

Emmet Conservation District
Regular meeting-April 6, 2010
3434 Harbor Petoskey Rd., Harbor Springs
Lower level conference room

Chairman Russell LaBeau called the meeting to order at 9:08AM

- Other board members present: Marcus Kurburski, and John Casto
- Others: Jim Palowitz, Dirk Shorter, Cydney Steeb

March 2010 meeting minutes were read.

Marcus Kurburski moved that the minutes be approved, John Casto seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Officers Reports:

- Chair, Russell LaBeau- no report
- Vice Chair, Marcus Kurburski-introduced Dirk Shorter who has expressed interest in becoming an associate board member.
- Treasurer, John Casto-moved to approve the financial report as presented, Marcus Kurburski seconded. Marcus moved to approve payment of bills as presented, John seconded.

District Conservationist: Bill Borgeld was unable to attend, but did submit a report of current activities.

Regional Director: Jim Palowicz reported that at the March 3rd MACD State meeting, MACD announced they are struggling with no dues coming in. Districts are requested to make payments if possible toward the annual payment. He said MACD is requesting there be a \$100 place holder in the state budget in hopes of future funding. He also reported that DNRE is developing an organization chart. Part of the organization will be a citizen advisory council. Jim recommended that we have representation. Without state funding MAEAP is in jeopardy. Guidelines from MACD were sent out via email. Jim gave us a copy since we hadn't seen them.

Program Coordinator:

- Cydney presented the revised vision statement-
"The Emmet Conservation District will continue to promote wise conservation practices and sustainable agriculture, using innovative fundraising concepts and educational programs to become self funded within two years"
John Casto made the motion to approve the revised vision statement as presented. Marcus Kurburski seconded. The revised vision statement was approved as revised.
- Cydney reported meeting with the sign makers in Boyne City. She is in the process of getting all the images emailed to them.
- Arbor Day arrangements-Cydney reported that we were purchasing three 5-6 foot native red oak trees to be planted at schools in Mackinaw City, Pellston and Alanson. The trees will be purchased from a local grower for \$45 each.

- There was discussion on the tree cards. Dirk Shorter suggested another site to consider for planting memorial trees may be the new county lighthouse property or the headlands.

Correspondence-we received information from MACD regarding a fundraising raffle. If we don't want to help sell tickets we need to return them soon.

Old Business:

- No Till Drill-the winning bid was from Tim Van Alstine for \$1500. When Cydney notified Tim that he had the winning bid, he shared with her that he intended to get the necessary repairs made and then would have it available for rental.
- Dirt the Movie-a date and location will be set when all board members have had a chance to view the movie.
- Big Tree contest-handouts of all paperwork were provided for the board to review and approve. It was suggested that we put an article in the paper announcing the contest and present the award at the annual dinner.
- Tree Sale: it would be appreciated if directors would help with the tree distribution on Friday April 23 and Saturday April 24. John Casto said he would be available Sat. from 8-12noon. Cydney rounded-up several Master Gardener volunteers to help Pat and Dee put together the orders and distribute on Friday and Saturday.
- Tom Wessell of Green Schools requested seedling for Central Elementary and Lincoln Elementary. Cydney volunteered to donate two, three foot white pines in pots.

New Business:

- Russell LaBeau suggested we might consider donating part of no till drill monies to MACD dues. John Casto made a motion to donate \$100, Marcus Kurburski seconded. The board approved sending \$100 to MACD for dues.
- John Casto suggested we do some kind of poster contest for school children at the beginning of the school year and award prizes at the annual meeting in October.
- Russell LaBeau suggested we send a thank you letter to Tim Van Kalker for all his help identifying the repair and maintenance issues with the no till drill and his cooperation with selling the drill. John Castor moved that along with the note, we offer him one of the red oak trees or transplants of equal value at our next tree sale. Marcus Kurburski seconded the motion. The board voted to approve sending a note and token of our appreciation.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by; Cydney Steeb, program coordinator

Date approved 4 May 2010

, Secretary
Chair