



St. Joseph County Conservation District  
Board Meeting 3pm  
693 E. Main Street  
Centreville, MI 49032  
(269) 467-6336 x5

---

## Board Minutes January 15, 2025

### 3:01 pm Call to Order by Howard Avildsen

#### Directors Present:

Howard Avildsen, board chair

Todd Hironimus, vice chair

Chad Clark, treasurer

Carol Higgins

#### Directors Absent

Dan Blasius

#### Staff Present

Shaun Grace, Mike Censke and Harlie Miller

**Introduction:** Christina Yunker, county commissioner 5<sup>th</sup> District

#### Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

Clark motioned to add one item to agenda Higgins second. Motion passed

#### Public Comment

**Approval of December 2024 Board Minutes.** Clark motioned to approve the board minutes with a couple of typo errors. Hironimus second, motion passed

#### Treasurer's Report

- Approval of December Financials to be placed on file. Clark motioned to place the financials on file, Higgins second. Motion passed

#### Correspondence Reports

- **Administrator:** written
- **MAEAP:** written. Miller and Clark displayed the book put together by Miller and had an amazing explanation about how to get others interested in the MAEAP program.
- **CISMA:** spoken Grace anticipates the SLF grant again this coming year as well as road commission work for stop signs, guard rails and this year Autumn olive control.
- **CTAI:** written
- **Conservation Specialist:** written
- **MDARD:** written

- **Board:** Higgins discussed seeking grants with Sturgis foundation and other possibilities. Also, would like to have the Annual meeting and tree sale focus on this year's NACD topic. Avildsen suggested to place our tree sale on the SJ Conservation Club website.
- **Credit card:** Grace asked the board if another one or two credit cards could be ordered for the usage by the staff. Clark motioned to have Grace order 2, Avildsen second. Motion passed.

#### Old Business

- **Conflict of interest**
- **Annual Meeting and Election:** Grace has a couple of potential candidates for board member replacements, they will provide the board signatures and be ready for the election March 19<sup>th</sup>. Board discussed Grace's vacation in February. Waltke will take notes and help Avildsen run the meeting. The board asked for some minor changes to the flyer and Renehan will have those completed.
- **MiClass** tabled until further notice

#### New Business

- **NACD Grant:** Mike Censke and Grace discussed the approval of the 2024 Technical Assistance grant which will help NRCS with obligation of EQIP and CSP along with other contracts. This is a year-to-year grant, and if progress toward the goals, it has the great possibility to be renewed. This grant covers 3 counties including St. Joseph, Cass, and Berrien. Grace is hopeful that this grant will be beneficial enough so that in 2025 round of funding, the other two counties will receive their own TA grants.
- **Amended Budget:** Grace presented the amended budget with a few changes including the additional funds for the NACD grant, some program supplies, the DO money for staff and the extra \$3,000.00 for MAEAP cost share.

**PA116: None**

**Adjournment:** Clark motioned to adjourn at 4:35 pm Hironimus second motion passed.

**Next board meeting is February 19, 2025 at St. Joseph County Conservation District offices at 3:00 pm.**

**Board Signature**

**Date** Feb. 19, 2025

*Howard Avildsen*