

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Alger Conservation District (ACD) Board

Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, at 5:00 pm

MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham, MI

A regular meeting of ACD, called to order at 5:00pm by Chairperson John Highlen. Board members present at roll call: Hilary Ludecke, and Hans Eriksen. Board members absent: Rowan Bunce, James Dedecker. Associate board members Charlie Todd (present) and Barb Isom (present). Staff present: Matt Watkeys, Alex Kolton, Misa Cady. Staff absent: Sara Kelso, Rachael Guth Elise Desjarlais, Landen Tetil, Holly Wendrick-Moss.

Guests: Marty Ludecke

Public comment: None

Correspondence: Watkeys passed around correspondence and noted a letter from MI Unemployment, rates have increase due to claims from previous spring, but anticipates a rate drop in the future.

Approve agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Ludecke, seconded by Erickson; All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve minutes of the December 12th, 2023, regular meeting by Ludecke, seconded by Erickson; All in favor, motion carried.

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

- a. NRCS DC: Report received. Cady reported office is ramping up to process applications.
- b. NRCS SC: No report received. No comment made.
- c. FAP FORESTER: Report received. No comment made.
- d. PRODUCE SAFETY: Report received. No comment made.
- e. L2L CISMA: Report received. No comment made.
- f. DM: Report received. No Comment made.
- g. CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Report received. Kolton expanded focus on website will continue to be content enrichment.
- h. MDARD: Report received. No comment made.
- i. MAEAP: Report received. No comment made.
- j. MEETING REPORTS: Cady reported Sipple's position has been announced to backfill, along with 5 other positions throughout the UP. Kolton reported continued growth on social media accounts. Highlen asked how much time is spent daily on social media, Kolton stated 45 minutes daily. Watkeys provided updates on land acquisition, now called Munising Bay Overlook Property. Community Forest Grant is due Friday, January 12th, and the Trust for Public Land is actively working on this grant's completion. Letters of support from a dozen organizations are included to support the project. North County Trail will be rerouted through this property to avoid the H-58 County Road corridor presently being used.

Old Business:

- a. GODADDY WEBSITE UPDATES
 - Kolton expanded focus on website will continue to be content enrichment.
 - Watkeys confirmed events are in, and community is providing positive feedback on the new website and newsletter format change.
- b. COFFEE AND CONSERVATION FOR 1/16/24, EBEN SNACK BAR, 10AM TO 12NOON
 - Watkeys confirmed Misa, Holly, and Sara will attend a couple of the board as well may attend. Confirmation has been set with Eben snack bar for the space.

c. ANNUAL BANQUET, GALLERY COFFEE, 3/19/24

- Host Gallery Coffee has confirmed space to host the banquet. Au Train-Onota Scholl District Instructor, Amy Pihlainen, has confirmed and will have the students attending to present their experience and data in the Au Train Fish Habitat project. Ludecke is the only BOD member up for re-election, Watkeys confirmed all requirements for elections are ready.

New Business:

1. NRCS CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Cady presented a contract renewal, second term agreement with CSP. Highlen clarified contract terms; Misa expanded on funding perimeters. The board reviewed and signed the agreement.

2. 2024 TREE SALE, SCHEDULES, AND DISCOUNTS

- Watkeys stated full print catalog in process; Tree Sale catalogs will be mailed only upon request. In place, a postcard announcement will be sent to all past customer bases with QR code and reminder a hard copy catalog can be mailed upon request. April 29th tree packing will occur, board is welcomed to help and attended. Covered discounts the district will offer, and potential giveaways to participating residents.

3. ANNUAL REPORT DISCUSSION

- Watkeys discussed the hard copy booklet and moving towards a streamlined hard copy of a single page for the meeting, and then releasing a digital copy after the annual meeting recapping the event and the year.

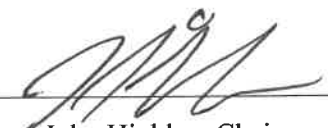
ACCEPT TREASURY REPORT/PAY BILLS: Watkeys conveyed district is awaiting millage payments, late compared to 2023. Financials reviewed, no questions or comments. Motion made by Ludecke to accept to pay the bills, seconded by Ericksen, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Barb Isom commented advertising on the tree sale mailer may distract from Alger Conservation District. Re-work of both sides to make clear communication of Alger Conservation District and partner. Ludecke commented that she attended the Trout Unlimited Microplastic and found it highly informative.

Motion made by Ludecke, seconded by Ericksen, to adjourn at 6:30pm; All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by ALEX KOLTON 
~~James DeDecker, Secretary~~

These Minutes are subject to approval until signed below.

APPROVED:  Date: 2/13/24
John Highlen, Chairman OR James Dedecker, Secretary