OTTAWA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan

OTTAWA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes
Regular Meeting, USDA Service Center, Grand Haven MI
6:30 on Tuesday, February 10, 2026

March March 10 - 2026

Matthew Hehl

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL -
Tim - Here
Rivka - Here
Doug - Here
Becky - Not present
Matt - here
REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES
APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve minutes: Rivka **Support:** Doug **Vote:** Motion approved.
Motion to approve agenda: Rivka **Support:** Tim **Vote:** Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT
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
Ben Jordan - Acting Executive Director - Report
Sarah Bowman, Watershed & Conservation Specialist - Report
Meghan Bannink, RCPP Project Manager - Report
Tracey Weatherwax, Soil Conservation Technician - Report
Ben Savoie, Forester - Report
Annaleese Rasanen - Bookkeeper Report
MDARD - Report
NRCS -Report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
Ben gives a brief report about his duties for the month.
PARTNER REPORTS (NRCS/MDARD)

- **Human Resource:**
  - Internships & future internship opportunities (Discussion)
    - Should we look into additional liability coverage through Fischer? (see attached options)
      - **Minutes notes:** 4 interns, 3 thursday, 1 friday. Ben found out our current liability coverage policy does cover those interns already so we don't need anything else.
  - CTAP position hiring timeline & interview committee (Update & discussion)
    - We've been getting a decent amount of good applicants, application deadline end February 13th
    - **Motion to authorize Ben to make a hiring decision for CTAP position without additional board review:** Rivka **Support:** Doug **Vote:** Passes

- **Operations:**
  - Vehicle maintenance(Update)
    - Truck fender bender is fixed and paid for. RAV was registered as a commercial vehicle originally, recently registration got updated for municipal plates)
  - Tree & Plant Sale (Update)
    - Orders coming in! Look into more companies.
  - CNA - draft survey (Discussion)
    - This has to be sent out every 5 years required by MDARD. The board thought questions were good. We wouldn't need a budget. The survey would be open for about 6 months and the report would be done by the end of 2026.
  - 2026 election & Annual Meeting
    - Review of ballot instructions & election procedures
    - OCD staff making final decisions on catering (righteous cuisine)
    - Program highlight & Producer/Partner of the year awards
      - Matt nominated tim as a producer of the year award.

- **Grants:**
  - **Preparing:**
    - 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 **$699,899K over 2years**.
    - Combined Programs Grant
      - GLRI Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program - This opportunity would fund several programs and staff members to provide technical assistance and cost share related to native plantings, habitat and shoreline restoration, agricultural BMPs, and invasive species management. It would partially fund Meghan, Tracey, and several CISMA staff. **Requesting $748,856.24 Indirects @ 10% = $68,077.44 over 2 years.**
  - **Pending:**
    - Technical Assistance
      - NACD TA Collaboration w/ NRCS - $27M available (Notice expected March)
    - CISMA Funding
      - 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

Rivka: MACD got a whole lotta money from a fund. Rivka mentioned that it would be great for more board directors to participate in MACD state funding push for more CD funding. Legislative day is March 11th.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

ADJOURN – next meeting: March 10, 2026 (Annual Meeting)
Motion to adjourn: Doug **Support:** Tim **Vote:** passes