

MINUTES FROM THE SCHOOLCRAFT CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 8, 2024

4:00 PM

SCD Office - 100 N. Cedar St, Manistique, MI

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by chairperson Anthony Wright (AW). Other board members present were; Tom White (TW), and Marvin Evink (ME). Also present were; Mike Van Wyk (MVW) of NRCS, Rachael Guth (RG) of MDARD, SCD District Manager Ashley Reitter (AR), SCD CAC Sara Solberg (SS), and SCD Conservation Technician Bruce Birr (BB).
2. **Agenda approval** Motion made by TW, second by ME to approve agenda. Motion carried.
3. **Approve minutes of November 13, 2023 board meeting** Motion made by ME, second by TW to approve November 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried
4. **Approve Treasurer's Report** Motion made by TW, second by ME to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.
5. **Reports**
 - A. **Partner Reports**
 - MDARD- printed report attached** RG shared a congratulations on being awarded a UCF grant. She also mentioned that MDARD has started restructuring. RG also mentioned that both Houghton/Keweenaw and Delta CDs have hired new district managers.
 - NRCS- printed report attached** MVW mentioned that the High Tunnel initiative signup has a deadline of February 9th. TW asked if we could get some ads going for that, MVW said that he and SS had already discussed and plan to. CSP has an application deadline of February 16th, 5 from Schoolcraft have already come in.
 - FAP- printed report attached**
6. **New business**
 - A. **Good Governance training-** Board discussed, AW and ME can both attend for their roles at the District. AR will take care of the registration and payment for them (\$195 per person).
 - B. **2024 UCF Grant-** AR stated that as previously mentioned to the board at the beginning of December, the UCF grant was awarded for the full amount of \$31,097, with no match required. She mentioned that the DNR had not asked for any changes or reductions in budget. Motion made by ME to accept and sign. No second. TW and AW would like to wait to another month accept or not.
 - C. **2024 Community Conservation Grants -** Motion made by TW to launch the 2024 Community Grants program, second by ME. Motion carried.

D. 2024 Scholarships-

Teacher scholarships: TW motion to approve the 2024 Teacher Scholarships as presented, ME second. Motion carried.

Summer Camps: TW motion to approve the 2024 Summer Camp Scholarships as presented, ME second. Motion carried.

College: TW motion to approve the 2024 College Scholarships as presented, ME second. Motion carried.

AR broke down the current scholarship allocations already made for FY24: \$3000 in college scholarships paid in January 2024; Trees For Tomorrow from \$640-\$1300 depending on how many students sign up to attend. Teacher scholarships and summer camps could be as much as \$3500, again depending on interest. TW made a motion to amend the scholarships budget to \$7500 for FY24 to accommodate, ME second. Motion carried.

E. EES Clear Lake request- board declined to discuss at this time

F. FY24 Budget amendments – AR stated the District truck needs to have new ball joints put in, so the budgeted amount for maintenance will need to be increased – see quote attached. TW made a motion to accept the budget amendments as presented, ME second. Motion carried.

G. MISG position descriptions- TW made a motion to accept the position description as presented, ME second. Motion carried.

H. Capital outlay and future projects- AW wanted to have a discussion about capital outlay and grants that don't allow SCD to make money through indirect funds, and how that affects the types of grant the District pursues. To be discussed further at future meetings.

I. MI Climate Corps- AR shared the details of the MI Climate Corps program, and how one of their AmeriCorps positions may be very beneficial to the District in the next application cycle. She asked for what feedback the board would like to see to be able to apply to host one in the future. TW said he would like to see a detailed outline of what work that position could do. AR will work on and get back to the board.

7. Old Business

A. 2023 Community Conservation Grants – AR gave a recap of the 2023 Community Grant awardees, the Manistique Community Garden and the Schoolcraft County Road Commission fish passage project. SS made a project summary for each, to be used in future reporting/outreach.

8. Staff Reports

A. Administrative Reports

District Manager– see attached spreadsheet

Conservation Technician –see attached report

Communications Coordinator- see attached PPT

B. Subcommittee Reports-

Business Plan/Long Range Plan – AR reminded the board that the CNA must be done this year, due July 7th. She has worked on the survey, and would like to get it approved at the February meeting, how would the board like to review it before that meeting? TW stated to just send the questions out, and they would provide feedback in advance.

Education and Outreach

Personnel

SESC

9. Director Comments- TW asked about the agriculture outreach event and when it was happening. AR asked for more direction on what exactly that event should consist of, whether there should be speakers, or questions for a panel, or just a discussion? TW provided some feedback, that it should be multiple farmers, with experts (MAEAP, NRCS, MDARD, Produce Safety), and possibly topics. AR will work on it and get something set up with Produce Safety.

10. Compliments – none

11. Public comment – none

12. Adjourn- Next regular meeting: Monday, February 12, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the SCD office.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM