

**Branch County Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2018**

Board Members present: John Mitchell, Diana Lutz, Bing Johnson, and Duane Clover

Staff present: Kathy Worst and Sheila Wald

The meeting was called to order by chair John Mitchell at 7:03 p.m.

Secretary's Report: the District Board meeting minutes for April and May were reviewed. Diana Lutz moved to accept the minutes; Bing Johnson seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report and Payment Voucher List for the last month were reviewed and discussed. There is currently a bank balance of \$44,406.81, which includes \$21,877.12 in the checking account, \$14,934.41 in the savings account and \$7,595.28 in the checking merchant account. Bills in the amount of \$14,540.97 have been pre-paid and \$2,172.38 still needs to be paid out. Diana Lutz made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and payment of all bills including the pre-paid bills, Bing Johnson seconded; the motion carried, and the treasurer's report was put to file for audit.

New Business

A request from Biz Aide was discussed to try a new farm film recycling partnership program with them. The board felt they would like to give this a try and possibly ask Farm Bureau to help supply the collection bags, which cost \$5 per each to the client. Kathy will work on this project further.

Our computer security subscription is ending in August. Kathy asked the board if they wanted to continue with the current provider or look for something new. They did not really have a preference. She will price things out for next time.

Kathy proposed moving the next board July meeting date. It interferes with our farm field day. It was agreed to move the next meeting to August 17th.

Old Business

The MACD Summer conference was discussed. Everyone seemed to get something from the sessions. Several possible changes for the year and next were discussed. We are waiting to see what comes. Delays in the FY19 planning and approval may occur.

For FY18 year and FY19 Planning, Kathy will try to bring materials next month baring delays discussed.

We received a vague response to the Michigan Sales Tax Issue that is was still under review. However, the state withheld \$611.00 from our HAP reimbursement. Kathy and Colleen are working on the issue.

We have sold all our trees, but are waiting for full payment from some clients.

Our FY17 Self Audit review and letter was delivered at summer conference from Barry Associates. This item is complete and filed away.

Our No Till Drill is repaired, up and running. Clients are using as the weather permits.

The Native Plant Sale / Workshop (MAEAP / SMIST CISMA) had very good speakers and quite a few attendees. The programs and sale were much more successful this year.

The SMIST CISMA Blitz at Messenger on July 7th, is ready to go. Clean Boats Clean Waters and the portable boat wash will be on site between 10am and 3pm. Jared, Kathy, and John will help.

Kathy is working on another natural shorelines training program for August 18th. Classroom training is set for the fair office, but we still need a lakeshore. The board suggested using a participant from our last program.

The Volunteer Prescribed burn team is done for the season. Things went well overall this year.

MAEAP cost share grant has begun purchasing items. Mike also has well closures and others assistance planned. The Farm Field Day is set for July 10th near Three Rivers.

The PF & DNR - Coldwater Lake State Park project just got the go ahead from MDNR. Seed is here.

John Mitchell visited the Smith district property to review ongoing issues. He did not see much, but will meet with Ron, Marcus and the Amish soon.

MAEAP tablet proposal trial with MDARD is still on hold

There is no Mission Statement progress. Bing is looking into some examples for us.

Directors' and Staff Reports

Directors:

Duane Clover mentioned he had 3 1/2 inches in the last round, which is continuing to cause problems for local farmers.

Bing Johnson: Attended a wind power meeting. Things were a bit more on the negative side for this meeting. Beyond the public concerns for habitat and noise issues, the problems seem to deal with a lack of zoning in areas like Union Township.

NRCS District Conservationist: Marcus Reynolds – absent

CTAI Specialist: Sheila Wald submitted a written report. Sheila mentioned there are now 40,000 acres available for a special CRP wildlife habitat signup to include: Pollinator aimed at Monarch butterflies, wetlands and upland games. She also discussed the reasons this was being offered to our area. Sheila mentioned all the RCPP funds have been expended, with Branch Co. having the highest amounts start and finish.

Sheila also presented her letter of resignation as of August 8th. She is going on to grad school this fall.

Bing Johnson reluctantly moved to accept her resignation; Diana Lutz 2nd; the motion passed.

MWSP / MAEAP Technician: Mike Censke Absent - Submitted written report

Farm Bill Biologist: Lyndsay Morrison Absent - Submitted written report

Conservation District Administration: Kathy Worst – discussed the ongoing negotiations with the CTAI grant and other topics included at MACD. Oversight for both the HAP and FBB grants will go to MDNR. HAP signups are frozen. Under tree sale, we may choose our trees and whatever container or lack of they are in as long as we follow all dealer rules. Delivery setup is important. We must now purchase our nursery licenses.

Public Comments: none

Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Insa Raymond, secretary.


Signature

7-17-18
Date