



Board Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2021

**Members Present:** Bryan Smith (Chair), Caitlyn McSweeney-Steffes (Treasurer), Randy Johnson, Jason Helwig (BOC Representative). **Members absent:**, Libby Hiser, Zach Gosnell. **Staff Present:** Wendy Warren, Melissa Zelenak, Heidi Shaffer, Mike Merryweather. **Guests Present:** Monica Caster (NRCS).

**Call Meeting to Order at 4:30** – Bryan Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed Zoom participants.

**Agenda Approval/Revisions** – Shaffer requested to add an item under new business #5 Torch Lake Property.

- Motion by Johnson, seconded by McSweeney to approve agenda with amendment; Roll call vote; Johnson, (yes), McSweeney (yes), Smith (yes), motion carried.

**Public Comment / Partner Reports** – Monica Caster (NRCS) noted she had several applications for landowners approved for grazing, pest management, high tunnels among other practices. She added that the Conservation incentive program is focusing on wildlife this year.

**Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2020** – Monica Caster asked to have a note added to the minutes that she had requested to present civil rights information at the next meeting.

- Motion by McSweeney, seconded by Johnson to approve minutes with requested amendment; Roll call vote; Johnson, (yes), McSweeney (yes), Smith (yes), motion carried.

**Finance Requests:**

Approval of Financials and Paying of Bills

- Motion by Johnson, seconded by McSweeney-Steffes to approve financials and paying of bills as presented; Roll call vote; Johnson, (yes), McSweeney (yes), Smith (yes), motion carried.
- Motion by Johnson, seconded by McSweeney-Steffes to accept 2021 Scrap Tire Grant of \$6150 to pay for scrap tire collections at HHW events. Roll call vote; Johnson, (yes), McSweeney (yes), Smith (yes), motion carried.

Warren noted that she checked into Johnsons question last month as to why there were two Verizon bills back-to-back. Warren stated that one was for the prior month of February.

**Staff Reports –**

**Forestry** - Meriwether stated he is working on marking trees for county timber sales and will be working on Cedar River Trail bridge this summer. Staff noted that a tree nursery had been established at the Doerr Rd., 40 acre site, that is planned for donation to ACD.

**Communications** – Zelenak reported that billboards about Antrim County recycling were being put up on busy thoroughfares around the county during the summer, which were paid for through last year’s recycling improvement grant. She also noted that White Pine seedlings had been distributed to each school in the county. Zelenak noted that we had ordered and would be selling native plants at the Petoskey Stone Festival.

**Soil Erosion/Healthy Lakes Landscaping** - Shaffer reported there were over 100 permits already this year, so that it was looking to be as busy as last year. She noted that Kyle Williams and she had submitted a grant



proposal for \$75,000 to the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership for work on the canal in Bellaire. all was going well and they are very busy issuing permits and answering other water quality related questions.

**Administration** – Warren reported that she had been working on tree sale outstanding invoices and other reimbursements. Johnson noted that the tree sale seemed to be well organized and run very smoothly, but he wondered if there was a way to make it easier on staff. Staff replied, not likely, preparing the orders is hard work. Warren suggested that the workload could be spread out a bit if people were asked to pick up on certain days, such as orders with last names beginning with A through K pick up on Friday, and L through Z on Saturday or something similar.

#### **New Business**

1. **Village of Bellaire and Bellaire DDA Letter of Support** – Warren reported that ACD had been asked to write a letter of support to the Bellaire DDA to support their strategic plan for downtown Bellaire. After much discussion a motion was made to write a letter.
  - **Motion was made by McSweeney, seconded by Johnson to write a letter of support to Village of Bellaire and Bellaire DDA.** Roll call vote; Johnson, (yes), McSweeney (yes), Smith (yes), motion carried.
2. **NRCS Partner Civil Rights Review** – Monica Caster reviewed the documents previously sent which identify measures to be taken by NRCS and its partners to ensure civil rights practices are implemented in full. A signature page will be signed by all board members to signify their understanding and support at the June meeting.
3. **Torch Lake Property Sale** - Shaffer discussed the sale of property on Torch Lake by the State which was given no notice to the Conservation district or the County prior to listing it for sale. Shaffer hoped it could be saved for public use and would attempt to connect with state representatives.

#### **Old Business**

1. **Director Training** - Warren noted that MACD had offered Director Training via Zoom and asked if anybody had attended. McSweeney-Steffes responded that she attended and felt it was very worthwhile.
2. **BOC Millage Reduction Talks** – Commissioner Helwig noted that some board of Commissioners were looking to roll back millages and that all projects with millages levied were being targeted. He noted that he would not support a possible reduction to ACD if it came up.

**Adjourn 5:58 p.m.**