ALPENA-MONTMORENCY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 09, 2026 Monthly Meeting (Brush Creek Mill, Hillman)

Attendance: Board Members: Skarbek, Estlack, Lewis, Lizon, Brown; Associate Director Bill Houston; Staff: Dr. Greg Corace (FAP), Charlie Doan (CTAP), John Schmitz (DM), Emily Frechette (CA); Christine Roman (MDARD). Meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Brown. Not present: Bryan Zabel (NRCS)

Public Comment: Presentation on Succession Planning and Board Goals and Objectives by Christy Roman, Regional MDARD Coordinator

Additions to agenda:

- Motion made by Lizon to add up to 10 minutes per board meeting to discuss governance; supported Estlack. Roll Call vote: Ayes: Estlack, Skarbek, Lewis, Lizon, Brown. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda:
Meeting minutes (June, 2026)
Financial Report, Payment of AMCD bills

- Motion made by Estlack to approve the consent agenda; supported Lewis.

Roll Call vote: Ayes: Brown, Estlack, Skarbek, Lewis, Lizon. 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 MDARD partner report, the NRCS report, the MACD report, the DM report, the FAP report, the CTAP report, or the Communications report.

Corace discusses the MDARD partner report.

Skarbek remarks on the Five-Year Long-Range Plan & Conservation Needs Assessment and confirms these are not due until next year.

Sub-Committee Updates:
Per Schmitz, not all of these subcommittees are permanent; some are project-based. Discussion regarding sharing members of each subcommittee with the board, adding a subcommittee policy to address membership, size, goals, and duration/term limits. Current expectations: 1) The staff member most related to that specific committee should make sure the committee is on track; 2) During subcommittee meetings, although staff members are able to lead meetings, constituents may decide who is going to make the report to the board. As we are looking for more involvement from board members, directors are asked to chair the meetings and report to their fellow board members.

1. Hunter Harvest (*Skarbek, Estlack, Houston, Frechette, Schmitz)*
   Estlack is going to try and get some money coming in for doe permits. Schmitz has written two grants of 5K each to CFNEM to fund the admin side of the program. One processor is certified and the other

processor should be certified by end of July. By 9/8, we will have an answer back from CFNEM and can start process of making connections.

CA Frechette will chronologically document the steps we took so our process is replicable and will be expected to organize this effort and work directly with donor farmers and hunt camps, processors, food banks, and the media. CA will coordinate volume and timing to regulate the flow to Calvin and be mindful of his daily processing capacity of approximately 25 – 30 deer. Calvin may get a trailer, which will raise his cold-storage capacity. Other processors should be interested in this new market.

2. Budget-Finance – No Report

3. Outreach *(Skarbek, Houston, Schmitz, Frechette)*
Currently our Conservation Needs Assessment (CNA) survey has 38 paper responses and 27 responses online – a total of 65. Ways to increase response rate are discussed.

4. Forestry (*Estlack, Lizon, Schmitz, Corace*)
The list of forest plan developers on our website is discussed. Brown suggests the subcommittee reconvene to form a recommendation for the board.

5. Tree Sale – No Report
6. Five-Year Strategic Plan – No Report

District Business:

OLD:
Review workplan for Administrative Assistant/Communication Position is tabled. A lot of the funding to expand this position's capacity is from the WRM grant, which has not yet been fully executed by MDARD.

NEW:
Consider moving September Board Meeting from the 3rd to September 24th. Putting a budget timeline by September 3rd is too soon and a special meeting would have to be held. A new invite will be sent.

- Motion made by Estlack to approve the change in 9/3 meeting date to 9/24; supported Skarbek.

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

Discussion on MACD Summer Region 5 Workshop Friday, August 14th (in Gaylord)
- Who is attending? Staff are expected to attend and Brown wants to. (Skarbek is the VP).

TASKS TO BE COMPLETED:

- Meet with Subcommittee for Tree Sale selections
- Meet with Subcommittee on FY27 Budget Proposal
- Finalize Fall Conifer Sale selections and get online store and order form ready for August 1st

PUBLIC COMMENT:

PUBLIC ACTS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Next Board Meeting is **Thursday, August 6th at 5:00 p.m. at the Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District Office.**

Motion to adjourn was made by Lizon at 7:10 p.m. seconded Lewis.

John Schmitz, District Manager

Doug Brown, Board Chair
Approved / Amended / Disapproved