

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

Tuesday, July 11th, 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 5:02 pm by Chairman Highlen. Board members present at roll call: John Highlen, Rowan Bunce, Hilary Ludecke. Associate board members present: Charlie Todd and Barb Isom. Board members absent: Hans Eriksen, James DeDecker. Staff present: Matt Watkeys, Christy Foye, Misa Cady, Kelly Sippl. Staff absent: Sara Kelso, Elise Dejarlais, Landen Tetil, Holly Wendrick-Moss.

Guests: Diane Andybur

Public comment: Diane Andybur said that ACD is doing great work.

Correspondence: Watkeys passed around correspondence.

Approve agenda: D. MAEAP Communications Workgroup Grant under new business was taken off the agenda. Motion to approve agenda as amended by Bunce, seconded by Ludecke; All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve minutes of the June 13th, 2023, regular meeting by Ludecke, seconded by Bunce; All in favor, motion carried.

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

- a. NRCS DC: Cady reported that there will be CSP contracts for the board to sign next month. She will send them to the board for review. Cady asked to be put on the agenda for next month's meeting for civil rights review.
- b. NRCS SC: Sippl reported that 2 high tunnels have been purchased and will be built in the upcoming months.
- 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 attended the AuTrain monthly board meeting to give an update on the Fish Sticks Habitat project.

### Old Business:

- a. OTHER GRANTS & FUNDING UPDATE:
  - DHIPI – Watkeys reported that all the trees have been planted and soil samples have been taken. Site prep for and planting of food plots is all that is left to do.
  - MISG JK – Watkeys reported that round 2 of manual treatment in Alger County has been completed.
  - MISG HIMALAYAN BALSAM – nothing to report.
  - MISG S&T – Watkeys reported that staff conducted manual European swamp thistle removal as well as garlic mustard removal. Staff will be working in Grand Marias on knapweed and baby's breath management in the coming weeks and possibly at some Alger County gravel pits.
  - CBCW – Watkeys reported that the signage and tools for the Burt Twp Marina have all been received and he will deliver them to the Harbor Master for installation. AIS signs for Au Train will be delivered to the office on 7/12.
  - CHATHAM COMMUNITY GARDEN – Watkeys reported no one in attendance for the workshop, possibly due to it being so late in the growing season. Watkeys, Kolton and Foye have been working on weeding the pollinator planting with help from L2L CISMA technician, Noah.

- AUTRAIN LAKE FISHERIES HABITAT – Watkeys reported that the project is 95% completed with 3 brush bundles remaining. USFS will provide a boat to drop these at the end of July. A celebratory event for landowners and partners is planned for Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at AuTrain Township Hall.
- b. MDARD OPERATIONS REVIEW DOCS – Watkeys and Guth worked on this document and Watkeys submitted it to the board for review. The board discussed and made some changes. It is due in October.
- c. AGRIPALOOZA UPDATES – Watkeys reported that Agripalooza will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

- a. ACD INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEW – Watkeys submitted 2 policies for the board to look at. The board reviewed and discussed both Investment Policies. A motion was made to pass the (#2) Investment Policy as presented by Bunce, seconded by Ludecke; All in favor, motion carried.
- b. ACD CREDIT CARD POLICY REVIEW – Watkeys submitted a policy for the board to review. The board reviewed, discussed, and made some changes. A motion was made by Bunce to accept the Credit Card Policy as amended, seconded by Ludecke; All in favor, motion carried.
- c. ACD DONATIONS – Watkeys reported that Kolton started a donations page for the district which is linked on the website. The board discussed creating a donations policy and donation laws. Watkeys will look into donation laws. Tabled for next month’s board meeting.


ACCEPT TREASURY REPORT/PAY BILLS: Motion to accept treasury report and pay bills made by Bunce, seconded by Ludecke; All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Guest Diane Andybur mentioned native plantings and concerns about invasive species. She had some questions about the fish stick drops and leased USFS property. Watkeys addressed her questions, and the board thanked her for attending the meeting.

Motion made by Ludecke; seconded by Bunce to adjourn at 6:07pm; All in favor, motion carried.

*Submitted by Matt Watkeys, District Manager*

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

APPROVED:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 8/8/23

John Highlen, Chairman                      OR                      James Dedecker, Secretary