
Board Meeting Minutes for May 15, 2024

3:07pm Call to Order by Howard Avildsen

Directors Present:

Howard Avildsen, Board Chair
Todd Hironimus, Vice Chair
Carol Higgins, Member
Dan Blasius, Member

Board Members Absent:

Chad Clark, Treasurer
Nelson Evers, Associate Member

Staff Present:

Harlie Miller, MAEAP Technician
Kaitlin Renchan, Conservation Specialist
Marshall Block
Eric Pretzlav

Introductions / Visitors:

None

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: 1 item added – Higgins motioned to amend the agenda with addition to new business. Blasius second, motion passed.

Public Forum: None.

Approval of April Board Minutes: C. Higgins motioned to approve the April Board Minutes as they stand. T. Hironimus second, Motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Grace recommended that these be tabled as there was an error in the reforestation line item. Higgins motioned to table report until June and Blasius second. Motion passed.

Correspondence Reports:

- **Administrator:** Written. And discussion about tree sale was had.
- **MAEAP:** Written. Spoken - H. Miller reviewed progress made since assuming MAEAP Tech position in January; she discussed ordering the jackets and other apparel for the staff and board.
- **CTAI:** Written.
- **MDARD:** Written.
- **NRCS:** none

- **Board of Directors:** Spoken – Blasius went to an Upper Peninsula meeting and learned about the great projects that the CISMA and county entities have completed. He suggested that the SJCCD display in jars of Macroinvertebrates when we go out and about to events.
- **Higgins:** She asked if Grace would get to Chupps store and thank them for the donation of the bags and also put on the webpage. Poster Contest. Higgins also spoke about Mendon participation in the fall with the poster contest and Grace will visit Colon and Nottawa. Also Environthon was discussed and Grace will reach out to Colon HS soon about forming a team for competition in 2025. Avildsen: Howard has visited both John Lindsley and Steve Carra to inform them about our budget for 2025.

Old Business:

- **Conflict of Interest:** None.
- **Vehicle damage:** Due to the recent tornado, the Highlander was damaged. USA Autobody will provide a quote for repairs. Blasius motioned to fix the damage and pay the deductible. Hironimus second and motion passed.
- **Tree Sale:** Grace will work with Kim Sinclair on inventory, sales and receipts in the near future and provide a financial statement at the next board meeting.

New Business:

- **Conflict of Interest**
- **New Employees:** Grace introduced Marshal Block to the board, a couple of which had met him during the tree wrapping and sale. He is a part time staff member who will be working about 20 hrs per week.
- **Election of Board officers:** April 10 was the Annual meeting and even though there was no election the 2024-2025 slate of officers was voted upon. Higgins Nominated Howard to Chair, he accepted. Blasius nominated Hironimus as Vice Chair and he accepted. Higgins motioned to keep Clark as Treasurer and Blasius second. In a previous conversation with Clark, he mentioned to stay treasurer.
- **Slate of Officers and roll call vote:**
Howard Avildsen, Chair
Todd Hironimus, Vice Chair
Chad Clark, treasurer.

Avildsen, aye

Hironimus, Aye

Blasius, Aye

Higgins, Aye

Motion passed and slate of officers will stay the same.

PA116: None

Adjournment: T. Hironimus motioned to adjourn at 4:33 pm. Higgins second. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: June 19th at the St. Joseph County Conservation District Offices at 3:00pm.

Board Chair Signature: _____

Howard Avildsen

Date: 7/17/2024