OTTAWA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan

Agenda

Regular Meeting, USDA Service Center, Grand Haven MI
6 pm on Tuesday, September 9th, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT

STAFF 2 MIN HIGHLIGHTS

QUESTIONS ON BOARD REPORTS

Murielle Garbarinos- CISMA Coordinator – Report
Will Latham- Invasive Species Specialist - Report
Morgan Anderson- Produce Safety Technician - Report
Forest Pest Technicians - Report *(Missing)*
Ben Jordan, Watershed Programs Coordinator - Report
Sarah Bowman, Watershed & Conservation Specialist - Report
Meghan Bannink, RCPP Project Manager - Report
Tracey Weatherwax, Soil Conservation Technician - Report
Andrew Booher - CTAP/MAEAP Coordinator
Ben Savoie, Forester - Report
Annaleese Rasanen - Bookkeeper Report
MDARD - Report
NRCS -Report

PARTNER UPDATES

Executive Director Report - Jamie Rye
Partner Highlight: CTAP/Regen Ag - Alex Svoboda MDARD

- **Financial: (**Finance Committee)
  - Finance Committee Meeting (REPORT)
  - August bank reconciliations and bill payment**:** *See the financial packet for our profit & loss, balance sheet, bill list, and checking account reconciliation.* (VOTE)
  - Cash Flow Forecast - Explanation (Annaleese)
  - Draft Appropriations Budget Discussion
    - Public Comment on Proposed Budget (Motion to Open/Close)
    - Board Discussion of Proposed Budget
    - Board (VOTE)

- **Human Resource: -** (H/R Committee)
  - HR Committee Meeting (REPORT)
    - Executive Director (90 Day)
    - Jamie Rye - ED - Work Agreement Pending Review
    - MDARD Operations Elements Review - To be completed
  - Work Agreements
    - Morgan Anderson - Produce Safety Technician
    - Meghan Bannick - RCPP Project Manager
    - Andrew Booher - CTAP Technician
    - Sarah Bowman - Watershed & Conservation Specialist

        - Murielle Garbarino – WMCISMA Coordinator
        - Benjamin Jordan - Watershed Coordinator
        - William Latham - Invasive Species Specialist
        - Annaleese Rasanen - Office Administrator
        - Tracey Weatherwax - Conservation Specialist
    - Policy

- **Operations:**
    - N/A

- **Grants:**

    - **Preparing:**
        - Technical Assistance
            - NACD TA Collaboration w/ NRCS - $27M available - RFP in process
        - Watershed Program
            - County Proposal (Monsanto Fund) - $4.7M available - County Wide Investment in Watershed Health, Point Source Prevention and Land /Water Improvements. A holistic approach to watershed improvement and sustainability. Will include staffing funds (Ben, Sarah, Annaleese, Tracey and district administered cost share that gives the community access to implementation funds. Potential ask of **$699,899 over 2years**.

    - **Pending:**
        - Technical Assistance
            - NFWF - Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation Fund (MBPCF) - This grant will develop a technical assistance program and shovel ready implementation project for the high need, high demand county wide desire for a pollinator and native plant support program. The project is a collaboration between the County, ODC, Parks, Local Churches and Nonprofits. The project will fund Tracey W. and Annaleese (.25). for 2 years. **Requesting: $299,865.50 Indirects @ 14% = $42,000.00** (Notice expected Dec.)
            - NFWF - Conservation Partners Program (CPP) - This grant will extend our technical assistance support with NRCS by maintaining a staff member that can help local farmers/producers learn about and engage EQUIP and CSP programs. The project will fund Meghan B. for 3 years and offset some of Jamie R. and Annaleese R. salary expenses. In the event NFWF MBPCF is not granted Jamie and Annaleese R. funds can shift to Tracey W. **Requesting: $547,418.09 Indirects @ 14% = $67,226.78 -**

Additional Inclusions: $41,406 (Software/Computers/Cell Phones) - (Notice expected Dec/Jan.)

- CISMA Funding
  - Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) - This grant will fund retreatments of bittersweet, phragmites, and knotweed in specific watersheds in the CISMA service area. This is a continuation and slight expansion of a current project (including one new watershed). **Requesting $293,000.** (Notice expected in September/October 2025).

- **Executing:**
  - Watershed program
    - 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. Funds to support watershed staff, monitoring supplies, and landowner cost share. **Requested $99,673.48, received $68,385.**
  - CISMA Funding
    - Michigan DNR – EPA-TIS-25 - EPA funding sub-awarded to us by the Michigan DNR to work on stiltgrass and cinnamon vine. The funding will be used by the Ottawa, Muskegon, and Kent strike teams. **Receiving $16,393.67.**

- **Not received:**
  - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (CWMA)- This grant will continue the surveillance and treatment of European Frog Bit in the West Michigan area as well as increase outreach and education to youth about the spread of this species. **Requested $82,965.** (Notice expected in March/April 2026) – **GLRI is not awarding grants this year to anyone.**

Board updates: (2 minutes)

Hehl, VanDyke, Grotenrath, Huttenga, Hodgkinson

CORRESPONDENCE:

PA 116:

- Zeeland Township - Farmland Agreement

ADJOURN – next meeting: October 14th , 2025, 6 PM