Meeting Minutes
For the regular meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board
Tuesday, September 8th, 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 5:04 PM
Board members present: Hampton Waring, Hans Ericksen, Hilary Ludecke, Rowan Bunce
Board members absent: Charles Todd, Barb Isom, MacKenzie Guzman-Martinez, Laurie Leppanen
Staff present: Eryn Grupido, Lani Moleski **Staff absent:** none
Guests: Misa Cady

Public comment - Chairman Bunce reported that Rock River Township is considering removal of all zoning & planning regulations; suggested that ACD Board draft a letter to the Rock River Township Planning Commission recommending against this measure from a conservation point of view. Additionally, asking that the letter be entered into the public correspondence record. A motion was made to have Manager Grupido draft a letter to be signed by board members was made by Ludecke, seconded by Ericksen; motion passed.

Correspondence - Grupido passed around current correspondence, including the MSUe newsletter, Save the Date for the Ford Center Forest Forum.

Approve agenda - Motion by Waring to approve agenda as amended, seconded by Ericksen. All in favor, agenda approved.

Approve minutes from August 11th, 2026 regular meeting. - Motion by Ludecke to approve the minutes, seconded by Waring. All in favor, motion carries.

Board and Staff Reports: reviewed written reports

NRCS SC: Received - Cady highlighted the successful obligation of all CSP funding by the August 28th deadline.
CTAI Conserv: Received
FAP FORESTER: Received
L2L CISMA: Received
ACD DM (EG): Received - Grupido discussed the completion of the SAM recertification process, noted that the review of the Regen Ag Field Day is in the reporting stage, and pointed out the continuation of the WAM grant with Superior Central School this month. Grupido stated that the EGLE Scrap Tire Grant contract had arrived and needed to be signed, as well as the possibility of a partnership with the Superior Watershed Partnership for a future event. Grupido reported that at the August 27th CISMA Steering Committee meeting, the MISG Application will focus on Wooley Adelgids this year.
ACD DC (HM): Received - Moleski discussed her submission to a prize competition from the Administration for Community Living for funding for accessibility upgrades to the Chatham Community Garden. Highlighted work on WAM grant and Friends of NACD grant, including planting dates and macroinvertebrate trivia night. Listed upcoming macroinvertebrate sampling at Scott Creek and Dexter Creek.
MDARD: Received
CTAP:
PRODUCE SAFETY: Received
ABC FORESTER:

Meeting Reports: none

Old Business:
a. Regular meeting closed at 5:40 PM for budget hearing. Budget Hearing opened at 5:41 PM.

Budget Hearing:
a. Public Comment - none
b. Review and Amend - CDEM Annual Membership ($70), MACD recommends the Advanced Plan, which provides 501c status, 30% discount on QuickBooks products, and earmarks $500 for legislative advocacy, materials and training for our own direct advocacy work (requires a 3-year pledge). This plan totals $1800. With the possible annual QuickBooks cost at more than $650,

this option may save additional funds with the 30% discount. The issue was tabled until the November board meeting.

Budget Hearing closed at 6:00 PM. Reopened Regular meeting at 6:01 PM.

New Business:

a. Approve FY 27 Appropriated budget - Motion to approve proposed budget by Ericksen, seconded by Waring. Motion carries.
b. Approve the Appropriations Act - Chairman Bunce read aloud the Appropriations Act. (Section 13) Motion made by Bunce, seconded by Ericksen to adopt the foregoing resolution and General Appropriations Act. Upon roll call vote, the following voted aye: Waring, Bunce, Ericksen, Ludecke. The following voted nay: none. The Board Chair declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted on this 8th day of September, 2026.
c. FY27 Business Plan - Motion to approve business plan made by Ludecke, seconded by Waring. Motion carries.
d. Staff Work Agreements - The updated work agreements reflect the wages as they appear in the approved budget, and the duties of District Manager have been amended to reflect those listed on the recent DM job posting and to incorporate the duties and responsibilities of the now dissolved District Director position. The following modifications to the current work agreements are identified;
    i. Under "Termination of Employment" part b, strike "will", replace with "may".
    ii. Under "Termination of Employment" part c, "misconduct" should be replaced with "misconduct as determined by the Board".
    iii. This termination language will be added to the DC work agreement, as well.
    iv. A motion to approve the ACD work agreement for the Alger Conservation District Manager position as amended was proposed by Ericksen, seconded by Waring. All in favor, motion carried.
    v. A motion to approve the ACD work agreement for the Alger Conservation District Coordinator/Administrative Assistant position as amended was proposed by Waring, seconded by Ludecke. All in favor, motion carried.
    vi. Grupido will make the amendments above, will notify Chairman Bunce when these documents are ready to sign.
e. Wildflower Sale - Grupido reminded the Board that in the past, the wildflower sale was held at the county fairgrounds and a workshop was offered during the sale, and support for returning to that model was expressed from the community. Ludecke proposed holding that event at Munising High School in the cafeteria or the library, and offered the school wildflower garden as a workshop setting. Grupido expressed the need to have a credit card reader to use at such events and suggested looking into the products offered by Quickbooks, Square, Clover, or Venmo. Grupido reported wildflower sale profits of over $3000.
f. Tee Shirt Sale - With many more shirts ordered and printed than were purchased, the district will be taking a loss on the First Annual Student Art Contest. Going forward, fewer shirts total will be ordered, eliminating the child sizes, and increasing the proportion of larger adult sizes. The winning classroom teachers will be receiving their project grant funding soon, with $564 going to AuTrain/Onota Schools, and $552 going to Munising Public Schools.
g. Set Date for Annual Meeting - The 2027 Annual Meeting will be held on March 19th, 2027 at Gallery Coffee, reducing cost by utilizing the linens that are provided by Gallery and reducing the catering cost.

Accept Treasury Report; pay bills: motion made by Ludecke to accept the treasury report and pay the bills, seconded by Ericksen. All in favor, motion carried.

Public comment: none

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Waring, seconded by Ericksen. All in favor; meeting adjourned 7:22 PM.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, October 13th, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Robert Bunce
Chairperson

10/13/26
Date