

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

Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 at 6:00 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 6:05 by Chairman Highlen. Board members present at roll call: John Highlen, James Dedecker, Rowan Bunce, Hans Eriksen, Liz Wiener. Staff present: Matt Watkeys, Christy Foye, Kelly Sippl, Misa Cady, Sara Kelso, Landen Tetil.

Guests: Elise Desjarlais- L2L CISMA coordinator, Maddie O'Donnell-MCCD Program & Outreach Coordinator

Accept Oath of Office for Eriksen: Bunce made a motion to accept the oath of office from Hans Eriksen. Wiener seconded. MCUC.

Public comment: Wiener noted that MDARD announced that poultry shows have been stopped in the state of Michigan due to avian influenza.

Correspondence: Watkeys passed around correspondence.

Motion to accept agenda by Wiener; Bunce seconded; MCUC.

Motion to approve minutes of the April 12th, 2022 regular meeting by Dedecker; Eriksen seconded, MCUC.

STAFF REPORTS: Written reports reviewed by board.

- a. NRCS DC: Cady highlighted written report.
- b. NRCS SC: Sippl highlighted written report.
- c. FAP FORESTER: Kelso highlighted written report.
- d. DM: Watkeys highlighted written report.
- e. CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Foye highlighted written report.
- f. MDARD: Written report received.
- g. PRODUCE SAFETY: Tetil highlighted written report.
- h. MAEAP: No report received.

MEETING REPORTS: Nothing to report.

### Old Business:

- a. INTRODUCTIONS & EXPECTATIONS, ELISE DESJARLAIS FROM L2L CISMA
  - 1.) *MISG/LAKE TO LAKE CISMA INVASIVE PROJECTS* – Dejarlais updated the board on current CISMA projects including European Frogbit surveys and phragmites management. She announced \$1100 in GLRI USFS grant funding for a native plant garden at the Chatham parcel that ACD owns. This will include wildflowers and interpretive signs.
  - 2.) *MISGP CORE 2022 FUNDING FOR AU TRAIN & GRAND MARAIS* – Watkeys reported that ACD was awarded \$15,400 in CISMA core funding to continue treatment of baby's breath and spotted knapweed in Grand Marias and spotted knapweed at Au Train beach.
- b. MISG KNOTWEED: Watkeys and Foye are working on this grant with KISMA and MTRI. Watkeys will be requesting an extension. Foye is organizing field crews and treatment schedule.
- c. SOGL 2019 – Seasonal staff will be conducting road/stream crossing monitoring and invasives treatment and gravel pit invasives treatment this summer.
- d. NEW GRANTS & FUNDING UPDATE: URBAN AG, UP SUSTAINABLE FOREST & WILDLIFE FUND, DHIPI – Tetil and O'Donnell presented the board with the awarded Urban Ag Grant proposal and budget for a "Pairing Pollinators with Food Gardens in Marquette & Alger Counties" project. This grant will provide funding for 150 hours of ACD staff time as well as funding for Agripalooza. Watkeys reported that ACD was awarded \$3500 from the UP Sustainable Forestry Grant for development of the Chatham parcel into a community park and/or garden. Watkeys updated the board on current DHIPI status; one site has been planted and the other site will be planted this week. Trails and seeding will be worked on this summer.

- e. MICORP TENTATIVE PLAN OF WORK - Highlen scheduled stream monitoring events for May 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Geoff Smith will give a brief intro and training on May 16<sup>th</sup>. ACD staff will participate in these events. Foye and staff will monitor Baker Creek in Grand Marais. Watkeys ordered new equipment (waders, D-Nets, tweezers, small fish nets) with MiCorp Grant funds.
- f. PERSONNEL POLICY, SECTION 4 – The board reviewed and made suggestions for Section 4 of the Personnel Policy. Watkeys will add “cannabis and THC derivatives” to letter h of section 5.1. Watkeys will revise wording in section 5.3 Performance Evaluations.
- g. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT REVIEW – Watkeys presented the board with the forensic audit report. Maner-Costerisan requests a meeting with the board. This should be a meeting with the personnel committee. Eriksen volunteered to fill Kay-Hougaboom’s position on the personnel committee. The payment agreement for Grout is tabled for later.

**New Business:**

- a. TREE SALE UPDATE – Watkeys reported a record \$28,000 in gross sales including \$1700 in sales of overstock.
- b. REVISED FY2022 BUDGET – Watkeys presented a revised FY22 budget. A motion to accept the amended budget was made by Bunce; seconded by Dedecker; MCUC.
- c. ACCEPT UP SUSTAINABLE FOREST AND WILDLIFE FUND GRANT – A motion was made by Dedecker to accept the grant agreement; Wiener seconded; MCUC.
- d. APPROVE WORK AGREEMENTS FOR SUMMER FIELD CREWS – Watkeys hired 3 seasonal field technicians that will be certified pesticide applicators for grant related work over field season. Highlen will sign work agreements.
- e. AMEND WORK AGREEMENT FOR CHRISTY FOYE – Foye’s work agreement was changed to \$20/hour for district work and a 2.5% MERS contribution. A motion was made by Wiener to approve the amended work agreement for Foye; Bunce seconded; MCUC.
- f. DNR TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION SUPPORT TO COUNTY – Watkeys asked the board for approval to approach the county about a 370-acre parcel owned by Lyme timber as a joint venture though a DNR Trust Fund Grant. The grant would propose County ownership and ACD managing the land. There was a discussion, and a motion was made to allow Watkeys to approach the county about the Trust Fund Grant by Wiener; Dedecker seconded; MCUC.
- g. ACD SOIL & SEDIMENTATION PERMITTING PROGRAM – Watkeys is entertaining the idea of taking over the program once Joe Cilc retires. It would create part time work for ACD. A motion was made by Bunce to relinquish the Soil & Sed Permitting Program to ACD; Eriksen seconded; MCUC.
- h. MACD SUMMER & FALL CONFERENCES, STATE COUNCIL MEETINGS, ETC – Watkeys would like to send board members to either one of these conferences. It would be paid through district funds.
- i. MACD REGION 1 MEETING – Rachael Guth approached Watkeys about hosting this annual event as Alger County is a central meeting location for UP districts. This networking event is held at the end of June. The board decided that ACD may be willing to host the event in 2023.

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

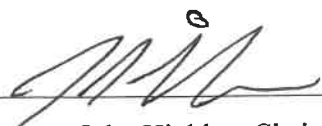
PUBLIC COMMENT: Tetil mentioned choosing a date for Agripalooza. After discussion, it was decided that Agripalooza will be held on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by Wiener; seconded by Bunce to adjourn at 7:30pm; 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: 6/14/2022