

MINUTES FROM THE SCHOOLCRAFT CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 13, 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 4:01 PM by chairperson Anthony Wright (AW). Other board members present were; Tom White (TW), Susan King (SK), and Marvin Evink (ME). Also present were; MDARD Regional Coordinator Rachael Guth (RG), NRCS District Conservationist Mike Van Wyk (MVW), SCD District Manager Ashley Reitter (AR), and SCD CAC Sara Solberg (SS). Members of the public Michelle Guzzetta, and MAS Science Teacher Lizz Birr and two of her students, were also present.
2. **Agenda approval** Motion made by ME, second by TW to approve agenda. Motion carried.
3. **Approve minutes of April 8, 2024 board meeting** Motion made by SK, second by TW to approve April 8, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
4. **Trees for Tomorrow Presentation** – Ms. Birr and her students gave a presentation outlining their trip to Trees for Tomorrow that was sponsored by SCD. They shared some of the highlights and takeaways from the trip.
5. **Approve Treasurer’s Report** Motion made by TW, second by ME to approve the treasurer’s report. AW asked about adding to the Edward Jones investment accounts, and whether some more CD funds should be moved into them. TW said he would look into it.
6. **Public Comment** none
7. **Reports**
 - A. **Partner Reports**
 - MDARD- printed report attached** RG highlighted the projected funding for Districts for FY25.
 - NRCS- printed report attached** MVW shared that none of the high tunnel applications for Schoolcraft County were funded. AR asked if the “increased” funding, did fund some at least in the UP, MVW said he thought so. MVW also shared that on June 17th a new Soil Conservationist will be starting out of the Gladstone office.
 - FAP- vacant**
 - B. **Administrative Reports**
 - District Manager– see attached spreadsheet**
 - Conservation Technician – on leave this month**
 - Communications Coordinator-** SS gave an update on Tree Sale outreach, and social media updates.
 - C. **Subcommittee Reports-**
 - Business Plan/Long Range Plan** – AR mentioned that she had given them a summary of the CNA results so far, and that we should discuss and approve the summary at the June meeting (due

July 7th). TW volunteered to help work on it before the June meeting.

Education and Outreach - none

Personnel – none

SESC – none

8. New business

- A. Letter of Interest – to respond (see attached)** – TW made a motion to approve Michelle Guzzetta as an associate board member effective immediately. Second by SK. Motion carried.
- B. MISG Seasonal hiring – to approve** - AR asked if the board would like to approve the hiring of the MISG seasonal staff. TW said there was no need, as the position description was approved by the board before hiring began. AR listed the individuals hired and a little about each of them.

9. Old Business

- A. FAP vacancy** – TW made a motion to send the letter discussed to Ben Schram of MDARD. Second by ME. Motion carried.
- B. Annual Meeting and Election** – AR gave an update on the contract to rent FlatIron brewing for the annual meeting. It was agreed to charge \$15 per person to attend, with a cash bar. For the only position that will need to run in the upcoming election, the nominating petition is due in the office Friday June 14, 2024.
- C. MACD Conference/Capital Day** – AR gave an update on expected attendance in Lansing, and what the tentative schedule is. She will be attending on behalf of SCD.

- 10. Director Comments-** AW presented a letter for discussion that would be sent to appropriate officials on behalf of the SCD board regarding CD funding and operations. TW made a motion for the chair to sign and send the letter, ME second. Motion carried.

AW also asked about spotted knapweed biocontrol at Seney NWR, and whether that may be a viable option here. AR said she would ask around and see what the status of that is.

- 11. Compliments** – AR thanked everyone for all their massive efforts during tree sale. She also mentioned she had received some great feedback about Sara’s newspaper articles from a member of the public at tree sale pickup.

- 12. Public comment** – none

- 13. Adjourn-** Next regular meeting: Monday, June 10, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the SCD office.
Motion by SK, second by TW to adjourn the meeting at 5:50. Motion carried.