



VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT (VBCD)

Minutes of September 22, 2021

Minutes prepared by: Emily Hickmott, Deputy Administrator

VanTassel called the regular September 22, 2021 business meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Directors present:

Bill VanTassel, Chair
Jan Petersen, Vice Chair
Paulette Rybarski, Secretary

Carl Druskovich, Treasurer
Ron Klein, Member

Others present:

Kim Sinclair, Administrator
Emily Hickmott, Recycling Coordinator

Agenda: Motion was made by Petersen, 2nd by Rybarski to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion was made by Klein, 2nd by Petersen, to accept the August 25, 2021 regular board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Treasurer's Report:

- Financial statements for August 2021 were presented. Motion was made by Rybarski, 2nd by Klein to approve the financial statements as presented. Motion carried.
- The bills of September 2021 were presented. Motion was made by Petersen, 2nd by Rybarski to approve the bills of September 2021 as presented. Motion carried.
- Payroll for August 2021 was presented. Motion was made by Petersen, 2nd by Druskovich to approve payment of payroll as presented. Motion carried.
- **FY 2022 Appropriation** - Sinclair presented the appropriations that were discussed at the September 1, 2021 Budget Workshop. Motion was made by Druskovich, 2nd by VanTassel to adopt the FY 2022 Appropriations. Roll Call: Petersen - Yes, Klein - Yes, Rybarski - Yes, Druskovich - Yes, VanTassel - Yes. Motion was made by Druskovich, 2nd by Klein to approve the raises and bonuses as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- **Antwerp Township Supervisor Dan Ruzick** - Druskovich shared that it seems like Ruzick understood the options available to Antwerp Township. Druskovich requested that Hickmott draft a formal letter of response to bring to the board for approval at the October 2021 meeting.
- **Red Arrow Property Visioning Update/VBC Mattawan Property** – Sinclair shared that the attorney spoke with the leasing agent for the USDA and found that there is no opening for this center to be relocated at this time. Sinclair will let Van Buren County know that we are unable to move at this time.
- **Health Insurance & Retirement** - Druskovich shared that two insurance company representatives will be at the October 2021 meeting with quotes for the staff and board to consider.

New Business:

- **Field Day Recap - Colleen Forestieri** - Forestieri shared that a small group of farmers from the Pine, Mill, and Mud Creek watershed areas got together a few weeks ago to discuss cover cropping, filter strips, reduced tillage, and other conservation practices on the ground in a greater way. She went through some informational slides about the project research and findings.
- **Hamilton Township Green Space Projects** - Druskovich shared walking trail by grange hall, pay VBCD to help coordinate trails, need plant identification, planning help, next to township hall there's 16 acre field want pollinator

September 22, 2021 meeting minutes: page 1 of 2



VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

habitat and milkweed and natural prairie grass trails with benches - Carl is the contact. pavilion. \$154,000 set aside for project.

- **Lake Michigan College Summer Intern Program** - Sinclair shared that we will apply to the Lake Michigan College Summer Intern Program to receive interns for Summer 2022 instead of the AmeriCorps opportunity. This will help do the Summer School program.
- **Federal Mandatory Vaccination Policy** - Sinclair shared that all federal employees, contractors, and the VBCD have to be vaccinated by November 22, 2021 per federal policy. Discussion was had about the policy.
- **Bi-annual Audit** - Motion was made by Druskovich, 2nd by VanTassel to engage Gabridge & Associates for the upcoming bi-annual audit. Motion carried.

PA 116 / Right to Farm/ Farmland Preservation: None.

Correspondence/Other Information:

- **Administrator’s Report** – verbal. **Deputy Administrator’s Report** - verbal. **MAEAP Report** - written. **Produce Safety Report** – written. **Natural Shoreline/Pine/Mill Creek/GLPF/ND Report** - written. **CISMA Report** - written. **Resource Recovery Report** - written. **NACD/NRCS TA Report** – written.

Cooperating Agency Reports:

- **NRCS Report** – none. **FSA Report** – none. **MDARD Report** – written. **Land Preservation Board** – none. **VBCD Foundation** - none.

Other Correspondence: None.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 10:00 AM at the Van Buren Conservation District, 1035 E. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079.

Adjourn. Motion was made by Druskovich, 2nd by Klein to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 PM. Motion carried.

APPROVED:

Signature

Date