



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

Board Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2025

3:02 pm Call to Order by Howard Avildsen

Directors Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Nelson Evers, Associate Member

Staff Present:

Ashley Waltke
Kaitlin Renehan
Eric Pretzlav

Introductions / Visitors:

Christina Yunker, Charles Ronk

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

Public Forum: Grace gave Avildsen a gift for serving 8 years on the Board of Directors. He is stepping down and would like to be part of our Associate Members, ALL agreed we would love to have him serve.

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

Treasurer Report: Grace explained what she knew about the Federal GLRI grant on hold for a bit. Hironimus motioned to accept February Treasurer report to be placed on file. Blasius second.

Correspondence Reports:

- **Administrator:** Written.
- **CTAI Conservationist:**
- **CTAI:** Written.
- **MDARD:** Written.
- **NRCS:** Chuck provided a spreadsheet showing what may be affected by the new administration of funds being frozen at this time.

- **Board of Directors:** Spoken – Higgins attended a NSTA conference and shared information to schools to promote science and conservation days.

Old Business:

- **Conflict of Interest:** None.
- **MI Class:** tabled until April
- **Tree Sale:** April 28th pick up, 4th grade tree wrap Monday night for 4th Grade Conservation Days.

New Business:

- **Employee and grant discussion:** Grace addressed ending the GLFT 2 new staff at end of grant and will wait until federal grants begin moving again. Censke asked to have his vacation time increased from 4 to 6 as he has been an employee of Districts in the past. This discussion will be revisited after knowledge about NACD Federal grant is reimbursed.
- **4th Grade Conservation Days:** April 29-30, 2025. The District will provide the tree give away and the Invasive species section of the day. It will be once again held at Covered Bridge Farm Park.

PA116: None.

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

Next Meeting: April 16th at the St. Joseph County Conservation District Offices at 3:00pm.

Board Chair Signature: _____

Howard Carlson

Date: _____

4/16/2025