

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board

Tuesday, April 11th, 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 5:05 pm by Chairman Highlen. Board members present at roll call: John Highlen, Rowan Bunce, James DeDecker. Hilary Ludecke arrived at 5:22PM. Associate board members Charlie Todd and Barb Isom arrived shortly after Ludecke. Board members absent: Hans Eriksen. Staff present: Matt Watkeys, Christy Foye, Misa Cady, Sara Kelso, Elise Dejarlais. Staff absent: Kelly Sippl, Landen Tetil, Holly Wendrick-Moss.

Guests: None

Public comment: None

Correspondence: Watkeys passed around correspondence.

Accept Director Oaths of Office, Board Organization: A motion to approve officers as elected and notarized was made by Bunce, seconded by DeDecker; MCUC. Board organization tabled until all board members are present.

Approve agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Bunce, seconded by DeDecker; MCUC.

Motion to approve minutes of the February 14th, 2023, regular meeting by Bunce, seconded by DeDecker; MCUC.

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

- a. NRCS DC: Cady highlighted Sippl's report – 11 EQIP applications, including 6 high tunnels and 5 FMP's have been preapproved for funding in Alger County.
- b. NRCS SC: Report received.
- c. FAP FORESTER: Kelso reported a small but engaged turnout for the pruning workshop on 4/8.
- d. DM: Watkeys gave a tree sale update.
- e. CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Report received.
- f. MDARD: Report received.
- g. PRODUCE SAFETY: Report received.
- h. L2L CISMA: Desjarlais reported that 2 MISGP grants were awarded to L2L CISMA with subawards going to ACD for continued work at Coast Guard Point and Himalayan Balsam surveys.
- i. MAEAP: Report received.

MEETING REPORTS: Highlen reported that the Friends of Tyoga tree planting project has been approved by the DNR and planting will begin this spring. DeDecker will be speaking on climate change during Earth Fest on Thursday, April 20th at the Munising Public Library.

Old Business:

- a. OTHER GRANTS & FUNDING UPDATE:
 - 2023 SCRAP TIRE GRANT: Watkeys reported that 3 collection events, including Mathias Twp, Munising Twp & City of Munising, Rock River Twp & Limestone Twp are scheduled. A collection event for Onota Twp could possibly be scheduled if there are any remaining grant funds.
 - CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS: See new business.
 - AU TRAIN LAKE FISHSTICKS FISHERIES HABITAT PROJECT: Watkeys gave an update on the project.
 - GLRI MDOT GRANT SUBMISSION: ACD'S proposal was not funded. Watkeys will get feedback from grantors.
 - DHIPI: Waiting to hear about this grant proposal.
 - MISG SURVEY&TREATMENT: Covered by Desjarlais in staff reports.

- b. ANNUAL MEETING RECAP & DISCUSSION: Gallery Coffee was a great venue for the event, the catering was good, and the meeting was enjoyed by all, even though attendance was low. The board discussed possible reasons for lower numbers this year.
- c. MICORPS STREAM MONITORING 2023: Highlen reported that the meeting with USFS fisheries biologist, to look at new stream sites, got cancelled and has not yet been rescheduled. The plan is to move forward with scoping out 2 new sites near the MSU Research and Extension Center on Slapneck Creek and Bohemian Creek.
- d. TREE SALE DELIVERY & POTENTIAL PICK UP OF NURSERY STOCK: Watkeys discussed volunteer schedule and delivery schedule.
- e. AG FOR TOMORROW CONFERENCE: DeDecker reported on a successful conference with good attendance numbers.
- f. EARTH WEEK ACTIVITIES AT MUNISING SCHOOL: ACD will have a table and pollinator display set up all week. Foye will attend the "Meet and Greet" event on Saturday.

New Business:

- a. UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS – Watkeys reported that the district received an unemployment claim from a 2022 seasonal employee. Watkeys appealed twice to the SOM but was denied both appeals due to longevity of seasonal employment.
- b. ACD AUDIT – Watkeys passed around the management rep letter from Gabridge & Company for the board to look over and approve. A motion to approve the audit and sign the management rep letter was made by DeDecker, seconded by Bunce; MCUC.
- c. AMERICORPS VISTA REPLACEMENT – Jane is leaving after 5 months. ACD received 3 applications and 2 people were interviewed. Alex Kolton was the best candidate and will start on May 5th. The term will be adjusted for 1 year of service from May 2023-May 2024 with no additional cost to the district.
- d. MDARD OPERATIONS REVIEW – Watkeys passed around for the board to review.
- e. ACD 5-YEAR PLAN OF WORK – Watkeys, Bunce, Highlen and Guth worked on the 5-year plan. Watkeys passed around the plan for the board to review. It will need to be submitted in July.
- f. ACD FY23 BUDGET AMENDMENTS – Watkeys went over the amended budget. Motion to accept the budget as amended was made by Bunce, seconded by Ludecke; MCUC.
- g. APPROVE CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS GRANT – Watkeys passed the grant out to the board for approval. Motion to approve the CBCW grant was made by Bunce, seconded by DeDecker; MCUC.

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

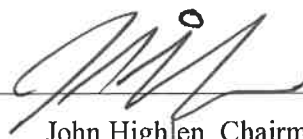
PUBLIC COMMENT: DeDecker announced that a new 4-H coordinator started April 5th. She fills the position that Liz Wiener vacated.

Motion made by Bunce; seconded by Ludecke to adjourn at 6:31pm; MCUC.

Submitted by Matt Watkeys, District Manager

These Minutes are subject to approval until signed below.

APPROVED: _____


John Highlen, Chairman

OR

James Dedecker, Secretary

Date: _____

5/9/2023