



DELTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GLADSTONE SERVICE CENTER.

2003 MINNEAPOLIS AVE. GLADSTONE, MI 49837

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Delta Conservation District Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on May 8, 2024, at the Delta County Service Center by Chair Joe Kaplan.

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll call: Segorski, Brockman, Kaplan PRESENT. VandeWater ABSENT

3. Staff Present: Heather LeDuc, District Manager.

4. Approval of Agenda: *Brockman motion, Segorski second to approve agenda as presented. Motion carried.*

5. Conflict of Interest Disclosures: none

6. Public Comment on Agenda Items: Andrea Nummilien submitted a letter of interest for the open board seat.

7. Approval of Minutes: *Brockman motioned, Segorski second to approve April 12, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.*

8. Treasures Report: LeDuc provided updates reconciliation, taxes, and current expenses. Issues have been observed between QuickBooks balances and bank account balances

9. Standing Committee Reports

a) Personnel Report: None.

b) Property and Equipment: Brockman report the Gravely lawnmower is at Northgate for recall notice and tune-up. The mower is three years old with only 14 hours on the engine. Recommend listing it for sale. Recommend selling it with a minimum bid of \$9,500. *Brockman motioned, Segorski second to sell Gravely mower via sealed bid for a minimum of \$9500. Motioned carried.* Next priority is to sell the silt curtains. Inventory of equipment is complete (except for tree sale materials). Kaplan added that depreciation schedule needs to be updated.

Brockman recommended the District retains the tractor. Discussed consolidating storage units once the silt curtains are sold and looking into obtaining storage for District equipment closer to Gladstone (vs. the District property).

c) Records: none.

d) Finance: none.

10. MDARD Report: LeDuc provided Rachael Guth's monthly report to Board and staff. Discussed partnering or assisting Schoolcraft County CD with a wildflower sale in June. Kaplan highlighted update on hemlock woolly adelgid in downstate counties and opportunities for invasive species monitoring in Delta County.

11. NRCS Report: Mike VanWyk, District Conservationists, provided staff reports. Updated on NRCS vehicle policy and liability- District has adequate insurance coverage to use NRCS vehicles.

12. Staff Reports: Manager LeDuc; provided update on recent District tree sale including 31K trees sold (1K fruit trees) with 339 orders grossing approximately \$70K, avg. sale \$210. Explained the advantages of online ordering and appreciation to volunteers and board members, and special thanks to Matt Valiquette Exe. Dir. of the UP State Fairgrounds. Discussed budget recommendations on FY25 MAEAP from Governor, House, and Senate versions. Updated on transition and dividing accounts from when the District oversaw the Parks (i.e. EPX monthly credit card expense). Silt curtains updates with Schoolcraft County Road Commission. Provided staff updates and submitted reports.

13. Commission/Liaison Report: None.

14. Unfinished Business

a) Accounting firm update – Recent meeting with LeDuc, Kaplan, and Williams last week, and Williams today. Reconciliation should be done by June meeting.

b) County financial obligation to District: Kaplan attended County Finance meeting to request the County work with the District to finalize payment obligations to District.

c) Jointly-owned dump trailer with County and Rory Mattson: Kaplan updated that there has been no response from original owner on reissuing the title. Kaplan brought up the topic at a County Finance meeting.

d) MAEAP breach allegations by the County: Kaplan Letter received from County by Administrator Young on April 26, 2024, expressing concerns regarding MAEAP. Kaplan read District response by Holly Moss dated May 7, 2024, explained the MAEAP program, the County's participation, and addressed the County's allegations reassuring the County that their MAEAP plans have met State standards and that there has been no discrimination or

confidentiality lapse. Kaplan further offered that confusion may be due to his familiarity of the site because he, like others, is a stakeholder in the County's public land. Kaplan recommended that the County make their MAEAP plans, that have now been provided to the County, be made available to the public.

e) Open board position: There have been several people that have expressed an interest in the board position vacated by Russ Ross. Action on filling that position by appointment was tabled because of the short period of time before the election. Further discussion under new business. Adrienne St. Vincent, Jay Kirby, and Andrea Nummilien were all recognized by the board and thanked for their interest in potentially serving on the Board and invited to comment during public comment.

f) Mattson lawsuit: Mattson has filed a lawsuit against the District for a breach of contract related to compensation. Our council (appointed by our insurance company) is working on our legal defense. One of the rules of Open Meeting Act rules for going into close session to discuss the lawsuit requires an attorney be present so no further comment or discussion was provided to the Board. It may be necessary to hold a Special Meeting with the attorney to discuss the lawsuit in close session.

d) Attorney General Response: Kaplan read the District's April 20, 2024 response to the AG's March 20, 2024 letter regarding possibly violation of District law by former District employees and board members. The letter has been FOIA'ed by numerous parties.

e) District vehicle purchase: Brockman provided the details of the District's purchase of a new vehicle; a 2024 Jeep Compass from Riverside Auto for \$28,865.

15. New Business

a) Payment of bills: *Motioned by Segorski, second by Brockman to pay bills as presented. Motioned carried.*

b) Attorney General Response: Kaplan read the District's April 20, 2024 reply to the AG's March 20, 2024 letter regarding potential violations of law by former District employees and Board members.

c) August Annual Meeting and Director's election: Kaplan presented a primer on Conservation District election law to fill Russ Ross' vacated board seat that has a year left on the term. The Annual meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2024. Candidates must have a nominating petition 60 days before the Annual meeting, be a resident of the District and 18 years of age. Segorski will be out of town on August 7, 2024. *Segorski motioned, Brockman seconded to change the date of the Annual meeting to August 14, 2024. Motioned carried.* **With the new date, the nominating petition, signed by 5 District residents, will be due by June 14, 2024 by end of business (4pm) at the Gladstone NRCS Office.** Discussed having day of voting (August 14, 2024) between 3-7pm, venue TBD.

d) MACD Summer Conference: LeDuc provided details on the upcoming Michigan Association of Conservation District's summer Conference in June. *Sergoski motioned, Brockman second to send Manager LeDuc and any interested Board members to the MACD Summer Conference. Motion carried.*

e) MACD Annual Pledge: MACD's annual pledge from December 2024 was not responded to by the District. LeDuc recommend supporting the pledge appeal with a voluntary contribution. Kaplan added the MACD provides District email accounts and Le Duc pointed out redesigned our logo. *Brockman motioned to support the MACD with a \$750 contribution to the MACD, Segorski seconded. Motion carried.*

16. General Public Comment:

Kelli Van Ginhoven (Escaaba): Thanked the Board for the opportunity to volunteer for the District's Annual Tree Sale and reflected on her positive experience. Van Ginhoven expressed her interest in representing the County Commission as the District Liaison.

17. Board member comments: Brockman Tipped his virtual hat to Manager LeDuc for all her hard work on a successful tree sale. He also gave a tip of the hat to all volunteers and District Staff; Makhayla Mainville, Rhonda Reiffers and Holly Moss; it was his first time working with this dedicated, passion, and hard-working group. Segorski reiterated Brockman's kudos to staff and thanked Van Ginhoven for her help on the tree sale and congratulated Van Ginhoven on her election to the Commission. Kaplan also congratulated Van Ginhoven for her election to the County Commission and expressed an interest in better relations with the County.

18. Adjourned: *Brockman motioned, Segorski second to adjourn at 6:51 pm.*

These draft minutes submitted by Chair Kaplan. Complete meeting recording available on the District's YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/vaQY5nbvM7w>) or through the District's website.

Meeting Minutes approved on June 12, 2024



Glenn Vandewater, Secretary