



St, Joseph County Conservation District
693 E. Main Street
August 21, 2023
Centreville, MI 49032
(269)467-6336 x5

August 21, 2024
Board Minutes

3:08 pm Call to order by Howard Avildsen

Directors Present:

Howard Avildsen, Board chair
Chad Clark, Treasurer
Carol Higgins

Board members absent

Todd Hironimus, vice chair
Dan Blasius
Nelson Evers, associate board member

Staff Present:

Harlie Miller

Introductions/Visitors: Jack Knorek, Rick Shaffer, Charles Ronk, and Jeff Anderson, MiClass representative.

Additions or Deletions to agenda: One addition to the agenda. Higgins motioned to approve the agenda. Clark Second. Motion passed

Public Comment: None

Approval of July board meeting. Higgins motioned to accept the July board minutes Clark second. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report:

Clark motioned to place on file the July treasurer reports on file. Higgins second. Motion passed. Grace explained the new report that was added to the financials. This will continue from here on out.

Correspondence Reports:

Administrator: spoken. Grace explained that the last Regenerative Ag grant was denied. So at this time, no new grants will be awarded until 2025. The staff and Grace will be writing several grants this fall to a variety of agencies.

MAEAP: written. Miller discussed her report and also showed the board the display that she is going to purchase from Vista Print for the District presentations.

NRCS: Charles spoke about his contracts and payments he is making for the producers that completed their contracts this past year. He will also provide the board next month with some numbers they can use to share with the county commissioners.

CISMA: none

MDARD: written. Knorek pointed out that the law for overtime and comp tie has changed. Grace noted that the current handbook reflects those changes.

CTAI: written.

Board: Higgins had three points to share. The first was the flyer for Region 8 meeting on Sept 24th at Friedenswald, second the photo, poster and other contests held by MACD and due Oct 30th. Lastly Higgins suggested we have an educational booth at the Mendon fest in August 2025.

Old Business:

- **Conflict of interest:**
- **Insurance:** Grace suggested not increasing the \$450.00 per staff member for insurance. The board agreed and no action was taken. Full time staff will continue to receive supplemental insurance support of \$450 per month.
- **Fall Tree Sale:** Grace and Renehan will complete the order for the fall.

New Business:

- **Board Elements:** The board completed one of the four in June, one at the board meeting in July. The third element will be completed by Clark and the fourth element completed by Avildsen before Knorek collects them August 26th.
- **Michigan Class:** Jeff Anderson presented the information about the financial capabilities of the program. All board members present had many questions and comments. The board decided to wait until Blasius and Hironimus are present before making a final decision.
- **Staff Handbook Changes:** Grace provided each board member with the highlighted changes and discussion was had. Clark motioned to accept the handbook changes. Higgins second, motion passed.
- **Budget and Appropriations:** Grace explained that the \$75,000.00 ask has been submitted to the County and the treasurer mentioned she is just going to recommend the amount to the and that I do not need to attend a meeting until January.
- **Fair:** Clark motioned to spend roughly \$250.00 for life jackets for a drawing for the fair. A display of life jackets will be available and any person who submits a questionnaire will be

PA116: NONE

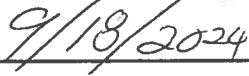
Adjournment: Clark motioned to adjourn at 5:13 pm Higgins second. Motion passed.

Next Meeting: September 18, 2024, at 3pm at the St. Joseph County Conservation District Offices.

Board Chair Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Howard Crillson", written over a horizontal line.

Date

A handwritten date "9/18/2024" written over a horizontal line.