

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board

Tuesday, June 14th, 2022 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 6:01 by Chairman Highlen. Board members present at roll call: John Highlen, James Dedecker, Rowan Bunce, Hans Eriksen, Liz Wiener. Staff present: Matt Watkeys, Christy Foye, Kelly Sippl, Misa Cady, Sara Kelso

Guests: Rachael Guth – MDARD, Alger County Commissioner - Mick Rondeau

Public comment: None

Correspondence: Watkeys passed around correspondence.

Approve agenda: Watkeys asked to switch old business and new business on the agenda and switch items a & e. Motion to accept updated agenda by Eriksen; DeDecker seconded; MCUC.

Motion to approve minutes of the May 10th, 2022, regular meeting by Wiener; Bunce seconded, MCUC.

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: Guth reported that there has been 1 interview for a new MAEAP technician, but no one has been hired. Guth mentioned that the MACD Region 2 meeting will be hosted by Schoolcraft CD at the Indian Lake S.P. pavilion with the date TBD.
- g. PRODUCE SAFETY: Report received.
- h. MAEAP: No report received.

MEETING REPORTS: Guth mentioned that the MACD Fall Conference will be held at Shanty Creek in Bellaire on November 7-9th, 2022.

New Business:

- a. UPCOMING EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS, CHRISTY FOYE-JULY, MATT WATKEYS-AUGUST: Watkeys and Foye created an employee evaluation form for current staff to review them. Board will review evaluations with Foye after the July board meeting and with Watkeys after the August board meeting.
- b. BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS AND DISCUSSION: The board discussed creating other committees in addition to the personnel and communications committees.
- c. MDARD OPERATIONS REVIEW: Watkeys asked the board to review several elements of the MDARD operations requirements to determine what the district has accomplished and what the district needs to work on. Operations review is due on October 1st.
- d. RESOURCE SURVEY UPDATE: Foye passed around 2021 Natural Resource Assessment Survey compilation. 65 total surveys were submitted - not including electronic surveys. Watkeys and the board discussed the districts natural resource priorities based on the results. Watkeys will complete and submit the FY22 Conservation Needs Assessment by July 7th.
- e. APPROVE EQUIP CONSERVATION PLANS: Sippl passed around 5 EQIP Conservation Plans for the board to review and sign.

Old Business:

- a. MISG CORE: Crews have started manual removal of garlic mustard and spotted knapweed.

- b. MISG KNOTWEED: Crews have been out monitoring knotweed in Alger, Schoolcraft, and Delta counties to determine treatment plans for spring and fall. Watkeys updated the board about ongoing problems with the execution of this grant. Watkeys said he would be asking for an extension.
- c. SOGL 2019 – Watkeys reported \$20,000 left to spend for this grant that expires in December 2022. Crews will be conducting monitoring and treatment at several road stream crossing sites in Alger County. Gravel pits will also be monitored and re-treated.
- d. NEW GRANTS AND FUNDING UPDATE:
 - URBAN AG – The Pairing Food and Food Gardens project will be promoted at the wildflower workshop and Pictured Rocks days with a goal of giving away 25 free pollinator flats in Alger County. It will also be promoted on the website and social media.
 - UP SUSTAINABLE FOREST & WILDLIFE FUND – Watkeys reported that the Chatham parcel has been cleaned up with the help of ACD staff, local neighbors and MSU Extension. A local Eagle Scout will be working on further developing the parcel with building a fence and planning volunteer events. Watkeys will reach out to the Village of Chatham about a parking area.
 - DHIPI – Watkeys reported that everything has been planted and soil tests completed. The next step is to fence the larger fruit trees and spray, till and re-seed the trails.
 - OTHER - Watkeys reported that there will be some contract work for phragmites through UPRC&D and invasives contract work for Pictured Rocks and Seney.
- e. PERSONNEL POLICY, SECTION 6: The board discussed this section of the personnel policy and suggested some revisions. Watkeys will revise and submit at the next board meeting.
- f. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT, CONTINUED: There was a discussion on the auditors' findings. Watkeys will revise the agreement and submit at the next meeting.

ACCEPT TREASURY REPORT/PAY BILLS: Watkeys reported that the Alger County Road Commission has been paid in full. Motion to accept treasury report made by Wiener; seconded by Bunce; MCUC.

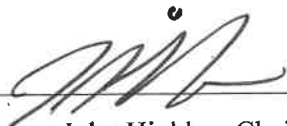
PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Rondeau had some questions and comments.

Motion made by Bunce; seconded by Eriksen to adjourn at 7:49pm; 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: _____

7/12/22