



EMMET CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008

3434 Harbor Petoskey Rd.

Harbor Springs, MI 49740

231-438-8977

www.emmetcd.org

DISTRICT MEETINGS



Regular District Board meetings are held the first Monday of the month in the Emmet County building conference room, located at 3434 Harbor Petoskey Road (M-119), Harbor Springs. Meetings start at 8:30 a.m. These meetings are open to the public. The current directors are Marcus Kurburski, chairman, Dr. Russell LaBeau, vice chairman, Peter O'Rourke, secretary, John Casto, treasurer, and Jane Rye

RECOGNITION OF DIRECTORS

(L, Joe Hoffman & R, John Sterly)



This past year John Sterly and Joe Hoffman, Sr. resigned from their positions with the Emmet Conservation District board. The board would like to thank both directors for all their hard work and years of volunteer service on the district board. John Sterly served on the District board for 29 years, from 1975 to 1981 and again 1984 to 2008. Joe Hoffman Sr. served 5 years as director with the Conservation District, from 2002-2007. After some time spent searching for replacement directors two new directors were appointed to complete the remainder of the year. John Casto was appointed in February to complete the year for Joe Hoffman and Jane Rye was appointed in April to complete the year for John Sterly.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The District received over 140 hours of volunteer labor this past year. It would have been impossible for us to accomplish our work without the assistance of the many volunteers. We would like to thank them all for their help. Their names are listed below;

Pat Duffy Babbette Stenius
Dee Irwin Penny Marshall
Terri Law Gail Tompkins
Members of the Petoskey Garden Club
All Season's Maintenance guys

ELECTION OF NEW DIRECTORS



John Casto is married and has 2 daughters. He has been a resident of Emmet County since 1994. He is retired DNR officer. He is running for the position of director to complete the remaining 2 year term that was held by Joe Hoffman, Sr.



Jane Rye is married and has 2 sons. She has been a resident of Emmet County over 10 years. She works as a certified nurse assistant and a bus driver for Harbor Springs School. Jane is running for the position of director to complete the remaining 2 year term that was held by John Sterly.



Marcus Kurburski is a life long resident of Emmet County and has served on the board of directors for 17 years. He is married and has two children. Marcus is a farmer and a bus driver for Harbor Springs School. He is running for renewal of a 4 year term as a board director.

TREE SALES 2008

The District tree sales are up and running this year. Our spring tree sale was very successful. The District added many new shrub species to our selection and allowed for quantities as small as one to be purchased for shrubs and transplants. The fall tree sale selection was limited to conifers, but we were still able to add some new selections to the variety. For the fall in addition to the usual pines and spruces we were able to offer white cedar, balsam fir, and jack pine. The District will continue to strive improve the selection of trees and supplies offered. If you have a suggestion to what you would like to see added please contact our office and let us know. Check out our website www.emmetcd.org to keep up with the latest tree sale information.

DISTRICT STAFF



Left: District Administrator
Nancy Salar

Right: District Groundwater
Technician, Chris Anderson



EDUCATIONAL RAIN GARDEN PROJECT



(under construction August '08)

This past year the Emmet Conservation District partnered with MSU Extension Master Gardeners and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to install an educational rain garden in an existing stormwater basin located on county property at 3434 M-119. Funds for the project came from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation in the amount of a \$3000 grant, Petoskey Rotary Charities grant for \$1500, J.F. New grant for \$1000, and the

Petoskey Garden Club \$3000 toward the purchase of native plants. Other assistance came from Emmet County DPW in the form of donated compost and mulch and All Season's Maintenance, Inc. helped out by providing equipment and labor for part of the work. The rain garden was planted with the help of volunteers on September 20th. Further native plants will be added in the spring of 2009.

The goal of the rain garden project is to reduce and manage stormwater pollution, show the effectiveness of rain gardens in reducing stormwater runoff, educate the public about the benefits of using native plants and increase residents' understanding of their connection to stormwater pollution with innovative education.

DISTRICT WEBSITE

The Emmet Conservation District has had a website for about 1½ years. We are continuing to add new items of interest to the website. The quickest way to get information about the spring and fall tree sales is to check our website. When the new catalog is prepared it is posted on the website first before anywhere else. We add new forestry articles from Bill Cook as they become available on a regular basis. Links to other websites that we think might be of interest to you will be added in the very near future. This list will expand as we learn of websites that we think are related to the District and/or may be of interest to you. If there are things you would like to see added to the website please notify our office. Your input is appreciated.

NO TILL DRILL RENTAL



195 acres were planted this year with our No Till Drill. This was over a 300% increase in the number of acres planted last year. There are many benefits to planting with the no till drill. Some of those are as follows; decrease soil erosion, reduce soil compaction, use less fuel and labor than conventional planting, and soil retains moisture longer.

The no till drill is available for rent at a reasonable fee. The drill is a Tye Pasture Pleaser (End Wheel). It is equipped with an internally fluted, adjustable seeder that accurately meters out small grains such as wheat, rye, barley, oats, rice, and soybeans. Please call the office for rates and to schedule when you would like to use the no till drill.

GROUNDWATER STEWARDARDSHIP PROGRAM

This program provides one-on-one technical assistance to area agricultural producers by conducting:

- Farm-A-Syst which identifies potential risks posed by farmstead operations. Fact sheets provide educational information and list reference people to contact if questions arise. The work sheets use a simple question and answer format to evaluate farmstead practices that may pose a risk to groundwater. A Farm-A-Syst is voluntary and confidential. All materials stay with the farmer. It is available free of charge.
- Crop-A-Syst which will assist the farmer to develop and implement a management plan that prevents contamination of groundwater and surface water resources and maintains economic crop production. The plan will be in conformance with applicable Michigan-Right-To-Farm guidelines and in compliance with applicable state and federal environmental regulations. The farmer then can apply for the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) verification.
- Orchard-A-Syst
- Greenhouse-A-Syst
- The program sponsors the Emergency Tube Program that helps first response vehicles to determine possible contamination factors in case of a farm emergency.

Cost share money is available for these items:

- Abandoned well closures
- Temporary Pesticide Storage
- Manure Test / Analysis
- Intensive Rotational Grazing
- Emergency Spill Kits
- Anti-Backflow Devices

For more information on the Groundwater Stewardship Program contact the Emmet Conservation District

Financial Report Fiscal Year 2008

Receipts and Disbursements as of 9/30/08

Income

State Grant	11,600
County Grant	1,000
Local Revenue Sharing Board	2,000
Interest & Rentals	1,414
Tree Sale	12,400
Donations	194
Petoskey Harbor Area Community Foundation grant	3,000
Petoskey Rotary Charities grant	1,500
Total Income	\$33,108

Expense

District Operations	7,576
Tree Sale	7,528
Total Expense	\$15,104

Beginning Fund Balance	\$12,016
Ending Fund Balance	\$30,020