

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

Tuesday, May 9th, 2023 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. Hilary Ludecke and Hans Eriksen. Associate board members Charlie Todd and Barb Isom present. Staff present: Matt Watkeys, Misa Cady, Sara Kelso. Staff absent: Christy Foye (excused for Burt Twsp. Business), Kelly Sippl, Landen Tetil, Holly Wendrick-Moss.

Guests: Rachael Guth, MDARD Regional Coordinator

Public comment: Barb Isom provided an Alger County Action Committee update that the Munising Beacon needs print subscribers to continue to exist.

Correspondence: Watkeys passed around correspondence.

Board Organization: Discussion about board re-organization was presented, with tasks assigned and with the statement of the Vice-President should be on a track to be promoted to President. Motion to approve by Bunce, seconded by DeDecker; MCUC.

Approve agenda: Watkeys asked to add agenda item (h) under Old Business: Tree Sale Wrap up. Motion to approve agenda by DeDecker, seconded by Bunce; MCUC.

Motion to approve minutes of the April 11th, 2023, regular meeting by Bunce, seconded by Ludecke; MCUC.

STAFF REPORTS: Written reports reviewed by board and highlighted by staff.

- a. NRCS DC: Cady discussed the work she and Sippl have done on NRCS Contracts being preapproved for funding in Alger County, and the need for Board approval next month.
- b. NRCS SC: Report received.
- c. FAP FORESTER: Kelso reported a small but engaged turnout for the pruning workshop on 4/8.
- 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.
- j. MDARD Regional Coordinator: Planning is underway for Region Meeting in eastern UP.

MEETING REPORTS: Watkeys mentioned Recycle906 Meeting update and the E-Waste collection and Appliance Recycling event in June. Highlen discussed advertising for PIRO/DNR Hurricane River Bridge remediation proposal; Trout Unlimited Salmon release with local classes updates with stream sampling events.

### Old Business:

- a. OTHER GRANTS & FUNDING UPDATE:
  - AU TRAIN LAKE FISHSTICKS FISHERIES HABITAT PROJECT: Watkeys gave an update on the project, and the introduction of the Friends of Au Train Watershed group; need to include Au Train Lake shoreline owners already participating in Fish Sticks project.
  - GLRI MDOT GRANT SUBMISSION: Watkeys received feedback on GLRI Au Train Beach proposal, will focus more on environmental benefits and offsetting costs to remove sand on highway by MDOT.
  - DHIPI: Awarded in in New Business.
  - MISG SURVEY&TREATMENT: Approved
- b. AGRIPALOOZA DISCUSSION: Board talked about hosting event again at the MSU Extension UPREC Farm. Will reach out to MCCD, local Key Clubs, Honors Societies, and the need for an “after party” for presenters and professionals.

- c. 5-YEAR PLAN ADDITIONS: Discussion of small items to include and edit, completed forms collected by Watkeys.
- d. MDARD OPERATIONS REVIEWS: Board discussed and will provide input and edits on documents.
- e. UPDATED ACD GTRANTS SPREADSHEET: Watkeys presented new list of grants, subawards, and proposed contracts for review.
- f. SWP MARTINE CLEANUP DAYS: Topic was discussed to include the Munising Marina and Anna River mouth area in Munising Bay for a potential clean up grant with SWP.
- g. MUNISING FARMERS MARKETS 2023: Starting day of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, ACD to participate once a month starting on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- h. TREE SALE WRAPUP: Watkeys discussed day of sales and other successes, board discussed advertising all year for tree sale items, and all discussed the few hiccups that were present.

**New Business:**

- a. CITY OF MUNISING LONG TERM LOAN PAYBACK: Discussion about purpose of loan and current lack of need for holding the money in a bank account. Motion to pay back loan with accrued interest, and to close subsequent bank accounts made by Bunce, seconded by Ludecke; MCUC.
- b. MUNISING TOWNSHIP LONG TERM LOAN PAYBACK: Discussion about purpose of loan and current lack of need for holding the money in a bank account. Motion to pay back loan with accrued interest, and to close subsequent bank accounts made by Bunce, seconded by Ludecke; MCUC.
- c. APPROVE 2023 DNR DHIPI GRANT: Grant was reviewed and motion to approve by Eriksen, seconded by DeDecker; MCUC.
- d. APPROVE HIGH TUNNEL LETTER OF SUPPORT: Letter will be placed on ACD letterhead with additions discussed. Tabled until revisions are completed next month.

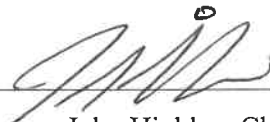
ACCEPT TREASURY REPORT/PAY BILLS: Motion to accept treasury report and pay bills made by Ludecke, seconded by DeDecker; MCUC.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Guth mentioned Great Lakes Fisheries Commission FHG Grant on the Sucker River including a Sea Lamprey barrier and volunteer opportunities. DeDecker mentioned and discussed Alger County Emergency Declarations.

Motion made by Bunce; seconded by Eriksen to adjourn at 6:35pm; MCUC.

*Submitted by Matt Watkeys, District Manager*

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

APPROVED:  Date: 6/13/23  
 John Highlen, Chairman OR James Dedecker, Secretary