OTTAWA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan

Minutes
Regular Meeting, USDA Service Center, Grand Haven MI
7pm, Tuesday June 1st, 2021

ATTENDANCE:
Megan Boos, Executive Director
Lexie Kasper, Administrative Specialist
Tim Van Dyke, Vice Chairman
Douglas Grotenrath, Treasurer
Lester Langeland, Director
Callie Melton, Director
Heather Varboncoeur, NRCS District Conservationist
Frank Schroyer, Watershed Technician

CALL TO ORDER Time: 7:04 PM

- **Invocation:** Lester Langeland

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Regular Board Meeting:** May 4th, 2021
- **Motion to approve minutes:** Lester Langeland **Second/Support:** Doug Grotenrath **Vote:** Passes

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment

STAFF AND PARTNERING AGENCY REPORTS

Megan Boos, Executive Director- Report attached
Lexie Kasper, Administrative Specialist – Report attached
Joe Vander Yacht, CISMA Coordinator-Report attached
Mike Ludlam, Allegan MAEAP Technician- Report attached
Forest Pest Technicians-Report attached
Heather Varboncoeur, NRCS District Conservationist –Report given

- Heather will be getting a student trainee for the summer that will start on Monday. Any experiences the board members can provide the intern to see the county and learn about the land would be appreciated. Discussion ensues on what opportunities the board could have for her.

Ben Jordan, Conservation Technician- Report attached
Frank Schroyer, Watershed Technician- Report given

- Frank gives the board an overview of our new RCPP, the project is called The Farmland & Water Quality Conservation Initiative. The project has not officially started yet, as negotiations and executions are still taking place. Frank gives a summary of the details of the project that have been discussed in past

meetings. The goals are threefold: improve surface ground water quality and quantity, improve wildlife habitat, and preserve farmland. Discussion ensues on who will be handling the funding, whether it will be the district or NRCS. It is NRCS, what the project does is secure a pot pf money for just the county, so farmers do not need to compete for funding at a state level. They will still need to complete NRCS applications and programs like usual. Discussion ensues on agricultural irrigation. Funding for the project is talked about further, as the board would like to know if the administrative fees are coming out of the awarded money and what will happen if the money is not all spent in 5 years. Frank explains that the administrative funding is in addition to the grant, and if there is money for practices left after 5 years, the project will be extended until all the money is spent to help Ottawa County.

Ben Savoie, Forester-Report attached

OLD BUSINESS

- **Spring native plant sale**: *Final close out numbers will be presented*
    - Held on the 15th of May and made $5,302 in revenue. Between the Tree Sale and Native Plant Sale this Spring, we made a little over $18,000. The fundraising goal for the year is $20,000 so with one more native plant sale in the fall we should reach that goal. Discussion ensues on if local greenhouses feel like we are competing against them. The consensus of the board is that we purchase from local green houses and nurseries, so they are not losing money. In addition, in many cases we sell for a little more than they do, so we are not undercutting them with price and therefore not competitive against them. Discussion ensues on the programs NRCS and our District Forester have to aid landowners in purchasing trees and rehabilitating forests.
- **MACD virtual conference:** *Review agenda*
    - MACD offers continuous education opportunities in Summer and Fall Conferences. The Summer Conference is coming up virtually on June 7 and 8. The agenda is very MAEAP focused, with the wider learning opportunities most likely to happen at the Fall Conference. Megan reviews the sessions that will be offered, and the board decided to forgo attending. Discussion ensues on when the District 7 meeting will be, and the consensus is that may be a more helpful meeting at this time.
- **July & August working group session**: *I will present a few items that need to be addressed and we can plan next steps*
    - Megan brings a request to the board that the next 1-2 working groups be focused on a breakdown of the district budget and then the appropriations budge that will be approved in September. This will allow for an easier understanding and approval of the appropriations budget when the time comes. Discussion ensues on what the appropriations budget is, and that we are required to have one for the state, so we as a district are allowed to spend money. The board agrees to the request.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Financial:**
    - **Financial Statements: May bank reconciliations and bill payment:** *See financial packet for our profit & loss, balance sheet, and account reconciliations.* (Vote)
        - Megan reviews the financial statements for the month and the grant reporting requirements. Discussion ensues on the details of the new 319 Crockery Creek & Sand Creek grant and the benefits of using cover crops. Megan continues to

review all the reconciliations and statements that are included with this months financials.

  - **Motion to approve bank reconciliations and bill payment:** Lester Langeland **Second/Support:** Callie Melton **Vote:** Passes

- Human Resources: Work agreements, *agreements will be available at our meeting for you to review* (Vote)
  - Two work agreements are reviewed for new forest pest technicians.
  - **Motion to approve work agreements:** Doug Grotenrath **Second/Support:** Callie Melton **Vote:** Passes
- Ottawa County Request: *(discuss plans and feedback. I have included last years request for you review)*
  - Megan reviews with the board that we have had the same request for the county for two years. Due to the positive impacts for the county from the RCPP, it seems natural to make sure we are pursuing an equitable partnership in our requests from the county. Megan is preliminarily considering some items that we could ask for additional funding for. Discussion ensues on what items are reasonable requests are and what the districts more urgent needs are. It is decided that Megan will put together proposals for the board to review.
- Cultivating Resilience: *Draft/working agenda is included for your review*
  - Review of the field day in 2019, with over 150 attendees and partners including Allegan Conservation District, NRCS, and the MACC. Megan reviews the tentative agenda for the 2021 field day. Discussion ensues on potential future locations.
- **Grant Update**
  - **Executions:**
    - **MISGP Core, $60,000**
    - **USFS GLRI HWA, $200,000**
    - **RCPP- in process, $3,400,000**
  - **Close outs next month**
    - **MISGP S**
    - **MISGP Core 19**
  - **Pending:**
    - **Crockery Creek and Sand Creek 319 ($929,061 Federal)**
      - No longer pending, we have received this grant and it will be announced via press release shortly.
    - **NACD ($56,000 Federal)**

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

ADJOURN – **Time:** 8:36 PM

Motion to adjourn: Callie Melton **Second/Support:** Doug Grotenrath **Vote:** Passes

Next Meeting: 7:00 PM, July 6th, 2021

Sign: Date: