

Alger CD Board of Director Minutes
For the regular meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board
Tuesday, November 12th, 2024, 5:00 pm * MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham

Call to order: On the above date, Chairperson John Highlen called the ACD's regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Board members present: John Highlen, Hillary Ludecke and Rowan Bunce.

Board members absent: Hans Eriksen and James Dedecker.

Associate board members present: Barb Isom and Charlie Todd

Associate board members absent: None

Staff present: Alex Kolton, Eryn Grupido, Sara Kelso, and Misa Cady.

Staff absent: Olivia Engelhardt, Elise Desjarlais, Amy Frye, Landen Tetil and Holly Wendrick-Moss.

Guests: None

Public comment: None

Approve agenda:

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

Approve minutes of October 8th, 2024, Regular Meeting:

Motion by Bunce, seconded by Ludecke to approve October 8th meeting minutes. All in favor; Motion carried.

Board and Staff Reports: review written reports:

The written reports were reviewed by the board and highlighted by staff.

- a. **NRCS SC: Report Received.** Cady stated that there are 37 active equip grants for a total of \$387,000 and 27 CSP's for a total of \$627,000.
- b. **FAP FORESTER: Report received.** Kelso stated that more site visits have been completed.
- d. **PRODUCE SAFETY: Report received.**
- e. **L2L CISMA: Report received.**
- f. **ACD DD: Report received.**
- g. **ACD DC: Report received.**
- h. **MDARD: Report received.**
- i. **MAEAP: No report received.**

Meeting Reports: None

Old Business:

a. Millage planning

Kolton reported that a more structured plan should be put together for fundraising and community outreach. The CD millage is up in 2028 and cannot use taxpayer money to fund the campaign. Ideas to be discussed in future meetings.

b. Conservation Needs Assessment

Kolton has been looking at past data to understand how to get better community engagement.

- c. **Operational Goals and Scope & Capacity** James, Highlen and Kolton discussed at a stream monitoring event about what the operational capacity of the Alger CD might be. Goals that need to be reached and the staffing levels to obtain those goals. Funding for federal grants has shrunk considerably and has been moved to an “outreach of interest” status.
- d. **5 year Plan** The goal outlined in the previous 5 year plan has mostly been met and perhaps it’s time to reassess the 5 year plan moving forward.
- e. **Succession Planning & Development** The board had previously stated the importance of succession planning and adding this as a operational goal would be a good idea.
- f. **Operational Updates: QuickBooks, Operational Budget** CD has been using an appropriated budget for revenue and expenditures does not mesh well with QuickBooks and doesn’t allow a more detailed analysis of transactions. Kolton will be cleaning up QuickBooks after the audit was completed and a Department of Treasury guide as to the chart of accounts needed.
- g. **2024 Audit Update** Audit has been completed. Waiting for the final report. SOME auditors presented a “non-qualified opinion” as the 2024 audit outcome.

New Business

a. Review Conservation plans

Three conservation stewardship programs, 5-year agreements. Rex Cole: habitat structures for snowshoe hare. And planting native trees and shrubs. The agreement used to be 1 acre = 300 stems but due to browse damage NRCS is asking landowners to cage trees but plant fewer per acre. Also asking people to plant more White Oak because it is more resistant to Oak wilt and climate change. Case Country Farms has two programs, one on forestland to treat Honeysuckle. The other is on agricultural land to treat spotted knapweed and do pasture renovation and cover cropping.

b. Background Checks Policy Review

Kolton presented a background check policy. Tabled for further board review.

c. 2025 regular Board Meeting/Annual Board Meeting Date

The board will meet for regular board meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 5pm at the MSU Research and Extension Farm in Chatham. Except for November’s meeting which will be held on the third Tuesday due to the usual meeting date being on Veterans Day. The Annual meeting will be held on March 20th at 5pm.

Accept Treasury Report; pay bills

Kolton presented ACD financial statements as of October 31st, 2024.

Motion by Bunce, seconded by Ludecke, to accept the Treasury Reports and pay the bills. All in favor; motion carried.

Public comment

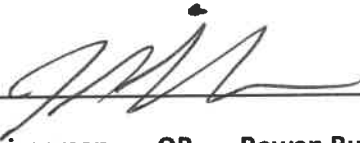
Adjourn

Motion by Rowan, seconded by Ludecke, to adjourn at 5:53 pm. All in favor; motion carried.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: December 10th, 2025, 5:00 pm

Minutes Taken by Rowan Bunce

Submitted by James DeDecker | Minutes are subject to approval until signed below

APPROVED:  DATE: 1/14/25
John Highlen, Chairperson OR Rowan Bunce, Vice Chair