



St, Joseph County Conservation District  
693 E. Main Street  
August 15, 2023  
Centreville, MI 49032  
(269)467-6336 x5

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August 15, 2023, Board Minutes

6:02 pm Call to order by Howard Avildsen

**Directors Present:**

Howard Avildsen, Board chair  
Todd Hironimus, Vice Chair  
Chad Clark, Treasurer  
Dan Blasius, member  
Carol Higgins, member

**Introductions/Visitors:** Ryan Waltke, Nelson Evers, Associate board member, Shaun Grace, CISMA Coordinator, Alan Ives, Ashley Waltke, Teresa Ives, and Allison Ives

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

**Public Comment:** Ryan Waltke spoke about being release from his contract with Branch County Conservation District. Alan Ives also spoke on having proper tools for new employees and having some procedures in place for reprimanding employees and providing coaching for new employees.

**Approval of July board meeting minutes.** Blasius motioned to accept July minutes Higgins second. Motion passed.

**Treasurer Report:** Clark motioned to approve to place on file the July financials, Blasius second, motion passed.

**Correspondence Reports:**

**Administrator:** spoken, none written. Grace discussed budget and update about the possibility of a new MAEAP Technician. Discussion about Budget for FY24 with the amendments to the FY23 due in November. Fair is coming up and the board is welcome to come and participate in greeting the community.

**MAEAP:** None

**NRCS:** none.

**CISMA:** written.

**MDARD:** written.

**CTAI:** written.

**Board:** Higgins spoke about reinstating the Envirothon at a local High School. It will be difficult to find an interested teacher as a coach, however, we will try. Poster Contest,

now that the schools are back in session Grace will call to see if she can get a teacher involved in the poster contest for the state. Glen Oaks Community College will be building a 2.1 Million dollar facility to help increase the Agriculture in our area with a machine repair training program, called agrotechnology. Clean Play Go information will be available as well as Spotted Lantern Fly handouts at the County fairs in the areas.

Avildsen would like to have Grace investigate cover crops with the no till drill for Bayer Corp. Who might be interested in having information about no till in the area?

**Old Business:**

- **Conflict of interest**
- **Story Board:** Strudwick and Grace will be working on this to get it completed.
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- **Revised Budget:** Minor changes were made.

**New Business:**

- **Letter of Endorsement for Rivka Hodgkinson:** Grace will be getting the letter for Higgins to turn in. Clark motioned to write a letter of support, Higgins second. Motion passes.
- **Appropriation Act:** Grace will submit the proper information to the County before Sept 1, 2023
- **Conservation Plans and 1155 Schedule of Operations:** Higgins motioned to give the authority to Grace to sign any NRCS conservation Plans and 1155 Schedule of Operations. Clark second. Motion passed.
- **Region 8 meeting** August 31, 9:30 to noon is the meeting at Calhoun County. All are invited.
- **Fair:** Sept 17-23<sup>rd</sup> Grace will have handouts, CISMA handouts, and other information from FSA and Parks Department.

**PA116: Chad Clark** new information needed.

**Adjournment:** Clark motioned to adjourn at 8:19pm pm Hironimus second. Motion passed.

**Next Meeting: September 20, 2023** at 6pm at the St. Joseph County Conservation District Offices.

**Board Chair Signature:** Howard Avildsen

**Date** 9/20/2023