

Meeting Minutes

For the regular meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board

Tuesday, May 13th, 2025, 5:00 pm, located at the MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham

Call to order: On the above date, Vice Chairperson Rowan Bunce called the ACD's regular meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Board members present: Hans Eriksen, Hilary Ludecke, James DeDecker, Rowan Bunce.

Board members absent: John Highlen

Associate board members present: Barb Isom, Charlie Todd

Associate board members absent: None

Staff present: Alex Kolton, Eryn Grupido, Misa Cady, Sara Kelso, Rachel Guth

Staff absent: Amy Frye, Holly Wendrick-Moss, Kyler Hanson, Landen Tetil, Elise Desjarlais,

Guests: Mark Ludecke

Public comment: None.

Correspondence: Passed around; magazine from MI Forests.

Approve agenda:

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

Approve minutes of April 8th, 2025, regular meeting:

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

Approve minutes of April 15th, 2025, special meeting:

Motion by Ludecke, seconded by Eriksen to approve previous 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.

a. NRCS SC: Report Received

Cady announced 7 of the 16 applicants for the Conservation Stewardship Program were approved and 3 are being underwritten for Alger County. Cady provided a financial summary for Alger County for the current year, including 13 agreements and over 250K in technical assistance. Cady is currently the sole staff left to administer this aid through the NRCS office; the board discussed what they can do to assist in this time.

b. FAP FORESTER: Report Received

Kelso reported that the tree pruning workshop was a great success and they will be performing Alger site visits through the week.

c. PRODUCE SAFETY: Report NOT Received

d. L2L CISMA: Report Received

e. ACD DD (AK): Report Received

f. ACD DC (EG): Report Received

g. MDARD: Report Received

Guth announced MACD Region 2 has no representation at the moment due to unfortunate and unexpected passing of the current voluntary director. If any are interested in volunteering to represent the region they can reach out to Rivka to submit for the upcoming election; the requirements include 4 meetings a year, mixed in-person/virtual. Guth informed all that MDARD is updating the self-paced training modules available for directors and staff. There will also be a regional training in Marquette in late summer, all are encouraged to attend.

h. MAEAP: Report Received

Meeting Reports: District Staff attended the City of Munising Commissioners Meeting, where Master Gardener Katie Schneider brought forward the idea of community gardens throughout the city. The city is supportive of that effort and provided a few locations that might be feasible for long-term gardening.

Old Business:

a. Insurance Virtual Meeting - Agent Joe Fischer

Board took a call with insurance representative Joe Fischer from 5:26 to 5:59 to discuss the terms of insurance policies held by the district relating to coverages and claim procedures for general insurance, property, equipment, limited herbicide applicators enhancement, and volunteers. Agent explained the enhancement available for accidental medical expenses. Many questions were raised that would be better answered by the district's legal advisor. Discussion followed the call raising more questions for the district's legal advisor related to what documents should be prepared in the case they are needed for claims.

b. 2025 Tree Sale Recap/Feedback

Kolton reported there was a lot of positive feedback provided from the new set-up about how it was a good flow for movement as well as order arrangement by order number was helpful for purchasers and volunteers alike. The volunteer sign-up was helpful and one volunteer said it made their time feel valued and appreciated, plus the reminder was great. The native plant talk was well received, however more signed up than attended, so a reminder for registrants may be a good plan for next year.

c. Burt School DHIPI Grant Update

Kolton updated the district budget to reflect the administration of the Burt School DHIPI Grant Award.

d. Legal Advisor Update

Kolton updated that communication will be scheduled soon. Revisit the next meeting along with questions brought forward during the insurance discussion.

New Business: None

Accept Treasury Report; pay bills

Motion by DeDecker, seconded by Ludecke, to pay bills as presented. All in favor; motion carried.

Public comment

Grupido updated that the MI Health Endowment Fund will announce awards on October 1st and that Stream Monitoring is occurring on Tuesday, May 20th.

Adjourn

Motion by Ludecke, seconded by Eriksen, to adjourn at 6:27 pm. All in favor; motion carried.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, June 10th, 2025, 5:00 pm

Grupido has transcribed these minutes.

Submitted by James Dedecker | Minutes are subject to approval until signed below

APPROVED: _____



DATE: _____

6/10/25

John Highlen, Chairman

OR

Rowan Bunce, Vice President