



St, Joseph County Conservation District
693 E. Main Street
Centreville, MI 49032
(269)467-6336 x5

January 17, 2024, Board Minutes

3:04 pm Call to order by Howard Avildsen

Directors Present:

Howard Avildsen, Board chair
Todd Hironimus, vice chair
Carol Higgins
Chad Clark, Treasurer

Board members absent

Dan Blasius

Introductions/Visitors: Chuck Ronk, NRCS, Kaitlin Renehan, Conservation Specialist and Harlie Miller, our new MAEP Technician

Additions or Deletions to agenda: Clark motioned to accept the board agenda presented with the addition of Dairy Doo information. Higgins second. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None

Approval of December board meeting. Higgins motioned to accept December minutes Hironimus second. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report:

Clark motioned to accept the December financials to be placed on file. Higgins second, motion passed.

Correspondence Reports:

Administrator: spoken/written Grace was excited to introduce Harlie Miller to the team!

MAEAP: next month

NRCS: Ronk asked if there were any questions for him. None were asked. He discussed what has been going on at the office for signups. Also Chuck spoke about a 10x10 shed that should be purchased for the District by NRCS and he will continue to work on getting that task accomplished.

CISMA: none

MDARD: written.

CTAI: Written

Board: Hironimus had a contact for S. Grace to explore for CISMA water treatments along the river edge. A jet boat could be used from Martin Kurtz for this CISMA work

Higgins: Discussed checking into a foundation grant for pollinator and plants for Mendon schools. Grace and Renehan will discuss the possibility of sharing their seeds if they germinate from the seed collection this past fall.

A second item from Higgins was about the poster contest winners. We will invite them to the annual meeting to receive their prize and something from the board also.

Old Business:

- **Conflict of interest:**
- **Insurance:** Grace is working to make sure all employees are happy with the selection of their insurance
- **Annual Meeting:** April 10, 2024 with Honeytree Arborist Mike Conner, it will be held at ISD at 6pm.
- **Staff Bonus:** Higgins motioned to spend \$500.00 at \$20.00 per year bonus for the staff. Hironimus second After board discussion, Clark motioned to table the \$20 per year longevity bonus until he could be sure that the money is in the budget. Hironimus second.

New Business:

- **Used Vehicle Search Vetter Chevy**
- **Vacation:** C. Grace asked about Feb meeting. After discussion, Kaitlin Renehan will be secretary and hope to have S. Grace attend to help her with the meeting formalities. Board decided to keep regular meeting time and hope Grace can call in while in Australia.
- **Dairy Doo Contract** Higgins met a representative of Dairy Doo at a conference and asked Grace to reach out to them to have some products for sale at the annual tree sale. After a meeting with 2 representatives of Dairy Doo, it was decided to present the possibility of adding something to the District flyer to sell Dairy Doo. After board discussion Higgins motioned to sell the product for a \$1.00 a bag profit during the tree sale. Hironimus second. Motion passed.

PA116: none

Adjournment: Clark motioned to adjourn at 5:03 pm Avildsen second. Motion passed.

Next Meeting: February 21, at 3pm at the St. Joseph County Conservation District Offices.

Board Chair Signature: Howard Avildsen

Date Feb. 21, 2024