

MEETING MINUTES

For the regular meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board
Tuesday, May 12th, 2025, 5:00 pm, located at MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham

Call to order: On the above date, Chairperson Rowan Bunce called ACD's regular meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Board members present: Rowan Bunce, Charlie Todd, Hampton Waring, Hilary Ludecke

Board members absent: Hans Eriksen

Associate board members present: Barb Isom, Mackenzie Guzman

Associate board members absent: Laurie Leppanen

Staff present: Alex Kolton, Eryn Grupido, Helena Moleski, Sara Kelso, Misa Cady, Calli Tomazoski, Rachel Guth

Staff absent: Misa Cady, Haley Van Huis, and Holly Wendrick-Moss.

Guests: Rivka Hodgkinson

Public comment: Guest Hodgkinson introduced herself as the Executive Director of Michigan Association of Conservation Districts. Chairperson Bunce gave congratulations on a successful Tree Sale.

Correspondence: None

Approve agenda

Add to agenda: "approve minutes of special meeting held on May 1st, approve minutes of closed meeting held on May 1st". Add to agenda: "Staff grievance Policy" under New Business.

Motion by Ludecke, seconded by Todd, to approve the amendments to the agenda. All in favor; motion carried.

Approve minutes of April 14th, 2026, regular meeting

Motion by Waring, seconded by Ludecke, to approve the previous minutes as presented. All in favor; motion carried.

Approve minutes of May 1st, 2026, special meeting

Motion by Waring, Seconded by Ludecke, to approve the special meeting minutes as presented. All in favor; motion carried

Approve minutes of May 1st, 2026, closed meeting

Motion by Todd, Seconded by Ludecke, to approve the closed meeting minutes as presented. All in favor; motion carried

Board and Staff Reports: review written reports

Written reports were reviewed by the board and highlighted by staff.

NRCS SC: Received

Cady has had an uptick in site visits. She has completed the FY2026 EQIP applications and is working on the FY20206 CSP applications.

CTAI: Received

FAP FORESTER: Received

Kelso highlighted her recent field work and conferences that she has attended in the past month. The MI SAF conference and the Sustainable Forestry Conference. She is looking forward to leading lessons at Envirothon the coming week.

L2L CISMA: Not Received

ACD DD (AK): Received.

ACD DC (EG): Received.

Grupido highlighted her work done on the 2026 field schedule and running Tree Sale. She also announced that our Stream Monitoring events had been registered for the Make a Difference Week with the Society of Ecological Restoration.

ACD DC (HM): Received.

Moleski highlighted an educational game she presented at Earthfest on April 20th, Every Tree For Itself, that had about 10 participants.

MDARD: Received

Guth highlighted a new system that MDARD has created for quarterly reporting of conservation district achievements. In the current report Alger Conservation District is highlighted as a Region 2 District that has received multiple grants this quarter and launched our first annual Student Conservation Art Contest.

CTAP: Received

PRODUCE SAFETY: Received

Tomasoski started her position on April 13th. She introduced herself to the board. She highlighted her travels across the UP, meeting various districts, farmers, and other produce safety players, as she settles into her role.

Meeting Reports: Kolton highlighted a meeting with Limestone Township in which he received funding to do survey and treatment of wild parsnip within the Township.

Old Business:

a. **Succession Planning: Board Calendar, Google Workspace**

A Google Workspace has been created with all of the board members' emails so that certain documents can be shared and are easily accessible to all board members, along with a calendar linked to their Gmail accounts of district operational dates.

b. **Director Roles & Responsibilities**

The board has chosen to switch up certain roles. Bunce to remain as Chairperson, Waring to move to Vice Chair, Ludecke to move to Secretary, Todd to remain as Treasurer, and Ericksen to remain as Director at Large.

Motion by Bunce to move Waring to the role of Vice Chair, seconded by Todd, taken as a roll call vote. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion by Todd to move Ludecke to the role of Secretary, seconded by Waring, taken as a roll call vote. All in favor; motion carried.

New Business:

a. **Youth Outreach & Education Match Fund**

Kolton reported that an anonymous private donor provided a fund to assist match for engagement programs with local youths. This fund is already represented in the budget report.

b. **Staff Grievance Policy**

Bunce has drafted a new staff grievance policy that would differentiate complaints from grievances and allow the liaison committee to handle complaints confidentially. It was reviewed by board members present, but since Eriksen was absent, the policy will be tabled until the next meeting, where all board members are present to vote on it.

Accept Treasury Report; pay bills

Motion by Todd, seconded by Waring, to accept the treasury report and pay bills as presented. Motion carried; Bills paid.

Public comment: None

Adjourn

Motion by Ludecke, seconded by Todd, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 5:34 pm. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion by Waring, seconded by Ludecke, to call to order a closed meeting starting at 5:35 pm. Taken as a roll call vote, all in favor; motion carried.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, June 9th at 5:00 pm

Moleski has transcribed these minutes | Minutes are subject to approval until signed below

APPROVED: *lh*

DATE: 06/09/2026

Rowan Bunce, Chairman

OR

Hilary Ludecke, Vice President