATE: Watkeys reported that there will likely be a PIRO small projects contract for 2022 and that the MISGP 2022 \$40,000 core funding grant was submitted for work in Alger County. Watkeys said that the SOGL Fish Sticks grant pre-proposal with UPRC&D was selected for a full proposal to be submitted. This grant includes a plan to strategically attach bundles of live trees onto Au Train Lake shoreline to increase underwater habitat for fish and prevent shoreline erosion. Watkeys also reported that a Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant was submitted for boat cleaning tools & signage as well as outreach events for Burt Township.
- f. DISTRICT EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS– Watkeys highlighted upcoming events; Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> @ Superior Central, “Birds, Bees, Critters & Trees” workshop on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, Tree Sale Pick-Up on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and Wildflower Sale on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. The ACD annual meeting will be held on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- g. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT OUTREACH/SURVEY – Foye will enter the data in the next couple of months.

**New Business:**

- a. PLANNING FOR FY22 ANNUAL MEETING- Watkeys requested pricing from the American Legion and Moose Lodge as a venue for the annual meeting. The American Legion quoted \$850 rental fee + \$150 bartender fee +\$75 liquor permit, not including food. The Moose Lodge quoted \$10-\$25 per person(dinner) + \$75 liquor permit & \$50 cleaning fee. The board recommends going with the Moose Lodge. Watkeys entertained the idea of having DNR biologist Heather Shaw as the presenter for the annual meeting. Wiener may have a person interested in the open board position. Watkeys has sent out many emails about the open position but has received no replies.
- b. CHANGE FOIA POLICY TO REFLECT DM- Grout said the board needs to approve a new FOIA officer. A motion was made to change ACD’s FOIA policy director to Matt Watkeys by Bunce; seconded by Wiener; MCUC.
- c. APPROVE SUBAWARD PAYMENT TO MTU FOR MISG JK GRANT- This payment is for work done from May through September in the amount of \$18,141.37. Motion to pay MTU was made by Wiener; seconded by Bunce; MCUC.
- d. DISCUSS BUDGET FOR ACD GEAR- Watkeys asked the board for \$1000-\$1500 for field crew shirts, and possible ACD logo beanies, shirts and other items like coozies and water bottles for the district to sell and give to volunteers. Highlen asked where the money would come from. Watkeys replied that he would like to use district funds. A motion was made by Wiener to spend up to \$2000 of district funds on ACD branded gear; Bunce seconded; MCUC.
- e. DISCUSS QUICKBOOKS TRAINING NEEDS AND BUDGET – Watkeys presented a proposal from Colleen Reynolds for QuickBooks training. Per the proposal, Watkeys would need approx. 25-40 hours of training at a rate of \$125/hr. Motion to approve QuickBooks training for Watkeys made by Bunce; seconded by Wiener; MCUC.
- f. APPROVE DISTRICT VEHICLE PURCHASE THROUGH MIDEALS – Watkeys reported that he can get a new GMC Savanna van with a wall and shelving for \$32,000. The van order would take approximately 2 months. Watkeys will bring a more formal proposal to the next meeting. Bunce asked Watkeys to enquire about getting the ACD logo printed on the vehicle. Watkeys asked the board if he should look into purchasing a used vehicle. Highlen said probably not a used truck, but possibly a van. Guth suggested USFWS used vehicle sale this spring. She will forward Watkeys the info.
- g. EXPANSION OF OFFICE HOURS – Watkeys reported that the office hours are now Monday – Thursday from 9AM-4PM. Changes have been made on website and social media to reflect this change.

ACCEPT TREASURERS REPORT/PAY BILLS: Watkeys reported that he had to do a stop payment on a paycheck for Andrew Haugh because Haugh never received it. Watkeys will reissue the paycheck. Motion to accept Treasures Report and pay bills by Wiener; seconded by Bunce; MCUC.

CORRESPONDENCE: Watkeys passed around correspondence including a new ACD flyer he created using a Dickinson CD template. Grout will get a quote from Pride Printing on making a trifold out of the new flyer. She will also get a quote for the spring newsletter mailing.

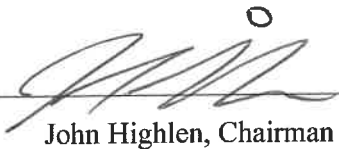
PUBLIC COMMENT: Watkeys presented Grout with a retirement gift. Bunce noted that he will not attend the January board meeting.

Motion made by Wiener; seconded by Bunce to adjourn at 7:35pm; MCUC.

*Submitted by Matt Watkeys, District Manager*

*These Minutes are subject to approval until signed below.*

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

  
John Highlen, Chairman

OR

Rowan Bunce, Secretary

Date: 1/11/22