

MINUTES FROM THE SCHOOLCRAFT CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 16, 2023 4:00 PM SCD Office - 100 N. Cedar St, Manistique, MI

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call** The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM by chairperson Anthony Wright (AW). Others present were board members; Tom White (TW), Brad Hayes (BH), and Marvin Evink (ME). Also present were; Mike Van Wyk (MVW) of NRCS, Lyndsey Robinson (LR) FAP forester, 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 September 11, 2023 board meeting** Motion made by TW, second by ME to approve September 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried
4. **Approve Treasurer's Report** Motion made by ME, second by TW. Motion carried. AW asked why the accounts receivable was so high at the end of a fiscal year. AR stated it is because of grants that have been invoiced but not yet received payment.

5. Reports

A. Partner Reports

MDARD- printed report attached AR mentioned the MOA between MDARD, NRCS, and the District will be coming back to Districts for the chair to sign in the next few months. AR also mentioned that there will be a resolution at the MACD Annual Assembly in December to change the OMA virtual meeting rules. AR also passed on that as of January 1st, MDARD would be moving to more of a bureau structure (like DNR and EGLE).

NRCS- printed report attached MVW mentioned that there is a deadline for EQIP on November 17th. He also said there would be multiple sign-up periods throughout the FY, to hopefully make the process move more smoothly. MVW provided a letter addressing the lack of funding for UP high tunnels. The board will review and alter as needed.

FAP- printed report attached LR said that she has wrapped up FY23 reporting. The FAP advisory meeting will be on November 1st, time is not set yet. She has provided an advance copy of the FY23 wrap-up and goals for FY24, directors can provide feedback ahead of time to AR or LR if they can't make the advisory meeting.

B. Administrative Reports

District Manager– see attached spreadsheet

Conservation Technician – see attached report BB reported that SESC permits are marginally down by the end of the fiscal year, due to a combination of factors.

C. Subcommittee Reports-

Business Plan/Long Range Plan

Education and Outreach – see attached summary from Education/Outreach meeting October 5th.

Personnel – going to meet to go over FY24 priority list

SESC- AW asked about the possibility of raising the price of SESC permits if the program is not breaking even financially. AR and BB will work on a set of possible solutions SCD can pursue once they can come up with some firm numbers cost per permit.

6. New business

A. MACD Fall Conference- Motion made by TW to allow AR and SS to attend the 2023 MACD Fall Conference, BH second. Motion carried.

B. Hemlock Wolly adelgid Letter of Support– Motion made by TW to submit the letter of support for on behalf of SCD for the HWA project through UPRC&D, second by ME. Motion carried.

C. Health insurance and ancillary benefits for SCD employees- see attached policy

Motion made by ME, second by TW that “For permanent, full-time employees SCD will pay 100% of the Accident, Critical Illness, and Hospital Indemnity ancillary benefits. The health insurance stipend will be increased to \$180 per month. For permanent, part-time employees working 20 hours per week or more; SCD will pay 100% of the Accident, Critical Illness, and Hospital Indemnity ancillary benefits, and they will also begin to receive a health insurance stipend of \$108 per month.” Motion carried.

D. FY24 priorities – As mentioned above, personnel committee will meet to discuss with AR and create list for board comment.

7. Old Business

A. Final FY23 budget amendments – TW made a motion to accept the final FY23 budget amendments as presented, second by BH. Motion carried.

8. Director Comments- none

9. Compliments – AR passed on compliments from Bil Scullon of MI DNR on the DHIPi project and Christi Currie, a constituent, on the good work SCD is doing.

10. Public comment – none

11. Adjourn- Next regular meeting: Monday, November 13, 2023 at 4:00 PM at the SCD office.

Motion by TW, second by BH to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 PM. Motion carried.