

## AGENDA

### For the regular meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board

Tuesday, March 24th, 2026, 5:00 pm, located at MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham

#### Call to order: 5:06 PM

**Board members present:** Rowan Bunce, Hans Eriksen, Hillary Ludecke, Hampton Waring

**Board members absent:** Charlie Todd, Barb Isom (associate)

**Staff present:** Eryn Grupido, Alex Kolton, Helena Moleski, Misa Cady

**Staff absent:** Elise Desjarlais, Holly Wendrick-Moss, Sara Kelso

**Guests:** None

**Public comment:** None

**Correspondence:** Kolton passed correspondence, including a thank you note from Rock River Township Library for the donation of seeds.

#### Approve agenda

Discussion to move New Business item "C" Board Elections to next month when more directors are present for discussion. Replace with a new item, Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Ludecke, seconded by Eriksen to approve the agenda with the change of topic for item "C." All in favor; motion carried.

#### Approve minutes of February 10th, 2026, regular meeting

District staff offered a correction for New Business, a. Pie Contest to strike the definition of the contest award as it does not reflect the actual contest incentives.

Motion by Eriksen, seconded by Ludecke to approve February minutes with corrections. All in favor; motion carried.

#### Board and Staff Reports: review written reports

##### NRCS SC:

Cady reported there are a total of 15 NRCS contracts being obligated for Alger County this season. There have been some changes, so obligations will be later this year than usual.

**CTAI Conserv:** Received

**FAP FORESTER:** Received

**L2L CISMA:** Received

**ACD DD (AK):** Received

**ACD DM (EG):**

Grupido announced that the stream clean up grant proposal had been submitted, 2 lakes have been registered for the season's monitoring activities, and that staff have completed the second core category tests for pesticide certification.

**ACD DC (HM):**

Moleski reported on attendance at the WAM conference to receive the grant award and detailed the pollinator garden and locations for the board.

**MDARD:** Received

**CTAP:** Not Received

**PRODUCE SAFETY:** VACANT; MCCD has started the interview process.

**ABC FORESTER:** Not Received

#### Meeting Reports:

**DD (AK):**

**2/12 - Mathias Township:** creating a recreation plan for the township. Alger CD has been named a strategic partner of the township. Affirmed by board vote, 2/12/2026.

**2/17 - Rock River Township:** made a high-level public comment on general programming to acquaint new board members with us.

**2/25 - Limestone Township:** discussions on the invasive management contract, recommended survey actions prior to treatment to better gauge need, and provided an opportunity to secure grant funding in partnership with the township. Limestone board will be budgeting late March, and requests the District return in April to discuss contract and scrap tire.

**Old Business:**

**a. PT Field Technician, Review applicants/Select Interview Dates/Create Hiring Subcommittee**

Interviews will begin in April. All applications that are fully complete will be considered for initial interviews by the district director and manager with a recommendation of final candidates for the board to interview at the April 14th meeting.

**b. City of Munising Culvert**

Kolton requested a meeting with the new city manager for a partner meet and greet and to update the board on the subject. Chair and vice chair will be joining the District Director.

**c. Succession Planning: District Org Chart**

Kolton presented a chart displaying the organization of roles to clarify the district staffing structure and role responsibilities for all.

**d. Tree Sale Prep/Pick-up date**

Tree Sale volunteer dates will be out soon. Pick up remains May 9th. Board and staff will assist as able.

**New Business:**

**a. Annual Meeting Recap**

Positive feedback was collected from all attendees. Board discussed having more informational handouts of our programming, a display of tree sale rootstock items, and hosting a seed library swap next year. Art contest follow up and t-shirts discussed.

**b. Current/Upcoming Partner Vacancies: Produce Safety, L2L CISMA, MCCD Manager**

MCCD is interviewing for a new produce safety technician now. CISMA Coordinator's last day will be April 24th, and MCCD Manager's last day will be May 24th. L2L CISMA Steering Committee will be meeting Thursday to discuss hiring a replacement and operational transitions.

**c. Meeting Minutes**

For consistency, all agreed from now on ACD staff will take minutes as part of their roles until someone can be hired to transcribe minutes every meeting. Grupido will start this meeting and train Moleski on how to complete them for the future.

**d. Policy Update & Review**

Four policies were reviewed and updated. Telework policy amended to scratch "during the winter months of November to April" completely and leave it up to director approval anytime of year.

Motion by Ludecke to accept the policy as amended, seconded by Eriksen. All in favor; motion carried.

District Computer Policy was introduced for the first time to be placed as a subsection of District Equipment & Vehicle. No amendments requested.

Motion by Ludecke to accept the policy as presented, seconded by Eriksen. All in favor; motion carried.

Associate Director - Recruitment and Appointment to Board placement proposed to be its own section. Discussed how to recruit in alignment with policy and state bylaws.

Motion by Eriksen to accept the policy as its own section, seconded by Ludecke. All in favor; motion carried.

Compensatory Time / Overtime and Flex Hours updated to include a subsection for Non-exempt (hourly) Employees. Revisions to subsection first sentence to read not exceed "40 hours per week" instead of 80 per pay period, exchange Comp Time Limit to approval from Executive Director and change District Director to Executive Director in all instances.

Motion by Eriksen to accept policy as amended, seconded by Ludecke. All in favor; motion carried.

**e. Office Move: Alger Courthouse/Rental Lease**

Office furniture is not movable and the new office does not come with any. Kolton attended the Alger County Commissioners meeting and received approval for the county to reimburse the purchase of new office desks by reducing our rent in the upcoming year as deferred payment. Move expected to be completed by the end of day 3/26/2026.

**f. Advertising open board positions/elections**

Benefits of advertising open positions and elections more were discussed. Including more with our current planned advertising was supported by all along with more explanations during the Annual Meeting of how to join as an Associate Director.

**g. Scrap Tire FY26 Updates**

The cost of recycling tires in Marquette is not covered in full by the grant. Waring recommended checking the Delta facility. Kolton will look into that as well as the potential of full service companies for collection.

**h. Staff Work Agreements**

Attorney advised updates to the current work agreements of the District Manager and District Coordinator. Both have reviewed the updated agreement and signed. The board discussed changes advised and long term goals for staff agreements overall.

Motion by Ludecke to accept the District Coordinator work agreement as presented, seconded by Eriksen. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion by Eriksen to accept the District Manager work agreement as presented, seconded by Ludecke. All in favor; motion carried.

**Accept Treasury Report; pay bills**

Kolton detailed treasury reports and noted that an unknown charge was disputed and returned to funds.

Motion by Ludecke to accept the treasury report as presented and pay bills, seconded by Eriksen. All in favor; motion carried.

**Public comment**

Ludecke announced that the new MHS superintendent is a family member of the Burt student working on the DHIPi project and happy to see our involvement, they did attend the annual meeting. Bunce state Jeff Chiodi from MCCD attended the Legislative Action Day and represented the central UP, passed along updates from those discussions.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Ludecke to adjourn at 7:40 PM, seconded by Eriksen. All in favor; motion carried.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, April 14th at 5:00 pm**

**Transcribed and submitted by District Manager Grupido | Minutes are subject to approval until signed below**

APPROVED: 

DATE: 04/14/2026

Rowan Bunce, Chairman

OR

Hillary Ludecke, Vice President