



# Dickinson Conservation District

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## Dickinson Conservation District BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday January 21, 2021 | 5:00 pm (CT)  
VIA: Zoom

### MINUTES

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed By: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Bill Rice called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. Board members in attendance were, Mark Rossato, Kurt Lehmann, Sarah Blanzly and Sue Pope. Also, in attendance were Rachael Guth (MDARD), Amy Walker (DCD), Lindsay Peterson (WRISC), Tom Berndt (NRCS) and Amber Butterfield (DCD).
- 2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA: S. Blanzly moved to accept the meeting agenda. S. Pope supported. Motion carried.
- 3) PUBLIC COMMENT: None
- 4) APPOINT BOARD MEMBER FOR ONE-YEAR TERM: K. Lehmann motioned to appoint M. Rossato for a one-year term. S. Blanzly supported. Motion carried.
- 5) CONSENT AGENDA: The consent agenda, containing the following items, was presented. M. Rossato moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. S. Pope supported. Motion carried.
  - a) Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2021
- 6) NEW BUSINESS:
  - a) MACD Region 1 Ballot: B. Rice thanked K. Lehmann for being willing to step up and run for vice chairman of Region 1. M. Rossato motioned to accept the nominees listed on the Region 1 ballot and to vote accordingly. S. Pope supported. Motion carried.



- b) Environmental Law and Policy Center Advocacy: B. Rice spoke that he was asked to sign a letter of support for the ELPC and their advocacy to secure additional state land in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. A. Butterfield confirmed the additions that ELPC is advocating for. M. Rossato motioned to sign the letter of support for the ELPC. K. Lehmann supported. Motion carried.

7) OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Vacation/Sick Leave: A. Butterfield presented to the Board the proposal devised by the Personnel Committee, regarding removing sick leave from personnel's work agreement. The Personnel Committee proposed that the DCD staff receive 2 consecutive days of paid sick days before requiring a doctor note, and that these paid days were at the discretion of the Board and the District Manager. K. Lehmann stated that this change was to stray away from the thought process that sick leave is an entitlement. After further discussion S. Blanzzy moved to have these changes approved. M. Rossato supported. Motion carried.
- c) Maternity Leave Policy: A. Butterfield presented the Maternity Leave Policy drafted by the Personnel Committee and explained the policy and the decisions made by the committee. She also stated that the leave would be funded by District funds. M. Rossato moved to accept the Maternity Leave Policy. S. Pope supported. Motion carried.
- d) FAP Stipend: A. Butterfield highlighted the discussion that was held by herself, the Personnel Committee, and A. Hruska regarding the stipend. She stated that after much discussion that she was confident with a raise from \$22/hr to \$23.35/hr, which would result in a \$250/month stipend for A. Walker. S. Pope moved. S. Blanzzy supported. Motion carried.

8) REPORTS:

a) Finance Committee Report:

- a. Approval of Treasurer's Report: The Board reviewed the financial documents presented from December. With no questions, M. Rossato moved to place the Treasurer's Report on file. S. Blanzzy supported. Motion carried.
- b. Approval of Bills: Upon review of the bills, K. Lehmann moved to accept the Approval of Bills. S. Blanzzy supported. Motion carried.

b) Administrative Report:

- a. Grants Update: A. Butterfield updated the Board that she had finished reporting on all the grants for the previous quarter and that WRISC had received extensions on their EPA and MEF CCC grants. She concluded that things were continuing to run smoothly.
- b. Sales/Projects: Spring Tree Sale: A. Butterfield informed the Board that the Spring Tree Sale had been doing well and that they were anticipating a good outcome of the sale. She stated that several species being sold were already sold out or about halfway and that her and A. Hruska were working to secure more trees.



c) Partner Reports:

- a. FAP: A. Walker updated the Board that she had been continuing with her site visits and has completed 2 more verifications. She stated that she was looking forward to the chainsaw training at Lake Antoine.
- b. NRCS: T. Berndt spoke that NRCS was busy working on EQUIP contracts. He also stated that rates were going up regarding invasive species management. T. Berndt also informed the Board that a Soil Conservationist was likely to be hired and placed in our office. He concluded his update by informing the Board that a mask mandate for all federal buildings was being required and that our office will follow suit.
- c. WRISC: L. Peterson informed the Board that WRISC was working on planning and prep. for 2021 field season and that all 2020 data had been submitted. She stated that the job posting for field crew would be open in February and that they hoped to hire their crew in March. She also spoke that WRISC was working on their Memorandum of Understanding and writing future grant proposals.
- d. MDARD: R. Guth informed the Board that she had the privilege of meeting the new MACD Executive Director, Dan Moilanen, and expected great things from him for the Districts. She concluded that there are a lot new grants for Districts to apply for.

8) MEETING REPORTS: None

9) RESOURCE ISSUES: None

10) BOARD PRIVILEGE: S. Pope thanked K. Lehmann for representing the DCD on the Region 1 MACD Board. S. Blanzky thanked the Personnel Committee for all their hard work throughout the month regarding the policies that were approved at the meeting. M. Rossato informed the Board that he would not be present at the February Board Meeting and wished L. Peterson good luck on the upcoming birth of her child. L. Peterson thanked the Personnel Committee for working quickly to ensure there was a Maternity Leave Policy in place.

11) ADJOURN: Next meeting February 18, 2021 @ 5pm. K. Lehmann moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. M. Rossato supported. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

*Minutes compiled and submitted by A. Butterfield.*

