

Approved: J. H. Love

Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District Board Meeting Minutes - May 7th, 2013

Board Members Present: Forbes McDonald, Tina Love, Orville Kabat.

Absent: Thomas Allan, Jane Bishop.

NRCS/District Staff Present: Kristina Denison, Patrick Blanz, Mark Pittenger, Nick Cassel, Michelle Jarvie, Kent Dankenbring, Pat Carr. **Absent:** Todd Insley.

MDARD Representative: Absent

The April minutes and treasurers reports were reviewed. Motion made by Kabat to accept, seconded by Love, Carried.

Public Comments:

Joanne Galloway, Farmer, Pickford. I recently made contact with Michelle Jarvie and Pat Carr about a green house project. I've been hearing rumblings of things so I thought I would stick my head in. Sounds like Michelle's job is in jeopardy. I heard this directly from Michelle. I became friends with her and her partner. The community wants to grow, this is who we want to keep.

Casey Munz, Farm Manager at Waishkey Bay Farm, Bay Mills Community College. I'm also here about the personnel issue. Michelle is part of the progress in our process at the farm. I heard some things directly from Michelle also. I am a part of those things and I don't think those things should be discussed here or made available because that is my privacy too. There is a relationship that is separate. If those things are shared outside of the realm then that is my privacy as well. I would like to continue my relationship with the USDA office.

Nome Buckman. I am Michelle Jarvie's partner. I find that the management practices are unprofessional and need to be looked into and addressed. I don't think that someone should have to work in an environment like that and I think that something needs to be done about it.

Sheila Bergdahl, Farmers Markets. I used to work in Human Resources and what I see is a conflict in personality. I think it is difficult in such a small office and there is no one to take care of Human Resource issues. I think you are doing your best to handle the issue given the circumstances surrounding it. It's much easier in a large corporation as compared to a small entity like this.

Other public in attendance: Mark Jones.

Program Reports:

-- Farm Service Agency (FSA) Report - Vining. Continual CRP sign-up starts May 20th, full sign up will go for four weeks. All payments are currently still frozen but whenever they open up the money will be available for pay out.

-- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report - Dankenbring. There is a second round of funding for \$250,000 for seasonal high tunnels, prescribed burning can now be put into plans and the Field Office Review was completed.

-- Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). - Jarvie. Continue to work on Asysts and prepare clients for verification, has reached 130% of deliverables for grant expectation, presented new Safe Food Asyst and MAEAP at the Agrifood Safety Workshops across the UP.

-- Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) Report - Blanz. Site visits are picking up now that the weather has warmed and the next few months will be spent doing field visits and following up with clients that made contact over the winter.

-- District Outreach and Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Report - Cassel. Hosted Full Partner Meeting in St. Ignace, preparing for start of field season and the Garlic Mustard Kick-Off to be held on May 11th at the Cut River.

-- Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative (CTAI) Engineer Report - Pittenger. Completed 19 AgLearn courses as well as two trainings in Marquette, has started field visits with landowners in conjunction with NRCS.

Other Business:

- Two new UPRC&D grants were received for further Phragmites work including ground mapping as well as GIS Mapping. Kabat motioned to accept and sign the grants, supported by Love, Carried.
- Farm Bureau Grant for Luce/West Mackinac and proposal for Chippewa/East Mackinac Farm Bureau were presented and required board signature. Kabat motioned that we accept and sign Luce/West Mackinac grant and write up for Chippewa/East Mackinac grant, supported by Love, motion carried.
- A personnel issue was brought to the table by the Executive Director regarding employee Michelle Jarvie. Discussion ensued but no action was taken.

Kabat moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Love, Carried. Meeting Adjourned.