

Dickinson Conservation District

Dickinson Conservation District BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday March 16th, 2023 | 4:30 pm (CT)

MINUTES

Date Approved: _____ Signed By: _____

1. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER: Kurt Lehmann called the meeting to order at 4:32. Board members in attendance were Mark Rossato, Mark Hansch, and Kurt Lehmann. Bill Rice attended via zoom, along with Rachael Guth (MDARD). Also, in attendance was Andrew Finkel (DCD) and Amber Butterfield (DCD).

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: M. Hansch moved to accept the agenda as presented. M. Rossato approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: The consent agenda, containing the December '22 Board Meeting Minutes, was presented. M. Rossato moved to accept the consent agenda. M. Hansch supported. Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Recycling

A. Butterfield updated the Board with her progress regarding recycling. She informed them of NextCycle, the partnerships and letters of support, talking to the local units of government, and the intended route for recycling. The NextCycle application is due at the end of March. K. Lehmann stated that the Board should look at the grant prior to submission. K. Lehmann recommended that A. Butterfield add specificity to the plan.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Wage Restructuring

A. Butterfield presented the Board with documentation showing that WRISC employees were being underpaid compared to the rest of the state of Michigan CISMAs. A. Butterfield presented the Board with the formal recommendation to increase the wages from the WRISC Board. The Board agreed to set the wages for L. Peterson at \$26/hr, K. Mentel at \$22/hr, and T. Norris at \$21/hr. M. Rossato inquired if the rest of the DCD would be in approval to receive a wage restructure. After further discussion the Board agreed to table the discussion of wage structure within DCD until further action and organization of the 5-year Plan were addressed. M. Hansch made a motion to accept WRISC wage increase proposal as stated. M. Rossato supported. Motion passed. K. Lehmann stated that, next month, the board must see a one-page report for the most important topics of 2023, how the DCD intends to accomplish them, and what future support is going to be needed. Wage increase is put on the agenda for next month. Scott stated

that WRISC thanks the board for passing the motion and complimented all 3 employees.

b. Vertical Farming

A. Butterfield presented the **vertical farming plan** (see chart A). **Action items:**

- gather statistics on food availability, poverty levels, and households on food assistance.
- review possible sites and report at next meeting.
- solicit support from local grocery stores.
- add timeline addressing grant submit dates.
- calculate expenses.

c. Fundraising

A. Finkel presented the **fundraising plan** (see chart B). K. Lehmann asked for a motion to vote to adopt this plan with the caveat to hold off on radio commitment at the \$2000 tier, and instead use a 3-tiered donation recognition methodology. M. Rossato suggested that we use more social media platforms. M. Rossato made a motion to accept a tiered fundraising plan with the caveat of no radio ads for sponsors. M. Hansch supported. M. Rossato left and the meeting was adjourned due to losing quorum at 5:21PM.

Minutes compiled and submitted by A. Finkel