



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

Board Meeting Minutes for August 19, 2026

6:07 pm Call to Order by Chad Clark

Introduction

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Directors Present:

Chad Clark, Board chair

Dan Blasius, Vice Chair

Carol Higgins, Member

Director Absent

Mike Sherman, Member

Todd Hironimus, Treasurer

Associate Board Members:

Howard Avildsen

Staff Present:

Alesha Gest

Carolyn Grace

Ashley Waltke

Shaun Grace

Introductions / Visitors:

County Commissioner Terry Connklin

Additions / Deletions to Agenda Higgins motion to accept the board agenda. Blasius second. Motion passed

Approval of Board Minutes:

Higgins moved to approve the board minutes from July, Blasius second. Motion passed

Treasurer Report: Blasius motioned to place the financials on file for July. Higgins second motion approved.

Correspondence Reports:

Administrator: None

CISMA: written and Spoken. S. Grace talked about the events throughout the 3 counties,

CTAI: spoken/written. Ashley has been very busy with extra county work and obligation payments

MDARD: Written

CTAP: Clark spoke about his farm getting MAEAP verified through the Forestry and Ryan, his son also 1st time verified. Very exciting.

Board: None

Old Business:

- **Conflict of Interest**
- **Work Agreements:** Board voted by roll call to accept the work agreement for Alesha Gest, the new Administrator.
- **Region 8 meeting:** Waltke and Higgins along with Avildsen, Blasius and Censke all attended the Kalamazoo region meeting. They enjoyed the watershed game and the information shared by the others in the region. All counties attended with the exception of Calhoun.
- **Sale of Vehicle:** Gest will be handling this and Avildsen mentioned he has 4 snow tires that could go with it.

New Business:

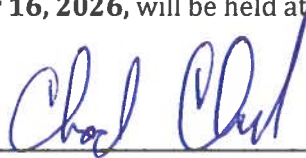
- **Budget Review:** Grace reviewed the budget with Gest and the board. Many discussions about what to change and keep. Presentation will be Sept 16th by Gest.
- **PA116:** Blasius motioned to have the administrator approve all PA116 paperwork that comes across her desk. Higgins second the motion. Motion passed
- **Health Benefits:** Grace asked the board to consider the budget and if there was room to increase the health benefits to the staff.
- **MACD Dues:** The board will consider the possible increase from \$1,300 to \$1,800. Final decision will be made at the next board meeting.

PA116: Fanning Farm

Adjournment: at 7:15pm Higgins made a motion to adjourn and Blasius second. Motion passed.

Next Meeting: September 16, 2026, will be held at the St. Joseph County Conservation District Offices at 6:00pm.

Board Chair Signature: _____



Date: 9-16-26