ALPENA-MONTMORENCY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District

1900 M-32 W
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-3596 ext. 108

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 11, 2025 Annual Meeting (Brush Creek Mill)

Attendance: Board Members: Skarbek, Lizon, Lewis, Brown, Estlack; Staff: Dr. Greg Corace (FAP), Charlie Doan (CTAP), John Schmitz (DM), Emily Frechette (CA); Regional Coordinator Christine Roman (MDARD). Meeting was called to order at 5:54 PM, by Skarbek, Chair. Not present: Associate Director Houston.

Additions to agenda:

- Status reports and increased congruity are needed going forward with task lists on minutes and agendas.
- Discussion about donating deer; capacity of processors.

Approval of Consent Agenda:
Meeting minutes (October, 2025)
Financial Report, Payment of AMCD bills

- Motion made by Lewis to approve the consent agenda with corrections; supported Brown. (1st motion under New Business was supported Skarbek in October minutes.)

Roll Call vote: Ayes: Lewis, Brown, Lizon, Estlack, and Skarbek. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Reports:

The Reports were handed out and reviewed by the Board prior to the meeting. There was no conversation on the FAP Report, the MAEAP Report, or the Communications Report.

Schmitz presents his report; we are 9K better than last year on budget at this time. Display Concepts at Besser Museum will be available in January. P&L and invoice did not match for last set of grant reporting for CTAP because Doan is paid more than the program allots for a technician's salary. We got paid a little over 4K more than what we expected, although our total amount was under what was available for the district. (District did not spend all its cost-share and did not spend its health insurance allotment.) Schmitz redid the invoice to reflect the change and there is no impact on this fiscal year.

Re: NRCS report – it is clarified that the MDARD Regenerative Farmer Network Grant is different from the 700M in funding to USDA/NRCS for regenerative agriculture that was announced yesterday on 12/10/25.

Corace presented his FAP report and remarked on the unwillingness of recipients of potential partner organizations to respond to his email request for participation in a networking meeting.

Charlie presented his MAEAP report.

Emily presented her Communications report and stated her availability for AMCD has increased effective today.

District Business:

OLD:
Motion to approve Doan's CTAP Work Agreement was made by Brown; supported Lewis.
Roll Call vote: Ayes: Lewis, Brown, Estlack, Lizon, and Skarbek. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Revised policy manual was handed out.
Motion to approve revised AMCD policy manual was made by Estlack; supported Skarbek.
Roll Call vote: Ayes: Lewis, Brown, Estlack, Lizon, and Skarbek. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Dallas Safari Club – Great Lakes Regional Chapter donated $1,000 for antlerless deer tags. Dr. Mike Wilmot is Executive Director and Schmitz has sent him a thank you note. Estlack reports Hunter's Harvest didn't come up with any money for us. They said to request funds after the first of the year. A-1 Woods & Waters does not expect to be open next year. Clem's Bait & Tackle sold out of their first hundred tags in a couple days. Their second hundred tags sold out in four hours. Both outlets stressed writing AMCD in the comment field on tags. Discussion re: other outlets where people buy hunting licenses; other license dealers are visible on the DNR website. Schmitz emphasizes finding the common ground between our organizational missions.

November 5, 2026 potential meeting date is right in the middle of rut. Lewis will be unavailable that day due to agricultural demands. Discussion is tabled to a later date. Suggestion is made to eliminate a summer meeting.

NEW

Discussion about donating deer and who would pay processing. Some recipients may not be able to pay; donations could be collected and/or coordinated to pay for the processing. The DNR maintains a current list of wild game processors by county. We would need to know max capacity of each processor. Approach to DNR's Emily Sewell may be made to facilitate donation of processing of deer. DNR had no more money this year and several deer were sent to landfill. Existing Ungulate Policy in policy manual could be refined to include antlerless deer policy. Recommendation is made by Schmitz to consider this program within holistic context of capacity of AMCD to implement. Relationship with Farm Bureau could be established.

Next Board Meeting is **Thursday, January 8th at 5:00 p.m. at Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District office.**

Motion to adjourn was made by Lewis at 6:59 p.m. seconded Lizon.

TASKS TO BE COMPLETED:

- Frechette – post updated policy on website
- Schmitz – send thank you notes to A1 Woods & Waters and Clem's Bait & Tackle
- Frechette – make list of deer tag outlets
- Doan – CTAP presentation in January Board Meeting
- Schmitz – finalize information for Woody Plant Sale to begin February 1, 2026

John Schmitz, District Manager

Ed Skarbek, Board Chair
Approved / Amended / Disapproved