

AGENDA

**For the regular meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board
Tuesday, July 9th, 2024, 5:00 pm * MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham**

Call to order:

A regular meeting of ACD was held on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Chair John Highlen.

Board members present:

Staff present:

Board members present at roll call: John Highlen, Rowan Bunce, James DeDecker, Hilary Ludecke and Hans Eriksen. Associate board members present: Barb Isom and Charlie Todd. Staff present: Alex Kolton, Sara Kelso, Misa Cady, Elise Desjarlais. Staff absent: Eryn Grupido, Helena Moleski, Amy Frye, Landen Tetil and Holly Wendrick-Moss.

Board members absent:

Staff absent:

Guests: Mr. Marty Ludecke

Public comment: None

Approve agenda:

Motion by Ludecke, seconded by Bunce to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor; motion carried.

Approve minutes of June 11, 2024 Regular Meeting:

Motion by Bunce, seconded by Ludecke to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor; motion carried.

Approve minutes of June 25, 2024 Special Meeting:

Motion by Bunce, seconded by Ludecke to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor; motion carried.

Board and Staff Reports: review written reports:

Written reports were reviewed by the board and highlighted by staff.

- a. **NRCS DC: Report received.**
Cady reported 16 new NRCS customer contracts approved totaling \$200,000 in cost share funding.
- b. **NRCS SC: No report received.**
- c. **FAP FORESTER: Report received.**
Kelso reported on recent landowner site visits and is responding to spruce budworm along the Hwy 94 corridor.
- d. **PRODUCE SAFETY: Report received.**
- e. **L2L CISMA: Report received.**
Desjarlais reported on work at Coast Guard Point
- f. **ACD DM: Report received.**
- g. **ACD PC: Report received.**
- h. **MDARD: Report received.**
- i. **MAEAP: No report received.**

Meeting Reports: None

Old Business:

- a. **CD Region 2 meeting, August 29th, Alger County Fairgrounds**

Kolton reported meeting with Guth at MDARD to discuss the meeting agenda. They decided, and Kolton requested, that Schoolcraft CD host the regional meeting in 2024 and ACD in 2025.

b. **Approve SOME CPA Engagement Letter for 2024 audit**

This issue was tabled until the next regular meeting.

c. **Active grants status updates**

Kolton reported meeting with grant partners and presented an updated grants spreadsheet. Remaining DNR funds for Au Train Lake fish habitat will be used for surveying installed structures. The knotweed grant is closed out. The Deer habitat grant should be completed in October with fall food plot prep underway. Himalayan balsam surveys are next week in Au Train and Rock River. A sign will be placed at Hillsode Park noting ACD's invasive species work there, cost shared with the City of Munising. Kolton has not received a funding decision on his Urban Ag grant proposal. A knapweed grant from 2014 is still open for City of Munising Industrial Park. Desjarlais reported that the 2023 survey and treat grant is closed. She also shared her perspective that treating the industrial park is not worthwhile.

d. **DM job posting update**

Kolton reported that the DM position went live July 3rd and is posted in the Mining Journal, Munising Beacon, the UP Ag Connections newsletter and on Facebook. He has not received an inquires to date, but there have been 7 clicks on the listing. DeDecker suggested sending the posting to the MACD listserv(s).

New Business

a. **Bank Signatories; Remove Watkeys from Northern Lights Community FCU accounts**

Kolton requested that the board remove Matt Watkeys as a signatory from ACD bank accounts. Motion by DeDecker, seconded by Ludecke to remove Matt Watkeys as a signatory from all ACD Northern Lights Community FCU accounts. All in favor; motion carried.

b. **NRCS New Application Approvals**

Cady shared 2 new NRCS contracts for board approval, one for a dry manure storage facility and one for a high tunnel. Both applications/plans were approved and signed by the board.

c. **FY25 Budget discussion – due Sept 10th, 2024 public notice due by Aug 27th, 2024**

Kolton sought board input on budget development. A budget meeting notice needs to be public by Aug 27th. The budget, needs assessment and business plan feed into receiving the operations grant from MDARD. MACD offers a template for the business plan. DeDecker asked about the timeline for updating our needs assessment. MDARD requires an update every 5 years, but Kolton suggested repeating the needs assessment in 2025 due to our recent changes. DeDecker and Kolton suggested incentivizing survey respondents and targeting seasonal residents and other discrete Alger Co. demographics.

d. **FY25 Business Plan discussion – due Oct 5th, 2024**

Kolton plans that he plans to largely reuse the current ACD Business Plan. Eriksen suggested reviewing and updating state outcomes to track progress. The updated Plan needs to be approved at the Sept regular meeting.

Accept Treasury Report; pay bills

Kolton presented ACD financial statements as of June 30, 2024. Bunce asked about line 803, the knotweed grant, being over budget. Kolton shared that it representing a misclassification of a reimbursement payment to NMU, which needs to be corrected. Bunce asked about line 880, Community Promotions, which did not have any funds budgeted but did have expenses. Kolton suggested budgeting more for advertising next FY. The board discussed options for reformatting our budget for clarity in reporting, especially for grants. Motion by Eriksen, seconded by Bunce, to accept the Treasury Reports and pay the bills. All in favor; motion carried.

Public comment

Bunce asked Kolton how the office leadership transition is going. Kolton reported that things are going well, with the seasonal staff working independently, and Watkeys left good notes.

Adjourn

Motion by Bunce, seconded by Eriksen to adjourn at 6:05 pm. All in favor; motion carried.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: August 13, 2024, 5:00 pm

NAME: Rowan Bunce NM
DATE: 08/20/2024
TITLE: VICE CHAIR ACD