

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board

Tuesday, August 9th, 2022 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 5:13 by Chairman Highlen. Board members present at roll call: John Highlen, Rowan Bunce, Hans Eriksen. Liz Wiener was present at 5:37. Staff present: Matt Watkeys, Christy Foye, Kelly Sippl, Misa Cady, Sara Kelso, Elise Desjarlais. Staff absent: Landen Tetil, MAEAP Tech.

Guests: None

Public comment: None

Correspondence: Watkeys passed around correspondence.

Approve agenda: Highlen requested to add agenda items; Old Business f. Grout Resolution update and finalizing, and g. Foye Employee Evaluation results. Motion to approve updated agenda made by Bunce; Eriksen seconded, MCUC.

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

STAFF REPORTS: Written reports reviewed by board.

- a. NRCS DC: Report received. Misa Cady expanded a bit on the written report.
- b. NRCS SC: Report received.
- c. FAP FORESTER: Report received.
- d. DM: Report received.
- e. CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Foye reported on Agripalooza planning. Presenters have been invited and have been responding. Agripalooza will be held on Friday, September 30th.
- f. MDARD: Written report received. Cady highlighted the district manager training in Gaylord on August 23rd.
- g. PRODUCE SAFETY: Report received.
- h. MAEAP: No report received.

MEETING REPORTS: Watkeys mentioned Pesticide Applicator's Continuing Education field day attended at NMU. Great day networking and these 8 credits will be the last needed for Watkeys' 3 year recertification renewal, due this December.

Old Business:

- a. MISG CORE: Watkeys reported that the field crew has been working on manual treatment of spotted knapweed, and baby's breath in Grand Marais and Au Train.
- b. MISG KNOTWEED: In progress. Manual treatments are continuing, with planning being done by Foye for fall chemical treatments. Watkeys is working on a reimbursement request.
- c. SOGL 2019: Making progress wrapping up this grant. Gravel pit and road stream crossing monitoring & treatment are getting done, with the last crossings to be treated soon.
- d. NEW GRANTS & FUNDING UPDATES: URBAN AG, UP SUSTAINABLE FOREST AND WILDLIFE FUND, DHIPI: Urban Ag grant is continuing with Foye attending the Munising Farmer's Markets, and planning for the September 9th wildflower planting day, and pollinator kit handouts. The fence building day at the Chatham Community property was a huge success with several members of the Munising Scout Troop, Superior Central Schools Cross-County team, and David and Carol Horne's help. Many local residents stopped to talk and see the progress. DHIPI site tree fencing was completed, as well as trail prep for planting. Only a few steps are remaining such as spreading seed, and placing signage. Watkeys is beginning work on the Au Train Lake Habitat grant, including a landowner meeting with the DNR, but are still waiting on the agreement.
- e. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING FROM 8/1/22: Summer crew discussions were had with the Personnel Committee. Summary was given to Board
- f. GROUT RESOLUTION UPDATE: Watkeys and Highlen met with Teri Grout to sign and notarize 2 copies of the agreement, Watkeys will receive help form accountants to prepare the payment.

g. FOYE EVALUATION SUMMARY: Board stated that the evaluation was very positive, good feedback and no negative issues.

New Business:

- a. APPROVE EQIP PLANS – SIPPL: 2 Conservation Plans were passed to Board for signatures.
- b. APPROVE WORK AGREEMENT WITH GRAND ISLAND TOWNSHIP: ACD was approached by a Grand Island Township Board Member, with Township approval, to discuss and propose a beautification project for Stone Quarry Park on Westshore Dr. Invasive and unwanted vegetation will be treated to prepare for a small nature trail with wildflower plantings and interpretive signs. Treatments will continue this year, and into next spring, with a summer-fall 2023 planting planned.
- c. REVIEW FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET: Watkeys presented Draft FY23 Budget for Board discussion. Official Budget Hearing will be in September at Regular Monthly Board Meeting.

ACCEPT TREASURY REPORT/PAY BILLS: Motion to accept treasury report made by Wiener; seconded by Bunce; MCUC.

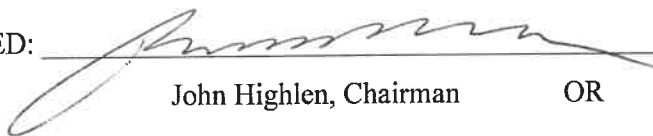
PUBLIC COMMENT: Some discussion on Lyme Timber Property acquisition, Watkeys will attend upcoming City Commission Meeting.

EMPLOYEE EVALUATION, MATT WATKEYS: All meeting attendees were adjourned. Employee evaluation was conducted by the board.

Motion made by Wiener; seconded by Bunce to adjourn at 6:50pm; MCUC.

Submitted by Matt Watkeys, District Manager

These Minutes are subject to approval until signed below.

APPROVED:  _____ Date: 9/13/22
John Highlen, Chairman OR James Dedecker, Secretary