

## **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board**

**Tuesday, February 14th, 2023 at 5:00 pm**

**MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham, MI**

The regular meeting of ACD was held on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Highlen. Board members present at roll call: John Highlen, Rowan Bunce, Hans Eriksen, Hilary Ludecke, James DeDecker. Associate board members present: Charlie Todd, Barb Isom. Staff present: Matt Watkeys, Christy Foye, Misa Cady. Staff absent: Kelly Sippl, Sara Kelso, Landen Tetil, Holly Wendrick-Moss.

Guests: Rachael Guth, Marty Ludecke, Mick Rondeau

Public comment: None

Correspondence: Watkeys passed around correspondence and the new Tree Sale catalog

Approve agenda: Watkeys asked to add 5-year Long Range Plan to new business. Motion to approve amended agenda by Bunce, seconded by DeDecker; MCUC.

Motion to approve minutes of the January 10th, 2023, regular meeting by Bunce, seconded by Eriksen; MCUC.

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

- a. NRCS DC: Report received.
- b. NRCS SC: Report received.
- c. FAP FORESTER: Report received.
- d. DM: Report received.
- e. CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Report received.
- f. MDARD: Report received.
- g. PRODUCE SAFETY: Report received.
- h. L2L CISMA: Report received.
- i. MAEAP: Report received.

MEETING REPORTS: Watkeys attended Mathias Twp monthly board meeting. Amy Frye attended a 2-day meeting for the MI Prescribed Fire Council.

### **Old Business:**

- a. OTHER GRANTS & FUNDING UPDATE:
  - CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS: ACD was awarded grant funds for AIS awareness signage and outreach events in Burt and Au Train Townships.
  - AU TRAIN LAKE FISHSTICKS FISHERIES HABITAT PROJECT: Watkeys reported that the EGLE permits have been approved. The volunteer day for building and staging the fish bundles is Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - GLRI MDOT GRANT SUBMISSION: Waiting to hear about this grant proposal.
  - DHIPI: Watkeys is working on a proposal for 1 site in Sundell and 2 sites in Onota.
  - MISG SURVEY&TREATMENT: Waiting to hear about this grant proposal.
  - MISG JK GRANT – There are funds for a small amount of field work and creating a landowner booklet.
- b. ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES AND CONTINUED DISCUSSION: Watkeys confirmed with Gallery Coffee and Cooking Carberrys. There will be no speaker this year – staff will introduce themselves and talk about how they can help residents with their natural resources. Watkeys will look into different options for advertising the event.

### **New Business:**

- a. MICORPS STREAM MONITORING 2023 – Discussion about spring stream monitoring plans and potential new sites. Some suggestions were Slapneck Creek and Bohemian Creek.

- b. DISTRICT EVENTS & WORKSHOPS, TREE FARM DAY POSSIBILITIES – Watkeys reported on upcoming events. The “Birds, Bees, Critters & Trees” workshop will be held in Trenary at Mathias Town Hall on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Watkeys asked for suggestions on having a Tree Farm Field Day. \$750 from the Tree Farm Committee is available for hosting an event.
- c. TREE SALE, DELIVERY AND PICK UP OF POTENTIAL NURSERY STOCK – Discussion about cost and logistics of getting the fruit trees from Bailey Nursery to Munising
- d. APPROVE SCRAP TIRE GRANT AGREEMENT – Discussion about potential sites (up to 5) and dates for these events. Watkeys coordinated with Mathias Twp for a collection day on May 13<sup>th</sup> to coincide with their community clean up event. A motion was made by Bunce to approve the scrap tire agreement. Ludecke seconded; MCUC.
- e. AG FOR TOMORROW CONFERENCE – DeDecker highlighted this upcoming event scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> in Escanaba. Board discussed ACD setting up a table at the conference and/or staff attending the conference.
- f. EARTH WEEK ACTIVITIES AT MUNISING SCHOOL DISTRICT – Discussion about ACD participating in the Earthfest event at Munising H.S. the week of April 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Foye and Watson will participate and set up an ACD table and display for the event.
- g. 5 - YEAR PLAN – Watkeys asked for volunteers for a committee to work on the districts 5-year plan that will need to be submitted in early July 2023. Bunce and Highlen volunteered to be on the committee and will put together an outline.

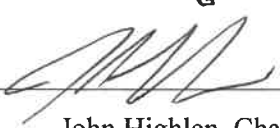
ACCEPT TREASURY REPORT/PAY BILLS: Motion to accept treasury report and pay bills made by Ludecke, seconded by DeDecker; MCUC.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mick Rondeau made some comments and inquired about availability of the district’s tree planter.

Motion made by Eriksen; seconded by Bunce to adjourn at 6:33pm; MCUC

*Submitted by Matt Watkeys, District Manager*

*These Minutes are subject to approval until signed below.*

APPROVED:  Date: 4/11/23  
 John Highlen, Chairman                      OR                      James Dedecker, Secretary