

**EMMET CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
February 2, 2010**

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at 3434 M-119, Harbor Springs.

Present: Russell LaBeau, Jane Mooradian, Jane Rye and Steve Migda  
Absent: John Casto and Marcus Kurbruski

Also present: Nancy Salar, Cydney Steeb, Bill Borgeld, Tim VanKalker

The minutes for January were presented:

**MOTION:** Jane Rye                   **SECOND:** Jane Mooradian  
To approve the January meeting minutes.  
Motion Passed.

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

Russell LaBeau, Chair stated he had spoke with Andre Kitscher about becoming an associate director. Waiting to hear back from Andre if he is interested. He also spoke with Les Atchison, County Commissioner concerning the districts plan to plant trees on county property as tree cards are sold. Les Atchison approved the idea, but would confirm with the rest of the board of commissioners.

The January Treasurer's report was presented

**MOTION:** Jane Rye                   **SECOND:** Jane Mooradian  
To approve financial report as submitted

Payment of Bills

**MOTION:** Jane Mooradian                   **SECOND:** Jane Rye  
To approve payment of bills as submitted.  
Motion Passed.

**DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST-** EQUIP and WHIP applications are now open. Two new cost sharing practices are available to Emmet County. Emmet County is now included in the TB mapped area that can receive cost sharing for fencing. Hoop barns are the other new cost share program. See report for further details.

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

The District was selected to receive an Arbor Day grant again this year. The schools that will receive trees are Alanson, Pellston, and Mackinaw City. Cydney will order the same trees as last year, Prairie Fire crabapple trees from Steve Fouch.

The tree cards have been order and should be available by the March meeting.

A Boyne City, sign business is working on the sign for the raingarden. The cost is a little more than budgeted, but includes the posts and actual installation of the sign.

Cydney attended a workshop last weekend to learn about a youth conservation council program. Conservation council is a program run through 4-H. Youth who participate work together to address what they see as an environmental problem in their area. This could be a program that the District may wish to partner with in the future.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

MAEAP newsletter now being emailed to the District and forwarded to the directors. Also received an issue of the magazine Pipeline. This magazine is mainly directed at Drain Commissioners.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Moved discussion of the no till drill to the bottom of the agenda.

Unable to purchase "Dirt the Movie" with a check. Nancy will order the movie with her card and have the District reimburse her.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Emily Proctor, MSU Extension has requested a door prize from the District. The door prize would be used for attendees of a mentor training program. After some discussion the board approved a gift certificate for seedlings to be given to Emily for a door prize.

Last year the native plant sale was successful, but many of the plants were purchased by the raingarden grant. There is concern the sale may not be successful this year without money from the raingarden grant to purchase plants. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council held a native plant sale last year as well and also struggled to sell all of their plants. It was decided not to hold a native plant sale this year, but pursue holding one next year possibly with a pre-order only. Otsego Conservation District is growing their native plants this year from seed. Staff will stay in contact the Otsego CD to see if they are successful and to pursue the idea of purchasing our native plants from them next year. Jane Rye stated Pond Hill Farm may be growing native plants from seed this year. She will contact the owners to see if they will have native plants available for sale this year.

Jackie Pilette with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians requested a letter of support from the District for a grant she is writing for habitat restoration in the Bear River watershed. Due to time constraints Nancy drafted a letter of support from the District and Russ signed the letter. A copy of the letter was distributed to the board.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Russ stated the Districts concerns with the no till drill. Tim VanKalker, who was the last to use the no till drill this past fall shared with the board that when he picked up the drill for use it was in poor condition and needed to be cleaned before he could use it. The drill needs weights, spare tire, and maintenance of the hydraulics. He estimated it would take about \$500 to bring the drill back to good condition. The board proposed to Tim that in exchange for maintaining and storing the drill he could have use of the drill at no cost to himself. The board would pay for any required parts. There was also discussion of limiting liability to the district by having Tim be responsible for delivering and picking up the drill after each use. Tim was agreeable to the idea. It was decided Russ and Nancy would meet with Tim in the near future to work out the details and a contract. The proposed details would be presented back to the board at the March meeting.

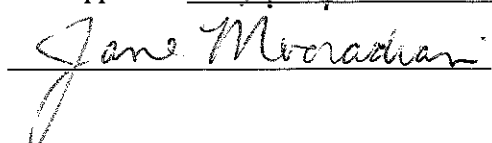
There was discussion on possible personal liability for individual directors and/or Tim. Nancy is checking with Schaffer Insurance to see if there is additional insurance the District can purchase to protect the directors from personal liability. She will report back at the March meeting. A copy of the current no till drill contract will be emailed to the directors for review.

**The next regular scheduled meeting will be March 2, 2010, at 3434 M-119, Harbor springs, in the lower level conference room, at 9:00 a.m.**

No further business:  
Meeting adjourned 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by; Nancy Salar, administrator

Date approved 3/2/10

 Jane Mooradian, Secretary