

Missaukee
Conservation
District

Minutes
Board Meeting
November 19, 2024

Approved
12/17/24 - DH

101 S. Main
Street

Lake City, MI
49651

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missaukeecd.org

Our mission is
to provide
leadership in
promotion and
protecting our
county soil,
water and
other natural
resources
through
education and
technical
assistance.

Living better
with:
Fresh air
Healthy soils
Clean water
Recycling and
Reducing waste

Board meeting of the Missaukee Conservation District was held Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at Timber Wolf Lake Camp, 4909 N. Morey Rd., Lake City, MI 49651.

Directors present: Susan Schwager, Paul Sawin, Barb Iverson, Sue Nyce, Janis Ransom

Associate Directors present: Mary Jane Emery, Chris Iverson

Associate Directors absent: Eric Bradley, Ingrid Herweyer

Staff/affiliates present: Dani Hamilton, Erin Horton, Lucas Santure, Liam Daniels, Ellie DeMarse, Sierra Gross, Michael Ramsey

Staff/affiliates absent: Frank Vanderwal, Jeff Fewless, Zach Pelko

Meeting began at 10:26 am.

Motion by Sawin, supported by Nyce to approve agenda. Motion passed.

Motion by Nyce, supported by Ransom to approve October 15, 2024 minutes. Motion passed.

Public Comment: Sherry Blaszak thanked the staff and board members for all their hard work, both throughout this past year and in putting on the Renewable Roots Convention.

Financial reports were reviewed.

MDARD, NRCS, and NCCISMA reports were reviewed. Commissioner was not present to provide a report. No Forester report was given as the position is vacant (Wexford CD is currently hiring for this position). Sierra Gross presented NRCS program updates—a highlight is that they filled the vacant engineering position. Michael Ramsey presented the NCCISMA updates—they recently received a grant for the replacement of landscaping shrubs with native species. Mary Jane Emery gave an update that the Friends of Missaukee Conservation District is reworking the planned snowshoe hike due to conflicting events. The Friends group is seeking interest for a fundraising committee.

Staff reports are on file but were not presented in the interest of time.

Old Business

1. Board and events calendars were reviewed.
2. MACD Convention was reviewed. Moving forward, MACD will only be having one conference per year, and there is talk of having a “Director Day” as part of the conference to encourage more engagement from directors around the state.

New Business

1. The FY24 Annual Report was reviewed.
2. Proposal for a holiday office closure was reviewed. Motion by Sawin, supported by Ransom to approve a one-time holiday closure of the office from 12/23/24-01/03/25, providing staff with two weeks of paid leave in recognition of their work and achievements this year. Motion passed.
3. District Manager Working Agreement was reviewed. Motion by Nyce, supported by Iverson to approve District Manager FY25 Working Agreement as presented. Motion passed.
4. An election was held for one open director position for a term of 4 years. Paul Sawin was running for re-election unopposed. The election followed all rules and regulations established in Michigan’s Conservation District Operations Manual, per the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

5. Election polling officials read election results out loud and reported 8 votes to Paul Sawin and 0 votes to write in candidates. Paul Sawin was reelected to his position.

Committee Reports

1. Land committee – Ellie DeMarse reviewed land committee updates.

Public Comment – Members of the Missaukee Conservation District (MCD) Board thanked Sherry Blaszak for her years of work with MCD and for her continued support.

Adjourned at 11:15 am. Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 9 am or at the call of the chair.

Submitted by,

Ellie DeMarse

Ellie DeMarse
Land Stewardship Coordinator