

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board

Tuesday, July 12, 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 6:00 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: Commissioner Mick Rondeau

Public comment: None

Correspondence: Watkeys passed around correspondence.

Approve agenda: Watkeys asked to add section e. change time of board meetings, to new business. Motion to accept updated agenda by Bunce; DeDecker seconded; MCUC.

Motion to approve minutes of the June 14th, 2022, regular meeting by Wiener; Eriksen seconded, MCUC.

STAFF REPORTS: Written reports reviewed by board.

- a. NRCS DC: Cady reported on the FY 2022 Farm Bill. A few more wildlife applications were funded.
- b. NRCS SC: Report received.
- c. FAP FORESTER: Kelso has been doing a lot of site visits.
- d. DM: Watkeys is talking with the City of Munising regarding the DNR Trust Fund/Community Forest Grant for the 370-acre Lyme parcel in Munising.
- e. CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Foye reported on Agripalooza planning. Presenters have been invited and have been responding. Agripalooza will be held on Friday, September 30th.
- f. MDARD: Written report received. Cady highlighted the district manager training in Gaylord on August 23rd.
- g. PRODUCE SAFETY: Report received.
- h. MAEAP: No report received.

MEETING REPORTS: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- a. MISG CORE: Watkeys reported that the field crew has been working on manual treatment of spotted knapweed, garlic mustard and European marsh thistle. Crew has also been mapping and manually clipping flowering rush on the Au Train River. USFS will help with the use of a power boat for mapping.
- b. MISG KNOTWEED: In progress. Watkeys is working on a reimbursement request.
- c. SOGL 2019: Making progress wrapping up this grant. Gravel pit and road stream crossing monitoring & treatment are getting done.
- d. NEW GRANTS & FUNDING UPDATES: URBAN AG, UP SUSTAINABLE FOREST AND WILDLIFE FUND, DHIPI: Watkeys reported Alger County had 24 applicants & all will get pollinator kits through the Urban Ag grant. Watkeys has been working with an Eagle Scout on the Chatham parcel and the plan is for fencing to go up on August 5th with work also being done on a trail, small culvert and parking pad. ACD planting workshop to be held there on September 9th. There is some work to finish up the DHIPI site and Watkeys is still waiting on the agreement for the Au Train Lake project.
- e. PERSONNEL POLICY, SECTION 7: Board discussed the personnel privacy policy. Watkeys will make changes and send out revised policy.
- f. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT, CONTINUED: The board made some final revisions to the agreement. Motion to approve resolution agreement as amended made by Wiener; seconded by Dedecker. MCUC.

New Business:

- a. MDARD OPERATIONS REVIEWS: Watkeys submitted required documents.
- b. ANNUAL CIVIL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTNERS – SIPPL: Sippl reviewed the USDA civil rights policy, and the board signed an Affirmation of Review.
- c. APPROVE EQIP PLANS – SIPPL: Tabled for next meeting.
- d. UPCOMING EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS, MATT WATKEYS-AUGUST: Watkeys will be evaluated at next month's board meeting.
- e. CHANGE TIME OF BOARD MEETING: Watkeys proposed changing the board meeting time to 5:00PM instead of 6:00PM. Motion made by Wiener to approve the new meeting time of 5:00PM; Bunce seconded; MCUC.

ACCEPT TREASURY REPORT/PAY BILLS: Motion to accept treasury report made by Wiener; seconded by Bunce; MCUC.

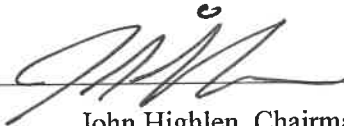
PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Rondeau had some questions and comments.

EMPLOYEE EVALUATION, CHRISTY FOYE: All meeting attendees were adjourned. Employee evaluation was conducted by the board.

Motion made by Wiener; seconded by Bunce to adjourn at 7:45pm; MCUC.

Submitted by Matt Watkeys, District Manager

These Minutes are subject to approval until signed below.

APPROVED:  _____ Date: 8/9/2022
John Highlen, Chairman OR James Dedecker, Secretary