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DECEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02pm on Thursday, November 21st, 2024.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Shannon Brines, Chair
Matt Nolan, Vice-Chair
Hannah Weber, Treasurer
Tom Shanahan, Board Director

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Maegen Gabriel, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT

Deborah Shad, Finance Administrator (virtual)
Summer Roberts, Executive Director
Molly Eassa, Executive Assistant (virtual)
Brandon Henes, Prospective Director
Nick Machinski, Conservation Specialist (virtual)

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

MEETING MINUTES

Nolan motions to approve the November regular meeting minutes, Weber seconds. 5 yays, no nays, no further discussion. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee:

- None.

HR Committee:

- None.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Total Assets	\$680,848.23
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$680,848.23
Total Monthly Income	\$2,302.26

Total Monthly Expense	\$100,693.12
Total Other Income	\$2,072.58
Total Monthly Net Income	- \$96,318.28

Discussion

- Federal interest rates may have potential impacts on the budget
 - MI Class funding
- Negative net income due to several reasons
 - USDA grant funding is late by a quarter
 - Professional development has been higher
 - MOSA transaction

APPROVAL OF BILLS

No purchase orders to approve.

FARMLAND AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS

No Conservation Plans or Farmland Agreements.

Correspondence:

None.

STAFF & PARTNER REPORTS

WCCD Executive Director, Summer Roberts

- New sick time policy to take place in February
- Community engagement position
 - Coming soon
- EGLE GLRI WLEB Cost Share Draft Grant
 - Draft language to be discussed during old business
- Upcoming board director elections
 - Everything in compliance with MI law
- Lenawee and CRM
- Cooperative agreement meeting with Solomon at NRCS
 - To be scheduled

WCCD Resource Coordinator, Doug Reith

WCCD Conservation Technician, Matt DeJonge

WCCD MAEAP Technician, Nick Machinski

MCSFP Specialist, Megan Phillips Goldenberg

MiFarmLink Specialist, Jill Dohner

- Moving to MACD
 - Budget impacts - Admin salary funding
 - Less than \$7k total

MDARD Regional Coordinator, Nadene Berthiaume

OLD BUSINESS

1. Values Retreat (5 min)
 - a. Matt drafted asynchronous proposal for values retreat
 - b. Access to Google drive folder - good
2. Annual Meeting (10 min)
 - a. Door Prizes
 - i. Gabriel: Agricole and Garden Mill
 - ii. Weber: Green Things Farm Collective and Argus
 1. Awaiting Argus basket
 - iii. Nolan: Chelsea Farm Supply and Dexter Mill
 1. Sending thank-you's for donations (hat and gift card CFS)
 - b. BOD Roles
 - i. Staff set-up at 3pm; Stay for clean up?; Any Board members available?
 1. Hannah at 3pm
 2. Matt when he can
 3. Shannon at 4pm at earliest
 - ii. Main Emcee – Brines
 - iii. Departing BOD - Matt Nolan, Tom Shanahan
 1. Matt- saying a few things
 2. Tom- saying a few things (maybe)
3. County MOU for Millage (5 min)
 - a. No updates
 - b. Not top priority, will follow up
4. Friends of WCCD Subcommittee - January 23 (5 min)
 - a. Scheduled to meet
 - b. Matt Nolan to join?
 - c. Ask Megan DeLeeuw
5. Budget Scenarios Subcommittee - January 7th (5 min)
 - a. Two board members on each, would need to become open meetings if more than one
 - b. Patricia Denig expressed interest
6. Website Rollout - December 12th (2 min)
 - a. Doug presented training at meeting
 - b. Everyone has editing access
 - c. Still in editing process
 - d. Ask Doug any questions
7. EGLE GLRI WLEB Cost Share Draft Grant (10 min)
 - a. Put our name in wrong
 - i. Ask John and Nadene about official name (Soil vs Conservation)
 - b. Capacity?- ask John Swisher
 - c. Admin portion in draft grant with budget
 - i. Budget is vague
 - ii. \$86,876
 1. This is less than initial funds offered (roughly 10k)
 2. \$8.6k ish for indirect costs
 - iii. 3 yr grant start date Jan 1 2025, end Aug 31st 2028
 - d. Compiling other submissions for Hillsdale, Lenaway and Monroe
 - e. Distribution of funds through EGLE? Cashflow/bankroll, etc. how is this going to look? Interest? Cost offsets?
 - i. Strand
 1. Payments by quarter, worked for the most part

- 2. Money is sitting at EGLE, not waiting for EPA
 - ii. Purpose: precision ag practices, cover crops cost shares, etc.
- 8. MAWG Grant (5 min)
 - a. Matt DeJonge & MSU
 - i. Emily Silver and Jason Rowntree
 - b. Draft grant agreement
 - c. Funding subbed out for demos, field days, other outreach efforts
 - i. Soil and water stuff too
- 9. DEI strategy for Jan 2025
 - a. HR committee and board DEI efforts
 - b. Review Dr. Easley's report and bring it to HR
 - c. Requirements for voting and motion passing? Ask Nadene about quorum requirements.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Presentation from Conservation Specialist, Nick Machinski (30 min) *Presentation recorded
 - a. Oversees TOPP, MAEAP (CTAP), NACD/NRCS
 - b. Grant duties
 - i. Saline River
 - 1. MDARD
 - 2. Install permanent filter strips along the waterways in the headwaters of the Saline River Watershed
 - ii. Tile Line Monitoring
 - 1. MDARD, IWR, EGLE, LCD, MCD, WCCD
 - 2. Test water coming out of tiled fields to see if certain practices can be installed in the Western Lake Erie Basin
 - iii. Farmer Led Group
 - 1. MACD, RRWC, MDARD, EGLE, LCD, MCD, WCCD
 - 2. Farmers helping farmers adopt best management practices to improve soil health, increase crop yields, reduce farm input costs, reduce nutrient loss, and improve water quality in the WLEB
 - iv. Watershed Work: Ottawa Stony North
 - 1. EGLE, WCCD, MCD, LimnoTech, Local Gov, Producers
 - 2. Create a watershed management plan for the Ottawa Stony North watershed
 - v. Watershed Work: River Raisin
 - 1. EGLE, RRWC, WCCD, MCD, LCD, Local Gov
 - 2. Create update the watershed management plan
 - vi. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GRLI) Soil Health Investment Project (SHIP)
 - 1. EGLE, WCCD, MCD, LCd
 - 2. Provide funds for producers to implement best management practices on their fields with a focus on precision ag
 - vii. NRCS
 - 1. MDARD, NRCS, WCCD
 - 2. Provide NRCS support
 - c. Farmer Cost Share
 - i. Creation and editing of application, creation and editing of ranking system, administration of all documentation and verification of practice implementation
 - d. questions/discussion

- i. Workload with MDARD requirements
 - 1. Limits in capacity
 - 2. Management isn't ideal from MDARD but whatever
 - 3. Hasn't impacted ability to complete work
 - 4. MDARD has a top-down approach
 - e. Farmer Advisory Committee
 - i. Any board support? Board has to create subcommittees that need at least one board member
 - ii. Fostering farmer diversity
 - f. Put under old business next meeting to discuss more
- 2. Annual Celebration board attendance
 - a. Patricia and Brandon unable to vote during election process
 - b. Should be able to vote by February

NEXT MEETING:

Annual Celebration: Thursday, January 16th, 2025 at 5:00pm at Cobblestone Farm
Monthly Board Meeting: Thursday, January 23rd at 7:00pm.

OATH OF OFFICE

ADJOURNMENT: 9:16pm.

THESE MINUTES STAND TO BE APPROVED.

MINUTES APPROVED

APPROVAL SIGNATURE: _