

Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting

Location: 954 E Isabella Rd. Midland, MI. 48640

June 16, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Roll Call: Board members Laura Norcutt, Dave Ruhle, Cindy Poole, Mary Johnson present. Absent, Jan Ruhle. Also, present Karen Thurlow-Administrator, Dave Lehnert-District Conservationist

Guests, Belinda Brewster, Kevin Mudd, Pam Hardy, Gene Hardy.

Additions to the Agenda: Karen wanted to add that we hold the meetings at the barn until further notice because we can't have them at the office due to Covid-19 restrictions. This meeting was held in the parking lot at the office. Cindy P. made the motion to hold the meetings at the barn until further notice, Laura N. seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of March meeting minutes. (No meetings April or May.) After board review, Dave R. motioned to approve March minutes; Mary J. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval Financial Reports: copy of FY20 Financial reports sent to board members for review. Karen T. also provided budget and where we are standing and reminded board September is our Budget meeting, August should be a review meeting. If there are any questions board members should ask.

Approval for Payment of current of bills: Bills to be approved: Payroll as usual, Barn roof completion (\$25,942.36) (pay after Dave R. inspects and approves, NOTE: inspection was done after the meeting and work was approved), Quarterly Tax filings to Smith & Co. CPA (\$150.00), refunds to tree sale customers(\$200.50), Standard Electric; Barn supplies(\$50.31), Mary J. motioned to approve payment of these bills, Laura N. seconded the motion, Motion passed unanimously .

After discussion excavation and fixing the front gate were not approved at this time.

Dave R. requested to be notified when excavators want to come out so he can be there, and discussion was made about putting in our own driveway, we will wait on fixing the gate at this time. We already motioned to use Jim Bluemer Contracting LLC for the excavating. He has been notified and will contact us when he is able to get out and go over it one more time.

NRCS Report: Dave L submitted a report of NRCS activities.

Farm Bill Assistant Report: John Roberts provided a brief report of his activities. John is working from home covering contracts in Midland & Bay County; Karen has been in touch with Albert Jones (Area Conservationist Area 4) and he has confirmed that good work is being done and he and his staff are closely monitoring the position.

Administrators Report: Old Business: please see admin report.

Barn Update, NRCS Coop Agreement updates - NACD TA Update

CTAI grant and Audit information- HAP Monitoring Update

Tree Sale updates (Karen provided a report on tree sale)- Grants and Funding - Agriscience

Advisory Board update, Workshop/MCTV Schedule/ Updates - Trailer Rental Program

Annual Meeting Update - Strategic Meeting Update

New Business:

Karen T. requested that the Tiles given away to anyone who will haul them off. Since they have been posted on Craig's list and several other places and had no offers. Dave R. made the

motion, Cindy P. seconded the motion and was carried unanimously. Karen did have a person interested in hauling them away. And will contact them.
Barn Plan Approval for excavating; will be done when the contractor calls, Contractor sated they would give a 3-day notice and we will meet at the barn then to go over the plan.
Dave R. requested to be present and will be notified.
Having a Porta Jon delivered was discussed, and Dave R. made the motion to approve getting one through September 30, 2020. Cindy P. seconded the motion and motion was carried unanimously. Karen will get one delivered. Fixing the front gate was discussed (replacing the poles that have rotted away) and that was put on hold at this time, we will see if we can get enough grant money to put in our own driveway.
MCD COVID-19 Preparedness Plan was presented to the board for review. No motion was made to accept. Karen asked for board review and submit any questions or concerns. It was created for the districts to use by MDARD.
Strategic Planning meeting review. (From Meeting March 6, 2020) Laura stated we will contact Christy Roman and work on this before the next meeting.
Annual Meeting Planning, Annual Plan Review, Budget review, Karen is working on all of this and will keep board updated and have it ready for board review for July meeting.
Elections Petitions extension still accepting until next meeting.
Interview date for new hires, we decided on Thursday June 25th. Karen will contact applicants and schedule interviews. We have two positions available for hire. Karen will also contact Albert J. and Christy R. to see if they want to sit in for them.
Letter of MOU Participation in Nature Conservancy Phase II RCPP was presented and the board concluded it would be a good partnership. If they get the grant, we will discuss our part.
Karen T. presented the idea of a Fall Tree Sale. Cindy P. motioned to have a fall tree sale, Laura N. seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

Correspondence/Community Activities/District Promotion and Trainings

Letter with donation to Barn Fund from Connie and Fred Phillips. Rescission of Michigan's Stay at home Order EO2020-110. June 8th Covid-19 Supervisory Guidance on Mandatory use of approved face coverings and shields. Karen has been updating the web page and posting on Face Book. We are getting some attention. We have had calls and comments on the Barn!

Additions to the Agenda: Guest/Public Comment, our guests Pam and Gene Hardy are new to the area and saw us online and was interested in seeing what we were about. They stated they enjoyed the meeting and hoped to continue support.

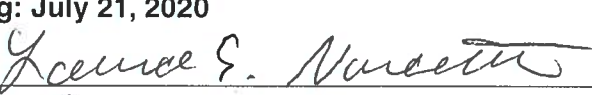
Kevin Mudd is enrolled in NRCS programs, farms about 125 acres and is employed by the Midland Co. Road commission and has a petition for election to the board.

Belinda Brewster is a past board member that turned in a petition to run for board position again. We appreciate all their support.

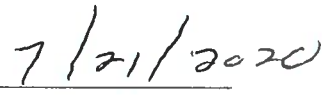
Adjourn: After public comments and no additions to the agenda, Laura N. made the motion to adjourn at 8:00pm and Dave R. seconded the motion.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2020

Approved:
Chair



Date:



Approved:
Secretary



Date:

