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## JULY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:09pm on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

### **DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Shannon Brines, Chair

Maegen Gabriel, Vice-Chair

Patricia Denig, Staff Liaison

Hannah Weber, Treasurer

### **DIRECTORS/STAFF ABSENT**

Brandon Henes, Secretary

Summer Roberts, Executive Director

Deborah Shad, Financial Administrator

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Molly Eassa, Administrative Assistant

Danielle Christian, Administrative Assistant

Doug Reith, Resource Specialist

Megan Phillips Goldenberg, Development Manager

### **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Guests and Public Comments-Danielle Christian Introduction

### **Committee Reports**

Finance Committee:

N/A

HR Committee:

New business to discuss regarding additional new member

Leadership Committee:

Met in June via email, no notes

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Patricia Denig motions to approve the June meeting minutes, Maegen Gabriel seconds. 4 yays, no nays, no questions or further discussion. Motion passes.**

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Total Assets	\$1,037,537.49
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,037,537.49
Total Monthly Income	\$78,613.49
Total Monthly Expense	\$72,869.53
Total Other Income	\$2,683.92
Total Monthly Net Income	\$8,427.88

### **Discussion**

Review and clarification of budget: grant discrepancies related to lack of MIFARMLINK and EGLESHIP not reported in June

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Discussion regarding tree stock and charges/inflation and cost increases

Gabriel moves to pay the bills, Denig supports. No questions, discussions, or oppositions. Motion passes. 4 yays no nays.

### **CORRESPONENCE**

Read by Shannon Brines

Rivka Hodgkinson sent FOIA reminder regarding MLive article and letter to office

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

Reviewed two public notices from Jackson County

### **FARMLAND AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS**

No farmland agreements or conservation plans

## **STAFF & PARTNER REPORTS**

WCCD Executive Director, Summer Roberts

WCCD Conservation Technician, Matt DeJonge

WCCD Conservation Specialist, Nick Machinski

WCCD Resource Specialist, Doug Reith

-Staff turnover made spring especially tumultuous, Walker Whitehouse doing an excellent job at helping to expand tool rental program

-Spring sale and expo events have been very successful and rain barrels sold out

-Equipment rental program evolving and growing extensively since partnering with Growing Hope

-Volunteer appreciation potluck 07/26

Development Manager, Megan Phillips Goldenberg

MiFarmLink Specialist, Jill Dohner

MDARD Regional Coordinator, Nadene Berthiaume

NRCS Representative, Solomon Andrews

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Old Business**

1. Annual Meeting/Voting at NPEM (30 min) - presentation and questions - Doug
  - a. Sales program income increasing steadily on a yearly basis. Income and pricing structure discussion.
  - b. Deliverables totals discussion for both spring and fall sale
  - c. Native plant and tree sale capping and packaging discussion
  - d. Gross sales increase
  - e. Forest2MIFaucet partnership discussion
  - f. Net benefit discussion regarding program totals and staffing costs
    - i. QB does not specify programs within each store/class nor account for salary of resource specialist
2. NPEM nuts & bolts
  - a. Review of NPEM deliverables
  - b. Participation discussion
  - c. Current early bird and t-shirt sales discussion
  - d. Community Engagement Specialist role shift discussion
  - e. Early bird sales system streamlining discussion
  - f. Brief discussion on prospectively dropping spring sale and making fall sale larger. To be expounded upon in the future.
  - g. NPEM monthly task force/team discussion
  - h. Annual meeting and NPEM combination discussion
3. Ann Arbor's Farmers Market Inspection Opportunity (20 min) - Megan Phillips Goldenberg

- a. Staff meeting discussion
  - b. Vendor list discussion
  - c. Review of draft contract with terms and timeline speculation
  - d. Potential conflict of interest review
  - e. Inspection costs and milage coverage discussion
  - f. Board input:
    - i. Speculated, no decision
- 4. Budget Scenario Updates/Staff Changes (10 min)
  - a. NRCS Position
  - b. NACD/Knight Foundation/AMP Millage
    - i. AMP budget amendment funneled additional funding directly to farmers
    - ii. Feedback and forward movement discussion
    - iii. Workflow plan and legalities discussion
  - c. Offer from NRCS (DRAFT for review)-Brines
    - i. Need overhead and cost clarification
    - ii. Contribution discussion
- 5. Total grant amount 140k last year - ran longer than 12 months
- 6. Bonus Compensation Policy (10 min) - Patricia Denig
  - a. Four types of bonuses discussion
  - b. 4th type (surplus) removed, vacation time option added
  - c. Board resolutions vs HR committee discussion
  - d. Discussion around adjusting personnel policy update legal review process
  - e. HR policy updates to be housed in old business in future

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. MiFarmLink
  - a. MOU with MACD
  - b. Dissolution of WCCD Operating Agreement
    - 1. Official dissolution of partnership needs to be submitted to MACD
    - 2. Shift of MOU responsibilities discussion
    - 3. Discussion regarding organization of website information and finance as they apply to MiFarmLink vs WCCD
- 2. Policy revisions to offer PT, regular staff health insurance-Denig
  - a. PT staff health insurance options discussion
  - b. Eligibility discussion
- 3. Approval of new HR Committee member, Stephanie Benedict-Denig
  - a. Continuation of review & discussion
  - b. Motion to approve new HR Committee Member made by Gabriel, seconded by Weber. No questions, discussions, or oppositions. Motion passes. 4 yays no nays.

## **OATH OF OFFICE**

## **ADJOURNMENT: 9:33PM**

THESE MINUTES STAND TO BE APPROVED.

MINUTES APPROVED

APPROVAL SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_.