

Minutes
For the regular meeting of the Alger Conservation District Board
Tuesday, June 9th, 2026, 5:00 pm, located at MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham

Call to order: Chairman Bunce called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM

Board members present: Rowan Bunce, Hampton Waring, Charlie Todd, Hilary Ludecke, Barb Isom (associate)

Board members absent: Hans Ericksen

Staff present: Alex Kolton, Eryn Grupido, Lani Moleski, Misa Cady, Sara Kelso

Staff absent: Jacklyn Whitcomb

Guests: none

Public comment

Kolton mentioned the recent resignation of the Delta County Conservation District Manager and the impending leadership change there.

Correspondence

Kolton mentioned email correspondence via email from IRS regarding duplicate of form 941x, confirmation of correct form needed. Bunce passed other mail, including correspondence from Marcotte Law, PLLC re: Alex Kolton - Request for Select Personnel Records.

Approve agenda

Add to agenda: "Approve minutes from Special Meeting on Friday, May 29th; Vote to accept resignation of A. Kolton; Schedule Special Meeting to approve minutes and transfer accounts" under New Business.

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

Approve minutes of May 12th, 2026, regular meeting

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

Board and Staff Reports: Written reports were reviewed by the board and highlighted by staff.

NRCS SC: Received - Cady highlighted that 26 of 27 conservation agreements have been approved in Alger and Marquette Counties; 7 grants from Alger county will need to be signed at the next regular meeting. Cady requested to be added to the agenda for Tuesday, July 14th, 2026.

CTAI Conserv: Received

FAP FORESTER: Received - Kelso mentioned hosting Envirothon, attended by 75 high school students from around the state; current/upcoming projects include a bird habitat improvement project.

L2L CISMA: Received

ACD DD (AK): Received - Kolton discussed current grants status; \$500 donation by Kiwanis to the Youth Match Fund (not yet reflected on financial report); recent FOIA request resolved.

ACD DM (EG): Received - Grupido noted a pause to current grant applications while we and our collaborator, Delta CD, are under leadership transitions; current applications are rolling RFPs so will be revisited in the next cycle. Highlight that the community planning event went well and participants gave great feedback.

ACD DC (HM): Received - Moleski highlighted field work activities and completion of the spring DHIP activities.

MDARD: Received

CTAP: Received

PRODUCE SAFETY: Received

Meeting Reports: none

Old Business:

- a. FY26 Scrap Tire Grant - No updates. Kolton recalled that approval came mid-June last year, the District should expect this year's approval around the same time period.

New Business:

- a. **Staff Updates: Grants/Operations** - Staff members Grupido and Moleski provided comprehensive project summaries/status reports; included in the Board folder.

b. **Succession Information** - Kolton stated that all documents are included in the succession folder of the shared files. Items of note include: June 9th transfer of District Facebook ownership to Grupido; Quickbooks Online does not require an official letter of ownership transfer, but Board should include this in the Primary Board Folder in the future; Individual partnerships and grants each have their own folder; Tree Sale ordering for next year should happen before the end of June; CNA data is found in JotForms; Rachael Guth will handle MDARD onboarding of new District Manager; Additional paperwork/registration is needed if Federal Grants are to be pursued in the future.

-ED, Work Agreement - Kolton requested payout per District policy on his remaining 26 hours of PTO.

Motion by Waring, seconded by Todd. All in favor; motion carried.

-Overlook Bay Park; TPL's recommendations - Munising Township has signed paperwork for ownership transfer; Brett Matuszak, Sr. Real Estate Manager for Lyme Great Lakes Timber (contact info: phone 906-524-2942, cell 906-201-0217, email bmatuszak@lymegreatlakes.com) - asked about the potential for an additional land acquisition located behind the Munising Public Schools track as part of a further land use restructuring plan with the township in the future.

-Burt DHIPI FY27 - Kathleen Gould (superintendent, Burt Township Upper School) has been notified of staff changes and that work on this grant is benchmarked for 2027.

-Financial Account Management: Payroll, Banking, Office Safe - Background check completed and passed for Grupido.

Motion by Todd to add Grupido to financials as signatory by 6/16/26, seconded by Ludecke. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion to remove Kolton from financials as signatory by 6/16/26 by Todd, seconded by Waring. All in favor; motion carried.

Kolton requests this change provided to him in writing, as well as added to Board files by 6/16/26, asked Grupido to reset all online financial logins when completing signatory changes at Northern Lights Credit Union. Kolton stated that most of the regular bills, etc. are automated on Quickbooks Online, Some CPA will complete this year's audit.

-Operations: Daily, Passwords, Key Accounts - Kolton stated that all pertinent documents regarding daily operations are found in the Signatories file of the Board files. Kolton explained that \$35000 has been transferred from savings to checking to cover upcoming accounts due, pay bills, and settle payroll during the transition period. Kolton stated that archived files exist for the previous 3-4 District Managers in the office files, handed over all keys to files, cabinets, office, and key fob for Court House building to Chairman Bunce, passed onto Grupido as acting District Manager.

-Long-term planning: Millage, FY27 Budget - Kolton mentioned plans for applying for millage in both Spring and Autumn; if increase to millage request fails in the Spring vote, the District could ask voters to fall back to current funding levels in the Autumn vote. Kolton recommended contacting Ashley Reitter at the Schoolcraft Conservation District, as she can provide insight and recommendations gathered from their current millage renewal campaign. Kolton also mentioned that the current draft of the millage benchmark quote needs to be revised beforehand.

-Staff input on needs - Moleski asked Kolton about common tools that were previously used in the field, Kolton stated that they were his private property, could be replaced per the equipment budget line item (\$1000).

c. **Approve Special Meeting Minutes 5/29/26 -**

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

d. **Approve resignation of ED -**

Motion to approve Kolton's resignation effective 6/16/26 by Todd, seconded by Waring. All in favor; motion carried.

e. **Schedule Special Meeting** - A Special Meeting will be held on 6/11/26 at 5:00 PM at MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham to approve regular meeting minutes and complete transfer of financial accounts.

Accept Treasury Report; pay bills

Motion to accept the treasury report and pay bills as presented by Todd, seconded by Waring. Motion carried, Bills paid.

Public comment

Kolton thanked the Board and staff for their support and wished the District good luck.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Waring, seconded by Ludecke. All in favor; meeting adjourned 5:48 PM.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, July 14th at 5:00 pm

Ludecke has transcribed these minutes. Minutes are subject to approval until signed below.

APPROVED: *HW* DATE: 06/11/2026

Rowan Bunce, Chairman OR Hampton Waring, Vice President