

**Meeting Minutes**  
**For the regular meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board**  
**Tuesday, August 12th, 2025, 5:00 pm \* MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham**

**Call to order:** On the above date, Chairperson Rowan Bunce called the ACD's regular meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**Board members present:** James DeDecker, Rowan Bunce, Hilary Ludecke, Hans Eriksen, Charlie Todd

**Board members absent:** None

**Associate board members present:** Barb Isom

**Associate board members absent:** None

**Staff present:** Alex Kolton, Eryn Grupido, Misa Cady, Sara Kelso, Rachel Guth

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

**Guests:** None

**Public comment:** Kolton announced Helena Moleski will start as Junior District Coordinator on August 25th

**Correspondence:** Passed

**Approve agenda:**

Motion by Todd, seconded by DeDecker to approve the agenda. All in favor; motion carried.

**Approve minutes of July 8th, 2025, regular meeting:**

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

**Approve minutes of July 28th, 2025, Special meeting:**

Motion by Eriksen, seconded by Ludecke to approve previous 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 SC: Report Received**

Cady announced funding was secured to finish approving CSP applications and the last nine applicants are being underwritten now.

**b. FAP FORESTER: Report Received**

Kelso attended and presented at an annual forestry training.

**c. PRODUCE SAFETY: Report Received**

**d. L2L CISMA: Report Received**

**e. ACD DD: Report Received**

Kolton highlighted the new layout of the director's reports grant section and gave updates on the status of active grants.

**f. ACD DC: Report Received**

Grupido updated on the status of Agripalooza sponsorships and requested board members to assist in securing new or current sponsors. The final highlight is that the MiCorps stream monitoring grants final report was accepted, and we are awaiting reimbursement for that project. Clean Boats Clean Waters last outreach will be this month, and the project will be wrapping up afterwards.

**g. MDARD: Report Received**

Guth announced that MDARD grants would not be available until later in the fall as they await budget approvals, and that reporting may change to help better highlight program impacts and success stories. Additionally, MDARD will be coordinating a piece with TV6 at this year's

AGripalooza to assist with highlighting the impact and longevity of this event. Guth announced regional meeting timelines and the training that will be offered.

**h. MAEAP: Report Received**

**Meeting Reports:**

None

**Old Business:**

**a. Draft Budget Review FY26**

Kolton announced the budget has been updated according to the Appropriations Act, though not much has changed. Discussion ensued regarding the future direction of the district and how funds will be allocated to support that.

**New Business:**

**a. Approval to Donate:**

-waders: recently replaced

- HP printer

Kolton requested that the board approve the donation of older wading boots and waders to a local school, as the district has recently replaced theirs. Request to donate or recycle the former district printer that has been replaced due to the cost of its very specific ink cartridges equaling the cost of a new printer. The printer does work; however, it will only function with these specific cartridges. It was determined that donating it would give that cost to the recipient and remove any benefit they would have gotten from receiving it. DeDecker offered MSU recycling for that and other office e-waste.

Motion by Eriksen, seconded by Ludecke to donate waders and recycle the printer. All in favor; motion carried.

**b. Policy Review, Carryover of Payout of Vacation Time**

Kolton presented the current District policy and pointed out it lacked clarity on whether employees would be paid out for excess PTO that does not carry over each FY. Discussion on whether and how to clarify this ensued, including the possibility of creating a 'Leave Bank' for employees to pass on excess PTO to other staff if needed for outside circumstances. Determined to table for next meeting with further information collected on how leave banks work and advice from the District's attorney.

**c. Approval to Disperse Annual PTO, DD**

Discussion of this topic during the above point. Kolton requested the potential to either disperse their excess PTO hours (greater than 100, they have not been able to take time off recently) as a payment or to apply it to other staff rollovers in preparation for the holidays. Discussion has been tabled for the next meeting along with the policy review.

**d. Approval of SOME CPA Engagement Letter**

Kolton presented the 2026 engagement letter with the note that it is the same as the 2025 letter, just with different years. Discussion included questions of whether it is a full audit and if it meets accepted government standards. The proposed GAAS audit does meet standards for government organization audits. Guth mentioned that since we are so far ahead on approving engagement, we should wait until closer to the deadline for submission to MDARD.

Motion by DeDecker, seconded by Ludecke to approve and sign the SOME CPA engagement letter as presented. All in favor; motion carried.

**e. Limestone Township Contract**

Kolton provided a brief history of a previous contract the District held with Limestone Township to perform wild parsnip removal and presented a copy of said contract. Limestone Township is still interested in invasive species treatment and would like to review a contract with us. Discussion occurred on what we could do, whether any other organizations (such as L2L CISMA) are treating the area, and the potential of offering similar services to each township. One last thought was to be able to answer why we should have separate contracts for this work. Discussion will continue next meeting with an example contract.

**f. Scrap Tire Update**

EGLE will be meeting on August 18th to discuss changes to the scrap tire program due to recent events with the UP processing center closing.

**Accept Treasury Report; pay bills**

Kolton presented ACD financial statements as of August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and highlighted the donations collected this year thus far. The board reviewed the report and discussed sending thank yous to each donor.

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

**Public comment**

DeDecker announced the Japanese beetle is moving further north, MSU South Farm will be hosting a twilight tour on the 20th that includes wagyu sloppy joes and wagon ride, seed garlic is available \$30 per lb, and MSU executives will be taking a the Spartan Bus on tour through the UP with a stop at the farm on Oct 21st. Bunce mentioned they have noticed fewer bees this year. Todd and Isom will not be available to attend the next meeting.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Ludecke, seconded by Eriksen, to adjourn at 6:43 pm. All in favor; motion carried.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, September 9th, 2025, 5:00 pm**

Grupido has transcribed these minutes.

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

APPROVED: Rowan Bunce DATE: 09/09/2025

Rowan Bunce, Chairman OR Hilary Ludecke, Vice President