



St, Joseph County Conservation District
693 E. Main Street
January 20, 2021
Centreville, MI 49032
(269)467-6336 x5

January 20, 2021 Board Minutes

6:10pm Call to order by Howard Avildsen

Directors Present:

Howard Avildsen, Board chair

Dan Blasius, Vice Chair, via zoom at his home in Sturgis

Carol Higgins, via zoom at her home in Mendon,

John Nelson via zoom at his home in White Pigeon

Directors absent:

Chad Clark, Treasurer

Introductions/Visitors: none

Additions or Deletions to agenda: Higgins motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Nelson second, motion passed.

Public Comment: None

Approval of December Board Minutes: Higgins motioned to accept both Sept and October Board Minutes, Nelson second. Motion passed. One minor change of adjournment time from 8:14pm to 6:35pm

Treasurer Report: Nelson motioned to approve the December financials, Higgins second, motion passed. Discussion about grant indirect expenses.

Correspondence Reports:

MAEAP: written

NRCS: none

CISMA: written

MDARD: none

Administrator: spoken/written

Board: Higgins discussed the MACD conference. Group discussion about spotted Lantern fly. This prompted Blasius to request Grace to investigate possible USDA money for trapping program. Discussion about removal of Tree of Heaven across the county.

Old Business:

- **Conflict of interest:**
- **Annual Meeting: April 22nd.** Grace will continue to provide information to pull the meeting together. With the potential of a virtual but hopefully a in person meeting even if out side at the Covered Bridge Park
- **Audit update:** Audit invoice will be sent in February and paid upon Carolyn's return in March.

New Business:

- **Tree Sale:** May 7 and 8th at the Fairgrounds. Orders on line have begun.
- **New MACD Director/Manager Handbook:** The board completed the first section of the MACD Planning and Conservation Delivery Element FY21. This gave the board a great deal of discussion about our vision, mission and other community outreach. Blasius will reach out to John Switzer and ask for some help with tools they can use as a board to increase their scores.

PA116: none

Adjournment: Higgins motioned to adjourn at 8:15 pm Nelson second. Motion passed

Next Meeting: February 17, 2021 at 6pm via Zoom Carolyn Grace is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Board Meeting

Time: Feb 17, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Third Wed, until Jun 16, 2021, 5 occurrence(s)

Feb 17, 2021 06:00 PM

Mar 17, 2021 06:00 PM

Apr 21, 2021 06:00 PM

May 19, 2021 06:00 PM

Jun 16, 2021 06:00 PM

Board Chair Signature:



Date 2/17/2021



St. Joseph County Conservation District
693 E. Main Street
February 17, 2021
Centreville, MI 49032
(269)467-6336 x5

February 17, 2021 Board Minutes

6:01pm Call to order by Howard Avildsen

Directors Present:

Howard Avildsen, Board chair at District office
Dan Blasius, Vice Chair, via zoom at his home in Sturgis
Carol Higgins, via zoom at her home in Mendon,
John Nelson via zoom at his home in White Pigeon

Directors absent:

Chad Clark, Treasurer

Introductions/Visitors: Jack Knorek, MDARD; Ashley Ives; Jared Harmon

Additions or Deletions to agenda: Higgins motioned to add the mission and vision to new business and then approve the agenda as presented. Nelson second, motion passed.

Public Comment: None

Approval of January Board Minutes: Higgins motioned to approve the January board minutes, Nelson second, motion approved

Treasurer Report: Nelson motioned to approve the January financials, Blasius second, motion passed.

Correspondence Reports:

MAEAP: written

NRCS: written Grace explained Crandall will be on a team to discuss how NRCS can rate the District Board, This has not been done before and she hopes to have positive results

CISMA: written

CTAI: Ashley Ives, discussed her very full busy month with payments. Also discussed how FSA is the agency that decides wetlands.

MDARD: none

FB CTAI: Jared Harmon explained what he has been working on in the three counties he works with.

Administrator: written

Board: Blasius and/or Grace will check on funding for spotted lantern fly, or any type of trap for invasive.

Old Business:

- **Conflict of interest:**
- **Annual Meeting: April 22nd.** Grace will continue to provide information to pull the meeting together. With the potential of a virtual but hopefully a in person meeting even if out side at the Covered Bridge Park. If we cannot hold a in person meeting, Grace will check on how to hold a virtual meeting.
- **Audit update:** Audit invoice will be sent in February and paid upon Carolyn's return in March.
- **MACD dues:** 2nd payment is due in March.

New Business:

- **Aug 28, 2021** In place of the local food dinner we will be having a local celebration of the St. Joseph River. It will be held at the Covered Bridge Farm Park. Jaymes MacDonald and Carolyn have been planning the event. It will be a free community event with drinks, chips, hotdogs, brats and possible burgers. All mostly donated by the sponsors that MacDonald and Grace will secure.
- **Mission:** To protect and restore the natural resources of St. Joseph County through education, outreach, partnerships, and technical assistance. Higgins motioned to approve the mission, Nelson second. Motion passed.
- **Vision Statement:** Jack Knorek provided an outline for us and in the March meeting we will discuss and have a statement

PA116: none

Adjournment: Nelson motioned to adjourn at 7:14 pm Higgins second. Motion passed

Next Meeting: April 21, 2021 Scheduled at the Covered Bridge Farm Park

Board Chair Signature:



Date

3/17/2021



St. Joseph County Conservation District
693 E. Main Street
Centreville, MI 49032
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Board of Directors Minutes for March 17, 2021

6:08 pm official start by Carol Higgins Howard Avildsen

Directors Present:

Howard Avildsen, Chair
Dan Blasius, Vice Chair
Carol Higgins
John Nelson, via zoom White Pigeon Mi

Directors Absent

Chad Clark

Introductions/Visitors: Dan Czajkowski, Jared Harmon

Additions or Deletions to agenda:

Added PA116 for Janice Kindig of Flowerfield Township

Approval of Minutes: Higgins motioned to accept February minutes. Blasius supported. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Blasius made a motion to place February financials on file. Higgins supported. Motion passed.

Correspondence Reports:

- **NRCS:** none
- **MEAEP:** written
- **CTAI:** submitted by Ashley Ives.
- **CTAI:** spoken. Jared Harmon explained his board report. He has seen exciting growth in all the districts he works with. Would like to work more with MEAEP.
- **Admin report:** written
- **CISMA:** written
- **Director Board:** Avildsen was going to attend a breakfast with Steve Carra, our new representative. Higgins attended the MACD board meeting as region 8 representative. She shared the June 7-8 Virtual MACD conference date, and she was very impressed with Dan Moliene as the new President of the MACD. He hopes to have base funding for the Districts. Also, the board will choose a date to come to office and pick up trash around the building and grass areas.
Blasius reported that Black gold will provide chips for

Unfinished Business

- **Conflict of interest**
- **Tree Sale:** May 7-8th at the fairgrounds at the usual building. Pick up trees and wrapping begins May 3

- **Annual Meeting and election:** We will hold the meeting at the covered bridge park. Election will go on but no presentation until further notice. Higgins would like Grace to look into having the guest speakers during the fair.
- **Grants:** In Jan and Feb 3 grants were turned into the Federal or state level. The Great Lake Grant was denied. They stated that many proposals were turned in. Grace will try again next year. The River Clean up and the Macroinvertebrate grant were also turned in and Grace should hear in April if they are accepted or not.

New Business:

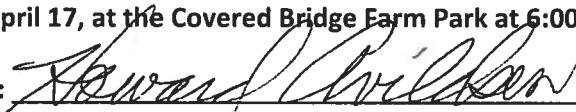
- **Vision statement:** To live in a community where the citizens protect and preserve the environment in which they live. Higgins motioned to accept the vision statement; Blasius second Motion carried. The board will be pleased to know that they were the first of any District to submit their vision statement.
- **MACD Business Management Review:** The board completed this assignment and Grace will turn it in with the other completed Management plan in September.
- **Audit:** A completed audit book is available to the public as well as any board member.

PA116: Janice Kindig: Higgins motioned to accept the PA116, Blasius second. Motion Passes.

Adjournment: Blasius motioned to adjourn at 8:14 pm, Higgins second motion passed.

Next Meeting: April 17, at the Covered Bridge Farm Park at 6:00pm.

Board Signature: _____





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Board of Directors Minutes for April 21, 2021
Election of Board

Election Opened at 5:45 PM
Election Closed at 6:15pm
6:15 pm official start by Howard Avildsen

Directors Present:

Howard Avildsen, Chair
Dan Blasius, Vice Chair
Carol Higgins
John Nelson
Chad Clark, Treasurer

Associate Director Present:

Court Strudwick

Introductions/Visitors: Dan Czajkowski, Alex Birkman, Jacob Phillips, Ashley Ives

Additions or Deletions to agenda: None. Nelson motioned to approve Agenda as presented, Higgin second. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: Higgins motioned to table March minutes. Clark supported. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Higgins made a motion to place March financials on file. Nelson supported. Motion passed.

Correspondence Reports:

- **NRCS:** none
- **MEAEP:** written
- **CTAI:** submitted by Ashley Ives. She spoke about her working at the District and for NRCS. She loves both her bosses and she enjoys getting into the field for both departments.
- **CTAI:** submitted by Jared Harmon
- **Admin report:** written, spoken. The MACD is getting a new look so we will wait to make any new signs or other items until completed. Higgins mentioned that the new President of MACD talked about a store where all Districts can join and purchase items at a discount.
- **CISMA:** none
- **Director Board:** Higgins talked about the Solid waste program at the fairgrounds this past Saturday. She mentioned that they received the largest quantity of used tires to date. Also, that the electronic collection will be held in October.

Unfinished Business

- **Conflict of interest**
- **Tree Sale:** May 7-8th at the fairgrounds at the usual building. Pick up trees and wrapping begins May 3rd.

New Business:

- **ELECTION RESULTS:** Alex Birkman, Election monitor announced Howard Avildsen to be reelected. Officers of the board will be on the May agenda.

PA116: Mark and Carol Sharp of Colon Township. Nelson motioned to accept the PA116, Clark second, motion passed

Adjournment: Nelson motioned to adjourn at 7:18 pm, Clark second motion passed.

Next Meeting: May 19, at the District offices at 6:00pm.

Board Signature: _____

Howard Avildsen



St. Joseph County Conservation District
693 E. Main Street
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Board of Directors Minutes for May 19, 2021

6:05 pm official start by Howard Avildsen

Directors Present:

Howard Avildsen, Chair

Dan Blasius, Vice Chair

Carol Higgins

John Nelson

Directors Absent

Chad Clark

Introductions/Visitors: none

Additions or Deletions to agenda:

None needed. Higgins motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Nelson second, motion passed

Approval of March and April Minutes: Higgins motioned to accept March and April board minutes. Blasius supported. Motion passed. One correction of who started board meeting.

Treasurer Report: Blasius made a motion to place April financials on file. Higgins supported. Motion passed.

Correspondence Reports:

- **NRCS:** none from Josh Crandall
- **MEAEP:** written
- **CTAI:** submitted by Ashley Ives.
- **CTAI:** none from Jared Harmon
- **Admin report:** spoken. Board had a lengthy discussion about tree sale, fundraising efforts, paying off the Sturgis Bank and Trust loan and how to get further recognition by the community with our programs.
- **CISMA:** written
- **Director Board:** Avildsen attended the breakfast with Steve Carra, area representative he was disappointed with the meeting. Higgins shared the information about the new MACD logo, it is in the shape of a droplet of water and a leaf. It is growing on us. Also, Higgins urged the board and Grace to reach out to local and state representatives to check the MACD website for funding letters of support to send. Also, to have board sign up to slack, a forum through MACD webpage.
Avildsen also noted that through a variety of culvert checks, some of the data used was from the District to get some replaced or repaired around the county.

Unfinished Business

- **Conflict of interest**

- **Tree Sale:** May 7-8th Grace had a big sigh of relief. Tree sale went well; however, she will increase the number of conifers purchased. Also, may not accept as many leftovers from other county sales due to the amount of background work needing to be completed with the new inventory coming to the sale.
- **Vision statement:** To live in a community where the citizens protect and preserve the environment in which they live.

New Business:

- **Annual Meeting and election of officers:** Higgins motioned to keep the current three officers in place. Howard Avildsen as Chair, Daniel Blasius as Vice chair, and Chad Clark as treasurer. Nelson Second. Little discussion was had, and motion passed. The officers will remain in place until March 2022.
- **MACD Governance policy standard element:** The fourth and final MACD policy packets were completed. Several notes made and Grace will request a second meeting with Jack Knorek, Regional Coordinator, to review and help explain the questions that arose during the board completion of the packet. Grace will inform the board of that date.

PA116: None

Adjournment: Nelson motioned to adjourn at 8:54 pm, Higgins second. Motion passed.

Next Meeting: June 16, at the Conservation district offices at 6:00pm.

Board Signature: _____