

# Van Buren Conservation District February 2023 Ag Conservation/Water Quality Projects Board Report Prepared 3/14/23

Staff: Colleen Forestieri Erin Fuller Carlie Southland

#### Highlight

This month staff members completed a tillage survey in the Pine and Mill Creek watersheds (in the Hartford/Watervliet area). To complete the survey, trained technicians drive through an area looking for conservation practices like cover crops and no-till on farm fields and take note of how much of the area is using these practices. This helps track tillage and cover crop trends over time, and will allow us to relate this to trends in soil health and water quality in our streams and rivers.

# Pine/Mill/Mud 319 Project (EGLE 319 Grant)

#### **Activities & Accomplishments**

- 1. Water sampling from tile drains and streams 2/6/23, 2/15/23
- 2. Continue grower recruitment and contracts
- 3. Calculated pollutant load reductions from best management practices
- 4. Planning Farming for the Future Conference 2/2/23, 2/7/23, 2/21/23
- 5. Meeting w/ AgriDrain re: leaking DWM structure 2/8/23
- 6. Tillage/Residue Survey meeting with EGLE 2/14/23
- 7. Tillage survey 2/15/23

#### **Upcoming Activities**

- 1. Water sampling from tile drains and streams 3/1/23, 3/15/23, 3/29/23
- 2. Pollutant Load Estimation Tool (PLET) training 3/2/23
- 3. Farming for the Future Conference 3/7/23
- 4. Pollutant Load Estimation Tool (PLET) office hours 3/16/23
- 5. Farmer interviews

# Great Lakes Protection Fund Project (Xylem, Inc. + Notre Dame)

#### **Activities & Accomplishments**

- 1. Team video conferences 2/7/23, 2/21/23
- 2. Outreach planning meeting 2/8/23

#### **Upcoming Activities**

- 1. Team video conferences
- 2. Project extended through 9/1/2023



## Van Buren Conservation District February 2023 Ag Conservation/Water Quality Projects Board Report Prepared 3/14/23

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# Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (2020)

#### **Activities & Accomplishments**

- 1. Project wrap-up and final reporting
- 2. Grant ended 12/31/23

#### **Upcoming Activities**

1. Project wrap-up and final reporting due 3/30/23

# USDA - AFRI (Notre Dame)

#### **Activities & Accomplishments**

- 1. Continue developing outreach materials
- 2. Coordinate manure sampling
- 3. Project update meeting 2/2/23
- 4. Planning Farming for the Future Conference

#### **Upcoming Activities**

1. Continue outreach activities

#### Other

#### **Activities & Accomplishments**

- 1. Weekly staff meetings
- 2. Reviewed grant budgets and staff hours allocated to each project
- 3. Assisted with Annual Report preparation
- 4. Assisted with Backyard Symposium
- 5. Environmental Communication for Behavior Change class 2/2/23, 2/9/23, 2/16/23, 2/23/23
- 6. Shoreline Living issue 2 Rollout planning meeting 2/1/23
- 7. MiCorps volunteer data webinar 2/7/23
- 8. New printer training 2/14/23
- 9. KBS LTAR Stakeholder advisory group 2/28/23
- 10. Assisted with writing MiCorps grant

#### **Upcoming Activities**



# Van Buren Conservation District February 2023 Ag Conservation/Water Quality Projects Board Report Prepared 3/14/23

Staff: Colleen Forestieri Erin Fuller Carlie Southland

- 1. Weekly staff meetings
- 1. Communicating Edge-of-Field Practices to Landowners webinar 3/8/23
- 2. Shoreline Living webinar tech check 3/14/23
- 3. Admin + water quality team meeting 3/21/23
- 4. Outreach toolkit project (NWF) closeout meeting 3/21/23
- 5. Inter-staff meetings re: social marketing strategies 3/14/23, 3/21/23
- 6. VBCD Board Meeting 3/22/23
- 7. Kalamazoo Green Drinks 3/28/23

#### New Grant Proposals Submitted

1. None

#### **Photos**

VBCD staff members Kyle Mead, Colleen Foresteiri, and Carlie Southland, along with volunteer Steve Bare (not pictured) completed a tillage survey in the Pine and Mill Creek watersheds in February.





#### SW x SW Corner CISMA

February 2023 Board Report Prepared 03/03/2023

Staff: Alex Florian | Abigale Bristol

# Highlights

February was full of the back-stage work that allows the busy summer season to go smoothly. Throughout the month, we supported partners in their grant-writing, got to know our Strike Team applicants, and paid attention to major invasive species updates. We took advantage of Invasive Species Awareness Week to remind our audience of the major invasive species takeaways (Clean, Drain, Dry; Don't Move Firewood; Play, Clean, Go; etc.). Various reports from the 2022 season were wrapped up and new plans for this season are underway.

#### **Activities & Accomplishments**

- 1. Transferred VBCD ArcGIS Account to the Water Quality Team
- 2. Wrote and put out a press release for invasive species awareness week
- 3. Interviewed Strike Team candidates
- 4. Worked on Application for Spotted Lanternfly Survey Funding from MDARD
- 5. Assisted with VBCD SOGL grant application
- 6. Assisted with VBCD MiCORPS grant application
- 7. National Invasive Species Awareness Week social media campaign
- 8. Presented on plant identification and invasive species in the service area
- 9. Provided letters of support for various partners' projects
- 10. Completed final reporting for GLRI grant (management of invasive species in high-quality wetlands)

# Meetings/Trainings Attended

- 1. The Stewardship Network Conference
- 2. 2023 Invasive Species Forum
- 3. Two Rivers Coalition Meeting
- 4. The Stewardship Network Fund Coordinator Meeting
- Webinar on ArcGIS: "The Geographic Approach to Invasive Species Management"

# **Upcoming Activities**

- 1. Strike Team hiring decision
- 2. Site visit and Strike Team season planning/scheduling

# New Grant Proposals Submitted

1. None















#### SW x SW Corner CISMA

February 2023 Board Report Prepared 03/03/2023

Staff: Alex Florian | Abigale Bristol

At each site, consider the frequency & seasonality of high wind, soil saturation, snow loads, etc. when evaluating trefailure potential.

Are there targets within striking distance?\*

If no targets within 1-1.5 tree heights, no need for assessment. On steep slopes, trees/tree parts have the potential to slide farther.

Select targets from list (all that apply):

bridge/walkway

stairs

tent site

Facility Name \*

Yes

high-use trail

cabin or shelter

high-use

bridge/walkway,

Hazard Tree Survey 🔌

For best waypoint accuracy on cellular devices, use airpland mode to prevent cellular interference, or use bluetooth external GPS. Press compass button (once or more, ideally until accuracy is +f-5m).

Distance and bearing from fixed objects that can be used to accurately relocate tree.

▽ Tree Information

♦ 58°23'N 134°38'W ± 30 m

Reference Point Information

Tree Species \*

If species not listed, select \*otl

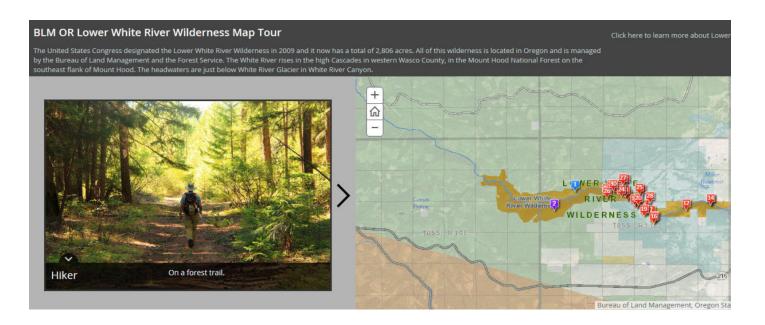
GPS Coordinates \*

Monthly Feature: ArcGIS Tools

#### Overview:

Up to now, the CISMA has primarily used ArcGIS to make maps. But after some tinkering and informative webinars, we've found that we can do much more than make maps. Using ArcGIS tools, the CISMA has begun prototyping new ways to show the work we've done in a succinct and engaging way. Here's a quick breakdown of the different tools we're utilizing:

- Survey123: These are project-specific questionnaires that allow partners or volunteers to easily submit pertinent information like new invasive plant patches directly to our CISMA (example pictured right). This information is then added to MISIN.
- 2. **Dashboard:** An attractive and digestible way of showing our work in numbers (e.g. number of site visits, number of treatment sites, an interactive map showing where our sites are, etc.).
- 3. **StoryMaps:** Engaging partners with the work we've done using photos, interactive maps, and narrative text (example pictured below).





February 2023 Deputy Administrator Board Report

Prepared March 2023 Staff: Emilly Hickmott

#### Highlights

The District hosted its third annual Backyard Symposium webinar series, covering topics like plant ID 101, soils 101, forestry management, and recreation in Van Buren County. Recordings are available here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/VanBurenCD">www.youtube.com/VanBurenCD</a>. March is the start of our 'busy' season, and we gear up even more in April with our tree seedling sale on April 13, 14, and 15. Details can be found at <a href="https://www.vanburencd.org/shop">www.vanburencd.org/shop</a> and pre-orders can be placed until April 7.

#### **Activities & Accomplishments**

- Provided information for and assistance to local municipalities, agencies, organizations, and residents regarding District programs
- 2. Reviewed legislative and other partner agency updates and passed along grant opportunities
- 3. Updated VBCD shared calendars
- 4. Wrote and distributed February 2023 VBCD e-newsletter and Municipal Programs Report
- 5. Prepared VBCD administrative team & staff meeting agendas and conducted meetings
- 6. Compiled and distributed VBCD board meeting materials
- 7. Promoted district programs and events through various media including press releases
- 8. Updated VBCD website
- 9. Drafted/updated VBCD policies for Board review
- 10. Collaborated with Conservation Technician on Sustain Our Lakes Grant pre-application
- 11. Collaborated with Ag/Water Quality Team on organizational planning for Farming for the Future
- 12. Published CISMA Annual Meeting & Backyard Symposium recordings on YouTube
- 13. Interviewed candidates for CISMA Strike Team
- 14. Appointed to Van Buren County Land Preservation Board
- 15. Prepared for Volunteer Appreciation & Recruitment event
- 16. Provided letter of support for Van Buren County Parks & Recreation Committee kayak launch grant application
- 17. Organized routine staff team meetings for ag & water quality teams
- 18. Reviewed Food, Farm, & Fun Guide drafts and provided notes/edits
- 19. Collaborated with Senior MAEAP Specialist to digitize rental equipment reservations
- 20. Collaborated with Recycling & Materials Management Coordinator to propose project for recycling infrastructure

# Meetings/Trainings Attended

1. Backyard Symposium Tech Check (02/01, 02/02, 02/06)



# February 2023 Deputy Administrator Board Report

Prepared March 2023

Staff: Emilly Hickmott

- 2. Meet Senator McCann (02/03)
- 3. VBCD Printer Training (02/06)
- 4. Farming for the Future Planning Meetings (02/07, 02/21, 01/24, 01/31)
- 5. Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant Planning Meeting (02/07)
- 6. Backyard Symposium 2023 (02/06-09)
- 7. Chicago Annual Food Justice Summit (02/08-09)
- 8. VBCD Volunteer Appreciation & Recruitment Event Planning (02/10)
- 9. Materials Management Community Engagement (MMCE) Stakeholder Meeting Planning (02/10)
- 10. CISMA Strike Team Interviews (02/13, 02/23)
- 11. Hartford Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (02/13)
- 12. MMCE Stakeholder Meeting (02/15)
- 13. 2023 DNR Recreation Grant Workshop (02/16)
- 14. The Recycling Partnership Grant Proposal Discussion (02/22)
- 15. VBCD Staff Meeting (02/07, 02/14, 02/21, 02/28)
- 16. VBCD Management Team Meeting (02/03, 02/10)
- 17. VBCD Administrative Team Meeting (02/01)
- 18. VBCD Outreach Admin Team Meeting (02/15)
- 19. CISMA Strike Team Hiring Decision Meeting (02/27)
- 20. VBCD Resource Recovery Admin Team Meeting (02/08)
- 21. SWxSW Corner CISMA Strategy Meeting (02/09, 02/23)
- 22. Resource Recovery Check-in Meetings (02/02, 02/06, 02/16, 02/23, 02/27)
- 23. NRCS Conservation Tech Check-in Meetings (02/13)
- 24. Ag Team Check-in Meetings (02/24)
- 25. VBC Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting (02/14)
- 26. VBC Committee of the Whole (02/14, 02/28)
- 27. VBC Board of Commissioners Meeting (02/14, 02/28)
- 28. Municipal Meetings (City of Hartford 02/27)

# New Grant Proposals Submitted

1. NA



# February 2023 MAEAP Board Report

Prepared March 2023

Staff: Kyle Mead



# Highlights

February had the technician visiting many farms (when weather allowed) in preparation for Re-Verifications and New Verifications. The specialist was able to make contact with a farmer that hadn't been re-verified for 9 years. The farm was under the same ownership but new management and the MAEAP Program had only collected the managers information which made reconnecting difficult. The MAEAP Specialist and the Conservation Technicians (Lucas and Gabe) have been working together extensively to get farmers involved in both MAEAP and USDA/NRCS programs and marrying the programs together to provide the best service possible. MAEAP Verifications (mostly Re-Verifications but some new) have been scheduled with the MAEAP Verifier in March and April.

Percentage Completed: 56% of required assessments completed

10 % of verifications

# Activities, Accomplishments, & Challenges

- 1. 2/6 Farmer Meeting to discuss NRCS and MAEAP
- 2. 2/10 Farm Assessment Hartford
- 3. 2/13 Farm Assessment South Haven
- 4. 2/15 Farm Assessment South Haven
- 5. 2/27 Farm Assessment Paw Paw
- 6. 2/27 Farm Assessment Grand Junction

# Meetings/Trainings Attended

- 1. 2/1-2/2 SW Michigan Horticulture Days Benton Harbor
- 2. 2/7 FFtF Planning Meeting
- 3. 2/9 MAEAP Tech Quarterly Zoom
- 4. 2/9 Conservation Coffee Chat Zoom Meeting/Training
- 5. 2/14 Printer Training
- 6. 2/16 Tillage Survey with Colleen, Carlie, and Steve Bare
- 7. 2/21 FFtF Planning Meeting



# Van Buren Conservation District February 2023 MAEAP Board Report Prepared March 2022

Prepared March 2023 Staff: Kyle Mead



A*Syst Type	Monthly A*Systs	Fiscal Year to Date A*Systs	
Farm*A*Systs:	7	21	
Orchard*A*Systs:	3	9	
Greenhouse*A*Systs:	0	2	
Nursery*A*Systs:	0	0	
Crop*A*Systs:	1	4	
Livestock*A*Systs:	3	4	
FWHP*A*Systs:	0	0	
Total Assessments Completed (always year to date):	14	44/ 78 Goal	
On Farm Risk Reductions (always year to date):	0	0 / 150 Goal	
MAEAP Verifications (always year to date):	0	6 completed YTD (3FAS, 3CAS, #LAS, FWH) 58 Goal	

# **Photos**



February 2023 NACD Technical Assistance

**Board Report** 

Prepared March 2023

Staff: Lucas Hartman



# Highlights

Beginning farmers and producers make up a significant portion of this year's Farm bill program applicants. Reaching new and beginning landowners gives us an opportunity to address concerns early, and help provide input on sighting different projects to mitigate impact on natural resources.

# **Activities & Accomplishments**

- 1. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
  - a. Completed ranking of applications considered for funding in the first round of 223
    - i. 35+ total applications ranked and submitted for funding
    - ii. Applicants that were interested in funding practices that fall under the "Climate smart" category of conservation have been moved to the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) Fund pool. Those applications will be ranked in the second half of March.
    - iii. Processing payments for several completed conservation practices.
- 2. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
  - a. Applications
    - i. 5 applications for Van Buren county submitted this cycle
      - 1. This program has stricter eligibility requirements, reducing the pool of applicants.
  - b. IRA Funding
    - i. Applications considered for funding with IRA funds will require producers to adopt "climate smart" enhanced practices.
- 3. Upcoming Events
  - a. Prescribed Burn at VBCD Property Butterfield Drain
    - i. Great opportunity for volunteers to learn about managing native planting with fire.
    - ii. Controlled burn scheduled in the second half of April (weather dependent)
      - Planning, and equipment inventory scheduled in the second half of March.



February 2023 NACD Technical Assistance



Prepared March 2023

Staff: Lucas Hartman



# New Grant Proposals Submitted

No new proposals at this time. Requests for continued funding through NACD are expected to be released in Q2 of 2023.

Proposals have historically been for 12 months of continued funding for a "Conservation Technician".



# Van Buren Conservation District February 2023 NRCS CT Board Report Prepared March 2023

Staff: Gabriel Francisco



# Highlights

Farming for the Future - I hope everyone was able to attend this year's Farming For the Future Conference, as it was a thoroughly engaging event at the Van Buren Conference Center. There were three tract focuses this year Grazing, Fruit, and Grain and I was fortunate enough to be able to host the Grazing tract and three amazing speakers!

IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) Funding Pools - This year, NRCS will have an additional two pools of funding for our EQIP clients the IRA-CSP and IRA-EQIP funding pools. These pools largely act as the original EQIP and CSP contracts but a more focused list of practices that they can apply too. If you're thinking about getting seed or plants in the ground, or a nutrient management plan for your farm this would be the year to think about it, but get it in quick our deadline is March 30th!

#### **Activities & Accomplishments**

1. Farming for the Future - As previously mentioned this month we were proud to host our annual Farming for the Future Conference, and I was fortunate enough to be the room leader of our grazing tract room. During the course of the day we got to hear from Kable Thurlow a livestock and grazing specialist from Gladwin Michigan State Extension Agency speak to us about basic grazing strategies and cycles, Neil Kinsey on soil nutrient balancing in a pasture based system, and from Christina Stemple of MDARD on animal processing laws and regulations. I felt that these three sessions when taught in tandem, and that speaker succession was a perfect way of introducing and engaging our area livestock producers. How does the animal graze, what the grazing is doing for my land, and how do I make money off of this grazing thing at the end of it all. I cannot express the gratitude I have for those who presented, and also to those who attended.

# Meetings/Trainings Attended

1. 03/07/2023 | Farming for the Future

# New Grant Proposals Submitted

1. N/A

# **Upcoming Activities**

1. June 14th - Windshadow Farm Grazing Day - Before you know it we will be in the height of summer again, and with that comes our Conservation District Field Days! Please make sure you mark your calendars this year for our Grazing Workshop at Windshadow farm in Bangor Michigan on June 14th



# Van Buren Conservation District February 2023 NRCS CT Board Report Prepared March 2023

Staff: Gabriel Francisco



2023. New and exciting news for this though is Mr. Kable Thurlow, one of our speakers from Farming for Future, has agreed to come down and also help present. His knowledge of cattle and specifically Beef Production on pasture will be a valuable asset during the course of the day. Come and have a good day playing outside and talking animals with us, it's sure to be a great time for all!



# February 2023 Outreach Board Report Prepared 2/28/2023

Staff: Jacob Diljak

#### Highlights

February saw our third Backyard Symposium, the arrival of our 2022 Annual Report, and significant progress with a Food, Farm, & Fun Guide rough draft, influx of Tree Sale pre-orders. Grant opportunities are being explored with grant submissions and discoveries.

#### **Activities & Accomplishments**

- Social media management: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, data tracking
- 2. Financials: invoice and receipt management
- 3. General VBCD photography: events, presentations, stock photography
- 4. Conservation Corner: review, editing, writing
- 5. CISMA assistance: Phragmites door hanger creation, social media posts, job recruitment
- 6. Printer: delivery and installation, account and training assistance
- 7. Tree Sale: stock management, promotion, customer service, surveys
- 8. NRCS: 1/3 sheet finalizing and quotes, photography
- 9. Farming for the Future: VBCD presentation and slideshow work, planning
- 10. Food, Farm, & Fun Guide: advertiser work, rough draft, editing, design work
- 11. Volunteer Appreciation & Recruitment Night: Promotion
- 12. Backyard Symposium: moderating, planning
- 13. Volunteer Stream Cleanup Grant: planning, application work, coordinating
- 14. Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program: grant feasibility and inquiry
- 15. 2022 Annual Report: deliveries, promotion

# Meetings/Trainings Attended

- 1. Staff meetings (2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28)
- 2. Admin team meetings (2/1)
- 3. South Haven Recycling Outreach and Site Work (2/2)
- 4. Outreach Check-In (2/15)
- 5. White Oaks: Restoration of Rare White Oak Ecosystems (2/1)
- 6. Backyard Symposium Host Tech Check (2/2)
- 7. Printer Follow-Up meeting (2/6)
- 8. Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail Board Meeting (2/6)
- 9. Backyard Symposium (2/6-9)
- 10. Lawton Middle School Career Day (2/9)
- 11. Volunteer Appreciation & Recruitment Event Planning (2/10)



# Van Buren Conservation District February 2023 Outreach Board Report

Prepared 2/28/2023 Staff: Jacob Diljak

- 12. NRCS Site Visit (2/13) pictured
- 13. 2023 Recreation Grant Application Workshop (2/16)
- 14. Farming for the Future Preparation (2/21)
- 15. Two Rivers Coalition Board Meeting (2/21)
- 16. Farm Market and Local Food Promotion Program Meeting (2/23)
- 17. Paw Paw River Site Review (2/28) pictured

#### **New Grant Proposals Submitted**

1. NA

#### **Upcoming Activities**

- 1. Admin Team Meeting (3/1)
- 2. White Oak: Managing White Oaks for Birds (3/1)
- 3. Farming for the Future (3/7)
- 4. Village of Lawton Regular Board Meeting (3/14)
- 5. Outreach Check-In (3/15)
- 6. City of Bangor Regular Board Meeting (3/20)
- 7. Two Rivers Coalition Meeting (3/21)
- 8. Volunteer Appreciation Night (3/22)
- 9. Shearing Day (3/24)

	Trends	Content	Audience	
Facebook	10,325 People Reached	32 Posts	2,404 Page Likes (14 ↑)	
Instagram	gram 128 People Reached 24 Posts 173 Followers (14↑)		173 Followers (14 ↑)	
LinkedIn	11 Impressions	1 Posts	35 Followers (5 ↑)	
YouTube Total Views 4 Videos 941 Subscribers		941 Subscribers (24 ↑)		
Website ~		~	( ↑)9430	

Event Category	Number of Events	Impressions
Miscellaneous	3	301



# Van Buren Conservation District February 2023 Outreach Board Report Prepared 2/28/2023

Staff: Jacob Diljak

VBCD Events	1	18
Farmers Markets	0	0



Conservation Technician Lucas Hartman on a site visit to discover federal resources for habitat improvement.



# Van Buren Conservation District February 2023 Outreach Board Report

Prepared 2/28/2023 Staff: Jacob Diljak



CISMA Coordinator Alex Florian conducting a safety review of the Paw Paw River for a potential river cleanup.

# Produce Safety Monthly Report

## February 1, 2022 – February 28, 2022





#### Completed

- Southwest Horticulture Days (1/1 1/2)
- In Person Grower Training (2/7)
- Virtual grower Training (2/13)
- Farm Visit Kent County (2/14)
- NCR FSMA Listening Session (2/16)
- Newsletter Planning Meeting (2/16)
- Farm Visit Berrien County (2/21)
- Produce Safety Tech Chat (2/24)
- MIOFPS Monthly Huddle (2/24)
- PSRA Review Meeting (2/27)
- MI AG Ideas to Grow With (2/27, 2/28)
- Complete Produce Safety Ad for Van Buren County Food, Farm, & Fun Guide (2/28)
- Prepare for In Person Grower Training
- Prepare for KVCC Cleaning and Sanitizing grower meeting (2/17) Cancelled.
- Site Visit Sparta Cancelled
- Consult with Kent and Ottawa Technician (ongoing)
- Prepare for in person presentations for MIFFS Conference Postponed
- Work on Ad for Van Buren
- Continue working on relationships with partners in coverage area
- Ongoing correspondence through email with growers
- Ongoing correspondence with growers through phone conversation

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#### **Upcoming**

- Berrien County Conservation District Annual Meeting (3/2)
- Farm Visit Berrien County (3/2)
- Urban Ag Meeting with NRCS Outreach Coordinator (2/3)
- MI AG Ideas to Grow With (3/6, 3/7, 3/9, 3/10)
- Grower Meeting Cass County (3/6)
- PSRA Review Meeting (3/7)
- PSA Training (3/13)
- PSRA Review Meeting (3/14)



# Van Buren Conservation District February 2023 Resource Recovery Board Report

Prepared March 2023 Staff: Kalli Marshall



# Highlights

February flew by as we are quickly approaching the busy season here at the district. Kalli and Emilly partnered with Michigan Sustainable Business Forum to engage with the community at a Stakeholders Materials Management Engagement Forum on February 15. EGLE also released a Recycling Infrastructure Grant which we are pursuing with our community to improve recycling infrastructure at the transfer stations. We are hoping this opportunity can help us increase overall recycling access to improve our recycling rate in Van Buren County.

#### **Activities & Accomplishments**

- 1. Responded to residents who had recycling questions with options for disposal/recycling
- 2. Submitted appropriate check requests for Gobles Village Market paper/cardboard recycling
- 3. Scheduled social media posts for February 2023
- 4. Read resource recovery updates from Michigan Recycling Coalition and EGLE to keep abreast of trends and changes
- 5. Tracked electronics collection for February 2023
- 6. Remained up to date with 2023 Scrap Tire Grant requests from partners
- 7. Investigated funding opportunities for Resource Recovery through EGLE Grant
- 8. Edited and assisted with Memorandum of Understanding for DLD and Green Earth Electronics
- 9. Sent Municipality pledge forms to applicable communities
- 10. Processed Invoices for Electronics Grant
- 11. Prepared and mailed postcards using every door direct mail to South Haven, Covert, and Bangor area for advertising South Haven Electronics Site
- 12. Requested quotes for volunteer appreciation box lunches
- 13. Pursued Townships with transfer stations for interest in recycling infrastructure grant
- 14. Received information on expanding foam recycling in the county
- 15. Pursued several municipalities for more access for drop off recycling
- 16. Contacted Municipalities for information on current transfer station use and infrastructure
- 17. Assisted in the delivery of Annual Reports to partners
- 18. Contacted Antrim County for resources on County Interlocal agreement for transfer stations
- 19. Organized packing list and shopping list for Farming for the Future

# Meetings/Trainings Attended

- 1. 2/1/2023, 2/8/2023 Admin Team Meeting
- 2. 2/2/2023 Scrap Tire Grant Discussion with Cass County Conservation District



# February 2023 Resource Recovery Board Report

Prepared March 2023 Staff: Kalli Marshall

- 3. 2/7/2023, 2/14/2023, 2/21/2023, 2/28/2023 Staff Meeting
- 4. 2/7/2023 Regional use of Micorp Data Webinar
- 5. 2/9/2023 Lawton Middle School Career Day
- 6. 2/10/2023 Volunteer Appreciation Planning Meeting
- 7. 2/10/2023 Materials Management Engagement Forum Planning Meeting
- 8. 2/15/2023 Materials Management Engagement Forum
- 9. 2/15/2023 Materials Management Planning Meeting
- 10. 2/16/2023 Bangor Township Transfer Station Meeting
- 11. 2/21/2023 Farming for the Future Planning Meeting
- 12. 2/21/2023 Micorp Maintenance Grant Discussion
- 13. 2/21/2023 EGLE Charting Michigan's Course Toward Carbon Neutrality Webinar
- 14. 2/22/2023 Covert Township Transfer Station Discussion
- 15. 2/22/2023 The Recycling Partnership Grant Discussion
- 16. 2/27/2023 Webster Memorial Library Meeting for Battery Recycling
- 17. 2/27/2023 Integrating Climate Change Purdue University Webinar
- 18. 2/28/2023 Extended Producer Responsibility for Batteries Webinar EGLE

#### New Grant Proposals Submitted

1. MiCorp Maintenance Grant (\$2,000) for Volunteer Stream Monitoring

# **Upcoming Activities**

- 1. Prepare compost video for Paw Paw Library
- 2. Prepare Resource Recovery Management Plan for Growers
- 3. Research/develop A\*Syst Program booklets for restaurants, organizations, growers, schools, homes, municipalities
- 4. Hang Recycle, MI signs somewhere impactful



# Van Buren Conservation District February 2023 Resource Recovery Board Report Prepared March 2023 Staff: Kalli Marshall

# Photos

