

**Branch County Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2019**

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

Staff present: Kathy Worst

The meeting was called to order by chair John Mitchell at 7:14 p.m.

Secretary's Report: The District Board meeting minutes for the regular March 12, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Bing Johnson moved to accept the minutes; Duane Clover 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 \$47,582.42, which includes \$31,661.35 in the checking account, \$15,103.14 in the savings account and \$817.93 in the checking merchant account. Bills in the amount of \$11,297.18 have been pre-paid and \$5,588.86 still needs to be paid out. Duane Clover moved to approve the treasurer's reports 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:

Post-Election Restructuring was discussed. The board decided to keep the positions as they stand; John Mitchell – Chair; Diana Lutz – Vice-Chair; Insa Raymond – Secretary; Duane Clover – Treasurer; and Bing Johnson – Director.

A request for a donation to the FOTSJR auction. The board approved a birdhouse.

The 2019 Prescribed Burn season was discussed. John is hoping to begin soon. He and Kathy will find the Calhoun property paperwork and John will contact to see if they wish to do so. Bing has offered to assist with these.

Old Business:

A New CTAI Conservationist was selected by our interview team and the position was accepted. Duane Clover moved to formally accept the new hire, Jordan Beehler; Bing Johnson seconded the motion; the motion was approved.

The Annual Meeting and Election results were discussed. Everyone agreed the speakers were good as was the food. Bing Johnson and John Mitchell were re-elected to serve another four years. Discussions were held on how to get more attendance. We had around 40 people, but using all resources, like social media, our newsletter, radio, local advertising, we are not certain what else to do.

Pay Pal and store linkage is not yet complete. Staff has not had the time. We will get this done soon, we hope.

Quick Books program still needs to be purchased. Kathy will do this month.

The Lakeland School Outdoor Day is set for May 20th, with a rain date of the 21st. No more information to share at this point. Our education team includes: Marcus Reynolds, Lyndsay Morrison, Kathy Worst, Mike Censke, Jarod Harmon, John Mitchell, and Diana Lutz.

Our Spring Tree Sale is progressing.

Envirothon: Regionals are Thursday, March 14th and office staff is helping.

Our Wildlife Habitat and Invasive Species Field-day is scheduled for August 17, 2019. John will contact Sperry Farms to see if we can do the classroom portion there. They farmed did the state park. The rest will be held Coldwater Lake. We still need to work on food and sponsors.

Invasive Species Training Day may be held at Hillsdale College Arboretum. We are waiting on confirmation.

Directors Recruiting Associates: a suggestion was made to send letters to annual meeting attendees seeking their interest.

Five Year Resource Assessment: Jack Knorek may know more after Thursday meeting.

Michigan Sales Tax Issue: Colleen is still working on this. The funds received were for an over payment in 2018.

Electronic Recycling Day: no progress.

Directors' and Staff Reports

Directors: John Mitchell reported someone has plans to build a Barley Malt Plant in Litchfield. Bing Johnson reported 70 windmills will be going into Union Township. There will also be a new local DTE office in Union City.

NRCS District Conservationist: Marcus Reynolds – absent

CTAI Specialist: Jordan Beehler will begin as our CTAI on April 22nd.

MWSP / MAEAP Technician: Mike Censke – absent – two-month report in April.

Farm Bill Biologist: Lyndsay Morrison – Submitted a written report.

Conservation District Administration: Kathy Worst Present – mentioned, she and Marcus had met with District people from Indiana concerning the Fawn River Watershed. They were looking for local sites to include in their restoration grant. She also mentioned our need to do a policy review, before the new person started, if possible. She and staff will be attending the MAEAP 5000 celebration March 21st.

Public Comments: none

Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Insa Raymond, secretary.

Insa Raymond

Signature

4-9-19

Date