MEETING MINUTES

For the special meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board

Tuesday, August 4th, 2026, 5:00 pm, located at MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham

Minutes prepared by Hilary Ludecke

Call to order: Chairman Bunce called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM
Board members present: Hampton Waring, Charles Todd, Hilary Ludecke, Barb Isom, Rowan Bunce
Board members absent: Hans Ericksen, MacKenzie Guzman-Martinez, Laurie Leppanen
Staff present: Eryn Grupido **Staff absent:** Lani Moleski, Jacklyn Whitcomb
Guests: none

Public comment - none

Correspondence - none

Approve agenda - motion by Todd to approve agenda, seconded by Waring. All in favor, motion carried.

Board and Staff Reports: None

NRCS SC:
CTAI Conserv:
FAP FORESTER:
L2L CISMA:
ACD DM:
ACD DC:
MDARD:
CTAP:
PRODUCE SAFETY:
ABC FORESTER:

Meeting Reports: none

Old Business:

a. FY27-28 Budget & Staff Goals: The upcoming budget was reviewed by all present and line items were identified where reductions could reasonably be made. These adjustments will be reflected in the FY 27 Appropriated Budget.

b. IRS Correspondence: The District has been notified via letter from the IRS that as of May 24, 2026 that taxes in the amount of $1173.69 are due on August 5th. Todd moved to allow Grupido to pay this bill electronically on the due date. This was seconded by Waring. All in favor; motion carries.

New Business:

c. Hiring Decisions: In light of the reduced predicted budget for FY 27-28, as well as the continued decline in federal grant opportunities, Bunce proposed contracting the district staff back to two full time employees and one part time seasonal employee, as has been the norm in the past. Not hiring a new District Manager would appropriately reflect the shift in operational priorities and structure. Grupido is currently fulfilling the duties of District Manager, but will have to submit to an internal interview to officially be offered the permanent position. This interview is scheduled for 4:30 PM on 8/11/26, and will be conducted by board members Bunce and Waring. Bunce will contact outside applicants to notify them of this change.

d. Mileage Reimbursement Vote: As of July 1st, 2026, the federal mileage reimbursement rate has increased from 72.5¢ to 76¢ per mile. A motion was proposed by Waring to update the District's reimbursement rate to reflect this change, as well as retroactively apply this new rate to all mileage reimbursements since July 1st, 2026. Todd seconded this motion. All in favor; motion passes.

Accept Treasury Report; pay bills: none

Public comment: Todd asked for clarification regarding the Hendricks project involving tree removal plans. Grupido encouraged us to rethink our participation in this job, as ACD does not have PABL certification. In addition, there is the possibility of both the CISMA grant and private funding falling through.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Todd, seconded by Waring. All in favor; meeting adjourned 6:48 PM.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, August 11th, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Ludecke has transcribed these minutes. Minutes are subject to approval until signed below.

APPROVED: Wh **DATE:** 8/4/2026

Rowan Bunce, Chairman OR Hampton Waring, Vice President