

MINUTES FROM THE SCHOOLCRAFT CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 15, 2024 10:30 AM SCD Office - 100 N. Cedar St, Manistique, MI

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call** The meeting was called to order at 10:33 AM by chairperson Anthony Wright (AW). Other board members present were; Tom White (TW), Brad Hayes (BH), and Marvin Evink (ME). Also present were; SCD District Manager Ashley Reitter (AR) and SCD CAC Sara Solberg (SS).
2. **Agenda approval** Motion made by TW, second by ME to approve agenda. Motion carried.
3. **Approve minutes of January 8, 2024 board meeting** Motion made by BH, second by ME to approve January 8, 2024 meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried
4. **Approve Treasurer's Report** Motion made by ME, second by TW to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.
AW asked about removing money from the Edward Jones investment accounts as more projects have costs come in, and how that will work. TW said it can be removed as needed as the CDs are staggered to mature on a rolling basis.
5. **Reports**
 - A. **Partner Reports**
 - MDARD- printed report attached.**
 - NRCS- printed report attached** AR shared that there was a huge interest in the high tunnel advertisements SCD placed on behalf of the NRCS funding opportunity. Schoolcraft County had 5 applications submitted for that program.
 - FAP- printed report attached**
 - B. **Administrative Reports**
 - District Manager– see attached spreadsheet**
 - Conservation Technician –see attached report**
 - Communications Coordinator**
 - C. **Subcommittee Reports-**
 - Business Plan/Long Range Plan - none**
 - Education and Outreach - none**
 - Personnel - none**
 - SESC –** AW mentioned that Bruce is working on the spring reminder ads for SESC, and he has suggested a few changes to the wording to make it more clear and less wordy.
6. **New business**
 - A. **Conservation Needs Assessment – accept questions and approval to begin-** AR shared that as per the board's previous request everyone has had time to review the CNA and get suggestions back, but asked if there were any last-minute questions or suggestions. TW stated he is unsure why the CNA has to be done, and was hesitant to have it begin. He would like the CNA to be

delayed while he works on it separately. AR explained the requirements for the CNA and reiterated the timeframe it has to be completed in. Motion made by BH to accept the Conservation Needs Assessment as written, second by ME. Motion carried.

- B. Edward Jones - designate signers** – ME made a motion to remove Deb Le Blanc and Renee Santi as approved signers on the Edward Jones account and add Ashley Reitter (as District Manager) and Anthony Wright. Second by TW. Motion carried.
- C. 2024 WAM Grant – approval to attend conference and accept grant** - Motion made by TW to approve attendance to the WAM Conference and accept the WAM grant, second by ME. Motion carried.
- D. Ag For Tomorrow and UP Beekeeping Conference – discuss attendance-**
AR and SS can attend Ag for Tomorrow. SCD will send BH to the UP Beekeeping Conference on their behalf. AW reminded the staff that it is important to make connections with service providers at these events, not to necessarily gain the knowledge to tackle a problem themselves.

7. Old Business

- A. 2024 UCF Grant – approval to accept and sign** – Motion made by TW to accept and sign the 2024 UCF Grant, second by ME. Motion carried.
 - B. EES Clear Lake Request – to discuss** – BH shared his support of the Emerald Elementary request for funds to send the students to Clear Lake for outdoor education. Motion made by TW to grant the request, second by ME. Motion carried.
 - C. MI Climate Corps – to discuss** AR gave a synopsis of how SCD could take advantage of this program to get another employee at very low cost out of pocket [see attached summary]. She went over the list of projects that this individual could potentially work on. The board would have to approve the position description when the time comes, so this is not the final approval. ME made a motion to pursue applying in the next round, second by BH. Motion carried.
- 8. Director Comments-** AW asked about board positions, and whether they need to be rotated. AR said it is good to do each year, but not mandatory. At the end of the fiscal year, board positions will be re-evaluated, and changed if desired.
- 9. Compliments** – AR shared some kind words about SCD’s work and all the new things we are working on that were shared with the staff from both Mike Hickey and Susan King.

10. Public comment – none

Adjourn- Next regular meeting: Monday, March 11, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the SCD office.

Motion by BH, second by ME to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 PM. Motion carried.

MI Healthy Climate Corps Summary

SCD could become a “host partner”

Fall of 2024 another cohort will start – probably October

May/June 2024 applications might be due

\$6,000 host partner fee if your budget is \$250,000 or less, MI Climate Corps provides the living allowance, an education award, health insurance, trainings, travel expenses to in-person events required

Activities and projects that a Climate Corps member could work on:

Any outreach or education events that are suited to the corps member’s background

Grants:

UCF – community outreach/surveying, MISS DIG permitting, overseeing planting (really just supervising the contractors), pruning/trunk protection/trimming

MISG – boat washing, outreach, entering data

Tree Sale/Native Plant Sale – packing orders

WHGP – overseeing contractors, surveying sites, planning work

GLFT – surveying stream crossings, compiling data, writing reports

Scrap Tire

Any new programs that we may want to develop or work on, that we do not currently have capacity for (such as Ag Outreach ie NACD Grants, household hazardous waste)