OTTAWA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan

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Minutes

Annual Meeting, USDA Service Center, Grand Haven MI
4:30 on Tuesday, March 10, 2026

4/14/2026

CALL TO ORDER: 4:30

ROLL CALL

Becky - Here
Tim - Here
Rivka - Here
Doug - Here
Matt - Here

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approval agenda and minutes as written: Rivka **Support:** Becky

Vote: Motion passes

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
Andrew Booher - CTAP/MAEAP Coordinator
Ben Savoie, Forester - Report
Annaleese Rasanen - Bookkeeper Report
MDARD - Report
NRCS -Report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (See written report)

PARTNER REPORTS (NRCS/MDARD)

- **Human Resource:**
  - Update on grants & gap funding for Tracey's position (Update)
  - Work Agreements
    - Will Latham (raise)
    - Ximena Figueroa (new hire)
    - **Motion to approve work agreements:** Rivka **Support:** Doug
    - **Vote: Becky** - yes, **Tim** - yes, **Rivka** - yes, **Doug** - Yes. **Motion passes.**

- **Financial:**
  - February bank reconciliations and bill payment: *See the financial packet for our profit & loss, balance sheet, bill list, and checking account reconciliation.* (VOTE)
  - **Motion to pay the bills:** Doug Support: **Rivka**
  - **Vote: Becky** - yes, **Tim** - yes, **Rivka** - yes, **Doug** - Yes. **Motion passes.**

- Cash Flow Forecast - Explanation (Ben)
- Audit update

- **Operations:**
  - Vehicle maintenance(Update)
  - Tree & Plant Sale (Update)
  - 2026 election update

- **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**.

  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 spread of this species. **Requesting $82,965.** (Notice expected in March/April 2026)
      - EGLE sub-award for European Frog-bit in order to fund treatment over the next two years. EGLE holds the funding for the project but multiple CISMAs are bidding for the sub-award. **Requesting $45,567.52**
  - **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
  - Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Impact Grant - This grant will fund the Invasive Species Specialist position for two years in order to assist municipalities in the Tri-Cities with Invasive species needs. **Requesting $34,073.05**
- Outreach & Education
  - MDARD Regenerative Agricultural Education & Outreach - 1 year grant to help fund outreach events & workshops targeting Ottawa County farmers & producers. Some of this funding will be used for our annual Cultivating Resilience event. **Request and Received $15,000.**

- **Not received:**
  - 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**
  - 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.)
  - Michigan Craft Beverage Council Research Proposal - Integrating Native and Invasive Plants into Microbrewing: Assessing Market Demand and Educational Impact: Project evaluates the production feasibility and market potential of using native and invasive Michigan plants as craft beer ingredients, filling a research gap at the intersection of brewing innovation and ecological sustainability. **1 year grant requesting**
  - 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.

Board updates: (2 minutes)
Hehl, VanDyke, Grotenrath, Huttenga, Hodgkinson
N/A

CORRESPONDENCE:

ADJOURN – next meeting: April 14, 2026 at 6:30pm
Motion to adjourn: Tim **Support:** Doug **Vote:** Passes. Meeting adjourned at 4:52pm