



Board Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2021 @ 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Caitlyn McSweeney-Steffes, Zach Gosnell, Adrienne Wolff, Jason Helwig (BOC)

Board Members Excused: Bryan Smith, Randy Johnson. **Guests Present:** Jim Pawlowicz, Marty Dillon.

Staff Present: Heidi Shaffer, Mike Meriwether, Wendy Warren, Melissa Zelenak

Call Meeting to Order – McSweeney agreed to chair the meeting. Called meeting to order at 4:36.

Agenda Approval/Revisions – Motion to approve agenda with two additions, (#5 under financials and #1 under old business. Gosnell, 2nd Wolff

Public Comment/Partner Reports - NRCS, MAEAP, Antrim BOC –

Marty Dillon introduced himself. He is a beekeeper looking for a seed mix that would attract bees. He is interested in renewable energy and farming. Interested in rejuvenating farmland and making money by planting particular cover crops. How can we foster the increase of bees so they are winter hardy. He is very knowledgeable and available to help with selecting appropriate pollinator mixes. Renewable energy concepts are based on creating energy rather than just harnessing the heat of the sun. Practiced rotational grazing systems for years. Zelenak invited Mr. Dillon to join us later to discuss in more detail.

MDARD, Pawlowicz report – There are five regional coordinators and we are beginning the operations reviews.

CAKE Coordinator, Lindsey Bona-Eggeman, – Lindsey introduced herself. Projects coming up are a invasive species tool library hosted at the Charlevoix Conservation District. Planning to do several workbees at the Cosner Preserve in East Jordan. We have a list serve for the newsletter. Hiring a new Restoration team leader. The GLRI and the Little Traverse Bay Band contract will support the Team Lead plus 4 or 5 team members.

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes (pg. 1) – Dec. 15 and special meeting Dec. 17, 2021

➤ Motion to approve Dec. 15 and Dec 17 meeting minutes by Gosnell, 2nd by Wolff, motion carried.

Finance Requests: Approval of Financials and Paying of Bills

1. **Pg. 2** - Balance Sheet, **pg. 3** - Check Register
 2. **Pg. 4 & 5** - Income and Expense Statements (Monthly & Year to date)
Per request by Smith, Warren will check on the total salary and wages on income statement.
- **Motion to approve the financials by Gosnell, 2nd by Wolff.**
3. **Pg. 6** – Approve acceptance of U.S. Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grants in the amount of \$ 200,000 and \$50,000 on behalf of CAKE.
 4. **Pg. 7** – Approve acceptance of Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians contract in the amount of \$30,000 on behalf of CAKE.
- **Motion to approve the three grants for CAKE by Gosnell, 2nd by Wolff, motion carried**
5. NACD membership dues
- **Motion to approve the dues in the amount of \$100 by Gosnell, 2nd by Wolff, motion carried.**



Consent Agenda: Staff Reports

Pg.8 thru 12 – Staff Reports; Administration, Communications, Healthy Lakes, Soil Erosion, Forestry.

Kyle Williams reported that the Board of Commissioners approved the Household Hazardous Waste contract and that the dates are all set for 2022.

Heidi Shaffer reported that she will be going to court for a deposition on 2/2 22 at 1:30 at Bellaire courthouse with regard to the RV Park.

Mike Meriwether – Conducted staff reviews and has a recommendation of pay raises. How to address that? Raises are already approved in the budget. Meriwether will send out findings to the Personnel Committee. His Summary goes to the Commissioners each month. Does the Board want to receive those summaries?

New Business

1. Executive Director applications
 2. Set up Personnel Committee to conduct interviews
 3. **Pg. 13** - Wilderness Areas Memo from Michigan Environmental Council – request to support approved.
- **Motion by Wolff, second by Gosnell to support the Michigan Env. Council** in working to increase Wilderness areas in Michigan. Motion carried.
4. Other

Old Business

1. Sign Agreement with Antrim County (Meriwether) asked for signature, agreement was already approved. Caitlyn will sign the agreement since Bryan is not present.
2. Toad Lake Land Donation was purchased for \$1.00 for 80 acres, owners asked to include use and restrictions to include hunting rights. A land attorney in Charlevoix is reviewing the use restrictions. Bryan Smith signed the paperwork accepting the conditions requested by landowners. Directors noted that a Hunters Hold Harmless agreement should be developed and signed by the hunter that is allowed on the property.
3. MDARD Grant Funding – 1st payment of \$8,000 received, 2nd invoice submitted.
4. Other

Next Meeting

1. **Select officers**

Upcoming Events;

1. Winter Farmers Market in Bellaire – Fridays 9 to 1 @ Bee Well and Terrain
2. Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference (virtual) – February 2 - 6
3. February Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 16 @4:30 p.m.

Adjourned 5:46 p.m.