OTTAWA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan

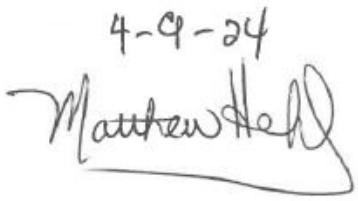
Agenda

Business Meeting, Spring Meadow Nursery, Grand Haven MI
4:30 pm, Tuesday, March 12th, 2024

Attendance: Matt Hehl, Chairman; **Rivka Hodgkinson,** Director; **Douglas Grotenrath,** Treasurer; **Natalie Bekins,** Executive Director; **Sarah Bowman,** Watershed & Conservation Specialist

CALL TO ORDER - 4:35 call to order by Matt
ROLL CALL - Matt Hehl - Present, Doug Grotenrath - Present, Rivka Hodgkinson - Present, Tim VanDyke - Absent, Callie Melton - Absent

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion to approve minutes: Rivka Hodgkinson
Support: Doug Grotenrath
Vote: Rivka - yes, Doug - yes, Matt - yes. Vote passes.



AGENDA APPROVAL
Motion to approve agenda with edits: Rivka Hodgkinson
Support: Doug Grotenrath
Vote: Rivka - yes, Doug - yes, Matt - yes. Vote passes.

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

STAFF AND PARTNERING AGENCY UPDATES

Natalie Bekins- CISMA Coordinator – Report
Will Latham- Invasive Species Specialist - Report
Caryn Dawson- MAEAP Technician – Report
Morgan Anderson- Produce Safety Technician - Report
Forest Pest Technicians-Report
Ben Jordan, Watershed Programs Coordinator- Report
Sarah Bowman, Watershed & Conservation Specialist-Report
Alex Svoboda, RCPP Project Manager-Report
Tracey Weatherwax, Soil Conservation Technician-Report
Ben Savoie, Forester-Report
MDARD-Report

Executive Director Report: Interim Team - Hosting Annual Meeting, set up is nearly complete and we're excited to talk to the public.

Monthly Program Highlight: Annual Meeting - Currently happening, we received donations from Fishbeck, Aldea, and Post Family Farms to host the meeting and Spring Meadow Nursery donated the location. Mejier also is serving as a new sponsor for us to help cover costs of annual meeting and other events coming up.

- **Human Resource: -** (H/R Committee and Interim team)
    - CISMA Coordinator Offer Packet - (Vote)
        - **Motion to approve CISMA Coordinator Offer Packet:** Rivka Hodgkinson
        - **Support:** Doug Grotenrath
        - **Vote:** Rivka - yes, Doug - yes, Matt - yes. Vote passes.
- **Financial: (**Finance Committee and Interim team)
    - Feb bank reconciliations and bill payment**:** *See financial packet for our profit & loss, balance sheet, bill list, and account reconciliations.* (Vote)
        - **Motion to pay the bills:** Rivka Hodgkinson
        - **Support:** Doug Grotenrath
        - **Vote:** Rivka - yes, Doug - yes, Matt - yes. Vote passes.
        - Only thing not included in the financial board packet is the profit and loss, no reconciliation for the month of february, and we didn't have the checking document for Doug to sign. These will be available by ******* . Rivka pointed out that the recurring bills sheet misspells the word "vendor", this will be fixed for future sheets. Rivka also asked a question about the MAEAP Analytical Alliance expense, this was a MAEAP cost share item.
    - Close the door funds
    - Cash Flow Forecast
- **Policy Updates**
    - N/A
- **Operations:**
    - N/A

- **Grants:** (Interim team)

    - **Pending:**
        - Water Quality Monitoring - Update - We met with the Ottawa County Finance Committee on March 5th, we were on the agenda as a discussion item. We are officially on the April 12th agenda as an action item now.
        - CISMA Funding
            - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - Hemlock woolly adelgid treatments. Request for $200,000
            - Landscape Scale Restoration - Hemlock woolly adelgid treatment in Oceana, Muskegon, Ottawa, and Allegan. Fund implementation of HWA management workshops in counties from Allegan to Grand Traverse Counties. Facilitate the installation of browse exclosures to encourage natural regeneration. The request is for $400,000.
            - Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program - Funding would provide Core funding for the CISMA Coordinator. This also includes three projects that would allow for Watch list species treatments, priority Right of Way treatments, Excavation Company Treatments, and Black Swallow Wort Treatments. The request is for $96,000. - Recieved

        - Watershed program
            - Watershed Council Grant - One year grant requesting funds to support a monitoring project for the Little Black Lake Watershed which will

support the development of a watershed management plan in future years. Request for $34,957 to support existing watershed staff and supplies.

- Midwest Glacial Lakes Lake Conservation Grant - Two-year grant requesting funds to support a shoreline naturalization technical assistance and cost-share program with accompanying water quality monitoring for Spring Lake and Crockery Lake. Request for $99,673.48 to support watershed staff, monitoring supplies, and landowner cost share.
- MiCorps Startup Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program grant submitted on 3/8/2024. 1 year grant to help start up a volunteer stream monitoring program in Ottawa County. Requested $4,701.50.

- **Executing:**
  - Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program - Funding would provide Core funding for the CISMA Coordinator. This also includes three projects that would allow for Watch list species treatments, priority Right of Way treatments, Excavation Company Treatments, and Black Swallow Wort Treatments. The request is for $96,000. Grant was received on March 1st, 2024.
- **Not received:**
  - N/A

Board updates: (2 minutes)
Hehl, VanDyke, Grotenrath, Melton, Hodgkinson

Rivka: Provided updates about MACD lobbying for MAEAP program and funding situation. She encourages Board Directors to attend the MACD Summer Convention in Lansing to advocate for Conservation District funding from the state.

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A
PA 116: N/A
ADJOURN – next meeting: April 9th, 2024

- **Motion to adjourn:** Rivka Hodgkinson
- **Support:** Doug Grotenrath
- **Vote:** Rivka - yes, Doug - yes, Matt - yes. Vote passes.