

Midland Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting
Location: District Barn 814 E. Olson Rd. Midland, MI. 48640
Agenda ~~November 17, 2020~~ - 7:00 PM

Due to no quorum and Covid the November 17, 2020 meeting was rescheduled
to a virtual meeting November 24, 2020.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Roll Call: Board members present: Laura Norcutt, Davis Ruhle, Cindy Poole, Jan Ruhle, Kevin Mudd. Staff: Karen Thurlow Administrator, Benjamin Vandyke, Angela Dietrich, John Roberts, Dave Lehnert NRCS DC.

Associate Board members: Belinda Brewster, Pam Hall, Dan Henton.

Guests: Christy Roman-MDARD, Megan Garrett-CISMA

Additions to the Agenda: MAEAP Certification to the Barn. Approval of Zoom for meetings \$150.00, Web store for tree sale, \$300.00 per year. RCPP partnership. All added under new business. Move Strategic Plan review to the end, Last topic for discussion.

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of October meeting minutes. Dave R. motioned to accept the October minutes, Laura seconded the motion, all voted in agreement.
- Approval Financial Reports: October Financial report final approval. Dave stated he reviewed the report submitted and motioned to pay the bills.
- Approval for Payment of November, current of bills: Payroll

Smith & Co. quarterly reporting-\$150.00.

Ben V. mileage for trip to Lansing for Link pass - \$84.00,

Payroll taxes per Oct Financial report. \$2281.20 (form 941,5081 and Mi Unemployment taxes.)

Guiett's Porta John: \$75.00.

Staples: \$150.41 office/workshop supplies.

Dues for MACD-last year paid \$250.00 and NACD-last year paid \$120.00-amounts to be discussed and approved in New Business.

Staff provides written reports for board review before the meeting.

No questions were brought forward from the board. Copies of reports can be provided on request. These reports provide information to the trainings and work being done at the office.

- NRCS Report: Dave L. provides
- Farm Bill Assistant Report: John R. to provide.
- Reports from Technical Assistants Ben and Angela.

Administrators Report: Old Business: please see admin report.

Barn Update, NRCS Coop Agreement updates, NACD TA Update

CTAI grant, HAP Monitoring Update

Tree Sale updates - Grants and Funding - Agriscience Advisory Board update

Workshop/MCTV Schedule/ Updates - Trailer Rental Program

Annual Meeting Update - Strategic Meeting Update All quarterly reports will be due by January 15, 2021

New Business:

- NACD & MACD dues, Karen T. brought up that NACD and MACD dues are due and asked the board to decide amounts and payment. Laura made the motion to pay each

\$250.00. Dave R. seconded the motion, all voted in agreement. Our District funds are limited,

- New work agreements approval. After review of the documents, Laura N. made the motion to accept the agreements as written, Dave R. seconded the motion, all members voted in agreement.
- MACF Grant Application Update: Karen mentioned the grant was approved; we will receive \$57,700.00 in funding from Midland Area Community Foundation for our Barn Property project. Karen will be working on an Action Plan for the property. This will be an ongoing project and the action plan will help in our reporting requirements for the foundation.
- Budget Review; Updated Budget information was submitted to the board, no issues or concerns were brought up. Laura motioned to accept the updated budget, Dave R seconded the motion, all voted in agreement.
- Midland County Search and Rescue request to use barn; a request was made to possibly use the barn for storage of the equipment trailer used for their service, Dennis Canny came out to the barn and looked, we discussed some obstacles. Karen noted she did not feel comfortable with having them store it there. Too many issues, opening doors in winter for access, Driveway would have to be maintained, just not a good fit. Dave R. motioned to deny request, Jan R. seconded the motion.
- Partnership with CISMA, have a place on steering committee; Karen brought up that we should partner with CISMA and be on their Steering Committee. Ben V. has good experience, and this would be a good partnership that would involve going to their meetings and providing assistance on projects. Dave made a motion for approval; Laura N. seconded the motion all voted in agreement.
- Set up virtual meetings for December and all meetings until further notice. Karen brought Teams or Zoom, and which would be best, the board decided Zoom and budget of \$150.00 for the service., this would also give us a venue to provide workshops to our community and producers. Dave R. Motioned to get Zoom, Kevin M. seconded the motion.
- Security at the barn, sign with information, Security Camera discuss options. A sign is needed so the community realizes this is private property and belongs to the conservation district. Some dirt came up missing there are several people who use the driveway for walking and don't know the property is no longer County property. With the funding we received from MACF we can get Private Property signs and we possibly need a security camera. Options were discussed and no decisions were made at this time. Karen will purchase Private Property signs and get them posted. See if that helps.
- Web Site Tree sale ordering. Approval for online store. Ben has been working on making an online store for the tree sale. We would need an upgrade to our plan to ad the store. The cost would be \$300.00 per year, Karen T. asked for approval of the upgrade. Try it for a year to see how it goes. Laura N. motioned to upgrade, Kevin M. seconded the motion, all voted in agreement.
- RCPP Program Partnership; Karen was contacted by Tonya M. Lewandowski Senior Engineer | Water Resources Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. 3399 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI 49685 231-676-3024 (Cell) Concerning a possible partnership with Gladwin county to help flood victims with erosion issues and sediment removal projects and bringing cost share funds to landowners through RCPP in the area. Karen T. stated this would be a good partnership and asked for board approval. Laura N. motioned to accept, and Kevin M seconded the motion, all voted in approval.
- Strategic Plan Discussion; Laura N. provided her draft of the strategic plan. It was discussed with little interaction from the board. In advance of the meeting Karen had sent ideas for the board members to review. It was a lot of information; However Karen

feels we should have a good strategic plan that fits our district and asked the board to review all the documents in the next month. Come up with ideas, questions, concerns.

Additions to the Agenda: Guest/Public Comment, None at this time.

Adjourn: Laura N motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm Dave R. seconded the motion all voted in favor.

Next Meeting: Via ZOOM December 15, 2020 Notice will be sent out with documents By December 4th. Posted on webpage and Facebook.

Minutes Approved:

Leanne E. Muscarello Date: 11/24/2020

Chairman

Karen Thibodeau Date: 11-24-2020

Secretary

