



MACD General Assembly Meeting

November 3, 2017
Shanty Creek Resort
Bellaire, Michigan

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

(To be approved at the 2018 General Assembly)

Call to Order

The MACD Annual Meeting of the Assembly was called to order by Art Pelon, MACD President at 9:11am on November 3, 2017.

Member Districts in Attendance: Arenac, Branch, Chippewa Luce Mackinac, Clinton, Delta, Dickinson, Genesee, Huron, Ionia, Kalkaska, Kent, Leelanau, Livingston, Marquette, Missaukee, Muskegon, Oakland, Otsego, and Wexford.

Introduction of State Council Officers, Members and Staff

Pelon introduced State Council members, officers and staff members.

Approval of 2016 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Pelon asked for approval of the 2016 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Motion by Livingston, support by Genesee to accept the 2016 General Assembly minutes as printed. AYES-CARRIED.

Approval of 2017 Financial Report and 2018 Budget

Lori Phalen, Executive Director and Gerald Miller, Vice President reviewed the 2017 financial report and 2018 budget documents.

Pelon asked for approval of the 2017 financial report and 2018 budget.

Motion by Muskegon, second by Missaukee to accept the 2017 financial report and the 2018 budget as printed. AYES-CARRIED.

MACD President's Report

Pelon provided an overview of Association activities in 2017 and noted the changes to the budget for 2018. He shared his sincere appreciation for the support of board members and the opportunity to continue advocating for Michigan Conservation Districts if re-elected as president for an additional two year term.

Officer Elections

Patrick Costello, chairman of the Oakland Conservation District and Jane Bishop, board member of the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District introduced officer candidates and directed the election process.

The following candidates were introduced:

Candidates for President:

- Art Pelon, current MACD President and Ionia CD Chair
- Paul Schroeder, current MACD Region 7 Chair and Muskegon CD

Candidates for Vice President:

- Gerald Miller, current MACD Vice President and Kent CD
- Randy Gentz, current MACD Region 1 Chair and Marquette CD

Candidates for Secretary Treasurer

- Elaine Brown, current MACD Region 7 Vice Chair and Clinton CD Treasurer
- Donna Fritz, current MACD Secretary Treasurer and Huron CD

Ballots were distributed, one each to member Conservation Districts present.

Election Results

Costello and Bishop shared election results. MACD Officers for FY2018 and 2019 are as follows: Art Pelon, President; Gerald Miller, Vice President; Elaine Brown, Secretary Treasurer.

Motion by Genesee, support by Livingston to destroy the ballots. AYES-CARRIED.

Resolution Review & Consideration

Pelon opened the resolution discussion and consideration by informing members of two late resolutions that will be addressed in addition to the resolutions found in the Annual Meeting packet.

Members were asked if they would like the resolutions to be read before discussion.

Motion by Genesee, support by Kalkaska to have the motions read before discussion. AYES-CARRIED.

Pelon began by bringing forward the late resolutions:

Late Resolution – 2017-1

To support USDA Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) and its use as an important tool in implementing the installation of Buffer Strips on cropland adjacent to County Drains in the State of Michigan.

SPONSORING ENTITY:

MACD State Council

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Whereas, for many years the **Conservation Reserve program (CRP)**, Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) has allowed and encouraged the installation of Buffer practices on cropland adjacent to surface waters including County Drains for the protection and improvement of water quality, and

Whereas, Michigan's Conservation Partners and private landowners have made extensive use of the Buffer program throughout the State with excellent results in terms of controlling soil erosion and the movement of nutrients to surface waters, winter cover and nesting cover for wildlife and improved water quality, and

Whereas, a great many acres of the land now dedicated to buffer strip contracts are due to expire and cannot be reenrolled due to a change in policy by the Farm Service Agency which is no longer allowing cropland adjacent to County Drains to be eligible for **CRP** and CCRP Buffers;

Therefore be it resolved, that MACD immediately begin work with all of its Partners and Legislators to strongly encourage the USDA Farm Service Agency to allow cropland adjacent to County Drains in Michigan to be enrolled in the **CRP** and CCRP.

STATEMENT OF ACTION:

Therefore, be it resolved, that MACD immediately begin work with all of its Partners and Legislators to strongly encourage the USDA Farm Service Agency to allow cropland adjacent to County Drains in Michigan to be enrolled in the **CRP** and CCRP.

POTENTIAL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

MACD staff and member time to connect with legislators.

Pelon asked that the resolution be read and called for acceptance of the resolution to the floor at the conclusion of the reading.

Motion by Livingston, support by Oakland to accept the late resolution to the floor. AYES-CARRIED. Unanimous approval.

Pelon opened the floor to discussion.

Phalen explained the resolution and background which has prompted the State Council to address through policy. Miller clarified that if approved the resolutions would go forward to the North Central Region meeting and if approved would move to the NACD Annual Meeting in February.

Clarification of acronyms was provided (corrections noted in red).

Motion by Livingston, support by Oakland to amend the resolution to update the acronyms. AYES-CARRIED. Unanimous approval.

Pelon called for a vote on the amended resolution.

AYES-CARRIED. Resolution passed unanimously. (Change noted in red for correction)

Late Resolution – 2017–2

To Develop Alternatives to the Pipelines under the Great Lakes.

SPONSORING ENTITY:

Leelanau Conservation District

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Whereas, the Great Lakes contain and provide a large percentage of the earth's fresh water;

Whereas, the majority of the Great Lakes are primarily unpolluted; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes support an incomparable ecosystem of plants and animals; and

Whereas, this ecosystem supports the life and livelihoods of the Great Lakes states and much of Canada; and

Whereas, pipelines carrying petroleum products cross the Great Lakes and major tributaries numerous times; and

Whereas, an oil spill in the Great Lakes would cause incomparable damage to the ecosystem, ~~lives and livelihoods~~ and health of plants, animals, and people dependent upon the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, an oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac would, due to winds, currents, and boat traffic, spread the pollutants throughout Lake Huron and Lake Michigan; and

Whereas, mitigation of an oil spill is a lengthy and costly process, in terms of both time and resources.

STATEMENT OF ACTION:

Therefore, be it resolved, that the MACD supports immediate development of alternatives to ~~present~~ pipelines under the Great Lakes and their tributaries, before there is an environmental emergency.

POTENTIAL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Adds a topic to lobbying efforts with state legislators.

Submitted: November 2, 2017.

Pelon called for a vote to accept the resolution.

Motion by Otsego to accept the late resolution to the floor, second by Kalkaska. AYES-CARRIED. Unanimous approval.

Pelon called for discussion:

Leelanau Conservation District noted that the resolution was created to garner general support for the development of alternatives.

Motion by Otsego, support by Genesee to amend the original to add sports fishing as a livelihood. AYES-CARRIED – motion approved for discussion.

Pelon called for discussion.

Hearing none, Pelon called for a vote on the Otsego/Genesee motion: *FAILED*

Motion by Kent, support by Branch to strike "lives and livelihoods and add "and the health in the 7th Whereas statement.

Pelon called for vote on the Kent/Branch motion:

AYES- Carried. (Change noted in ~~strikeout red~~ and red for addition)

Pelon called for discussion. Hearing none, Pelon called for a vote on the amendment.

AYES-CARRIED.

Pelon called for a vote to approve the resolution as amended.

Motion by Leelanau, support by Otsego to add "present" before alternatives in the Therefore section. AYES-CARRIED.

Pelon called for a vote to approve the resolution as amended, amended.

AYES-CARRIED. Resolution passed unanimously.

Policy Resolution 2017 – 1

To support the Conservation Title in the Federal 2018 Farm Bill.

SPONSORING ENTITY:

MACD State Council

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Whereas, the five-year federal farm bill is being developed for 2018 and supports the federal agencies, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) that are critical to the Michigan Conservation partnership among NRCS, MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and MACD, and

Whereas, NRCS brings the programs and practice standards to districts and district staff provide the local technical assistance (TA) for farmers to implement these practices on the ground, and

Whereas, federal conservation funding programs have provided about \$20 million annually to Michigan farmers for cost share which provides for conservation practices and rural economic develop, and

Whereas, MACD follows the principles NACD has developed for the 2018 Farm Bill and has developed policy statements that were presented at the recent farm bill meeting and hearing, and

Whereas, farm bill technical assistance and potential NRCS budget cuts significantly affect the ability of the Michigan Conservation Partnership to provide technical and financial resources to farmers;

STATEMENT OF ACTION:

Therefore, be it resolved

1. The MACD ~~State Council~~ shall adopt this resolution to establish support for five policies regarding the conservation title of the farm bill as listed below.
 - Oppose potential farm bill budget cuts
 - Support for conservation technical assistance and conservation planning
 - Encourage flexibility in implementing the farm bill across the country based on local conditions and locally-led incentive models
 - Encourage farm bill education and outreach, especially to beginning, limited resource and socially disadvantaged farmers
 - Recommend that Congress simplify and minimize the paper work needed for access to farm bill cost share, specifically eliminating the need to use the SAMS and DUNS systems which are cumbersome, frustrating and time consuming hurdles

2. MACD shall promote and communicate these policies regarding the federal farm bill.

POTENTIAL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

MACD staff and member time working for farm bill education and action.

Pelon called for acceptance of the resolution.

Motion by Oakland, support by Arenac to accept the resolution and open it for discussion.

AYES-CARRIED.

Pelon called for Discussion.

Motion by Genesee, support by Clinton to amend by striking State Council in Therefore be it resolved, #1. AYES CARRIED. Resolution passed unanimously. (Change noted in strike out red)

Pelon called for a vote on the resolution as amended.

Motion on resolution as amended – AYES-CARRIED. Resolution passed unanimously.

Policy Resolution 2017- 2

To support Conservation District actions for improved septic system Management in Michigan.

SPONSORING ENTITY:

MACD State Council

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Whereas, water quality for human health and economic development are critical to Michiganders health and quality of life, and

Whereas, there are about 1.3 million on-site septic systems in Michigan with estimates that 10 to 20 percent may be failing and releasing human sewage, which has been identified as a pollutant in watershed water quality assessments for U.S. EPA Section 319 and other conservation district grant projects as well as university research, and

Whereas, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is proposing the establishment of a statewide TMDL for E. coli in Michigan waterbodies, and

Whereas, improperly functioning septic systems present a human health hazard for drinking and body contact, as well as impairing recreational and commercial use of water resources;

STATEMENT OF ACTION:

Therefore, be it resolved

1. The MACD ~~State Council~~ shall adopt this resolution to establish a policy of encouraging Conservation Districts to take any and all of the four strategies below to inform and educate homeowners and reduce the risk of human E.coli reaching inland ~~lakes~~, rivers and streams and harming human health through septic system design, use, assessment (evaluation), maintenance, and replacement.

Four recommended strategies in order of least to most effort needed:

- Information and education programs
- Site review process—using zoning strategies with setback
- Find and fix programs—GIS and parcel info to remind owners of system needs
- Time of Sale Ordinances—minimal to impact on sales, without funding support

2. MACD encourages each conservation district to support science-based and practical local policies and ordinances that enable local units of government to determine adoption and enforcement policies as appropriate locally.

POTENTIAL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

MACD staff and member time working for local education and action.

Pelon called for acceptance of the resolution.

Motion by Kent, support by Clinton to accept the resolution and open for discussion. AYES-CARRIED.

Pelon called for discussion.

Motion by Livingston, second by Oakland to strike "State Council" from first Therefore section. AYES-CARRIED. (Change noted in ~~strikeout red~~)

Motion by Leelanau, second by Kent to add "lakes" to first Therefore section. AYES-CARRIED. (Change noted in red)

Discussion commenced. Concerns expressed included: placement of CDs in regulatory role, steps are more geared toward health departments, current capacity of CDs limit engagement.

Gerald Miller, MACD Vice President and Kent CD Vice Chair responded by clarifying the intent of the resolution to encourage engagement of CDs. Noted that in the public input phase of the draft statewide E.coli TMDL, MACD responded as provided by current MACD policy. This resolution is to encourage local support of the current MACD policy by encouraging Conservation Districts to engage in providing information and education to Michigan's homeowners.

Pelon called for a vote on the amended, amended resolution.

Resolution Failed

Recount requested: Resolution Failed.

Bylaw Amendment 2017 – 1

Revise the list of Conservation Districts in Article 10

SPONSORING ENTITY:

MACD State Council

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Whereas: the list of Districts in ARTICLE 10 – REGIONAL COUNCILS in the MACD Bylaws is outdated;

STATEMENT OF ACTION:

Therefore be it resolved: that Article 10.11, 10.12, 10.15, 10.17, 10.18, 10.18, and 10.19 in the MACD Bylaws be updated to reflect the current Conservation Districts within each Region.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES: (*changes/additions noted in red*)

ARTICLE 10.1 THE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS -

For the purpose of the Association, the Districts are divided into the following regions:

1. 10.11 REGION 1 - ~~Baraga~~, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton-Keweenaw, Iron-~~Baraga~~, ~~Keweenaw Bay Indian Community~~, Marquette, and Ontonagon.
2. 10.12 REGION 2 - Alger, Chippewa-~~Luce-Mackinac~~, Delta, ~~Luce-West Mackinac~~, Menominee, and Schoolcraft.
3. 10.15 REGION 5 - Alcona, Alpena-~~Montmorency~~, Cheboygan, Crawford-Roscommon, Iosco, ~~Montmorency~~, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle.
4. 10.17 REGION 7 - Barry, Clinton, ~~Eaton~~, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, ~~and Ottawa. and Thornapple-Grand.~~
5. 10.18 REGION 8 - Allegan, ~~Berrien~~, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, ~~Gallen River~~, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph County, ~~St. Joseph River~~, and Van Buren.
6. 10.19 REGION 9 - ~~Blue Water (Sanilac and St. Clair)~~, Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, ~~St. Clair~~, ~~Sanilac~~, Shiawassee, and Tuscola.

Pelon called for a motion to accept the Bylaw Amendment.

Motion by Arenac, support by Chippewa Luce Mackinac to accept the bylaw amendment as written.

Pelon called for Discussion.

Hearing none, Pelon called for a vote

AYES-CARRIED. Bylaw amendment passed unanimously.

Bylaw Amendment 2017 – 2

Provide for the engagement of Associate Directors on the MACD State Council

SPONSORING ENTITY:

MACD State Council

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Whereas: the MACD State Council is comprised of representatives from the ten Regional Councils, and

Whereas: Regional Council participation is an additional responsibility for Conservation District Directors, and

Whereas: it is increasingly difficult for Regional Councils to fill leadership positions with active Directors, and

Whereas: because Regional Council positions are not filled, Conservation Districts that do not have Regional Council members do not have representation on the State Council;

STATEMENT OF ACTION

Therefore be it resolved: that the MACD Bylaws be updated to include a definition of Associate Director, and

Be it further resolved: to update the Bylaws to allow Regional Council members to be to be either a Director or Associate Director, and

Be it further resolved: to update the Bylaws allowing for Regional Council member vacancies of one year or longer to be filled by appointment by the President with confirmation by the State Council.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES: *(changes/additions noted in red)*

Article 2 – DEFINITIONS

Article 2.21 – Associate District Director – The term Associate District Director shall refer to an individual appointed by the duly elected and/or appointed governing officials of a Conservation District as defined in Article 2.1 and who is a resident of the District.

Article 6 – ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE

Article 6.1 – No person shall be eligible to serve as an Officer ~~or as a member of a council~~ or at the Assembly of the Association unless that person is a District Director.

Article 6.2 – Regional Council members must be a current or former Director. A former Director must be currently serving as an Associate Director within a Conservation District and whose residence is located within the District.

Article 10 – REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Article 10.43 – Regional Council member vacancies of one year or longer shall be filled by appointment by the President, with confirmation by the State Council.

Pelon called for a motion to accept the Bylaw Amendment.

Motion by Kent, support by Missaukee to accept the bylaw amendment as written.

Pelon called for Discussion.

Hearing none, Pelon called for a vote:

AYES-CARRIED. Bylaw amendment passed unanimously.

MACD Business and Partner Reports

Miller welcomed John Switzer, Conservation Programs Manager, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), and asked for a report.

Highlights:

- In FY17 MDARD provided over \$6 million in grants for voluntary conservation. Switzer stressed the importance and value of Districts to implement voluntary conservation programs in Michigan.
- Reminded board members of financial oversight duties.
- Looking forward to continuing the partnership with MACD on the new director training and the expansion of that training in 2018.
- FY2018 goals: strengthen the Conservation Partnership; Strengthen CD capacity through training and by providing additional support through MDARD.

MACD Executive Director and Michigan Envirothon Reports

MACD highlights provided by Phalen:

- Legislative advocacy efforts, including development of white paper and advocacy contract with Michigan Association of Counties to build legislative support for Michigan Conservation Districts.
- Expansion of director and manager training opportunities beyond the sessions provided during the Summer Conference and Fall Convention, through the creation of New Director and Staff Workshops. Four workshops provided in-depth training for new directors and managers in the summer of 2017. As an outcome of the workshops, additional training has been developed and is being offered during the MACD Convention.
- Webinars are an additional component of the expanded training, with three webinars offered in 2017: two QuickBooks training sessions and an in-depth overview of the MACD Insurance Program.

Phalen encouraged attendees to review the MACD 2017 Activities Report in the Annual Meeting packet and the FY2018 Plan of Work for an in-depth look at MACD activities and goals.

Michigan Envirothon highlights provided by Sandusky

- FY2017 Regional Expansion – Additional regions were created to provide more accessible locations for teams:
 - Region 1: Baraga, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, and Ontonagon
 - Region 2: Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Menominee, and Schoolcraft
 - Region 5: Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, and Roscommon
 - Region 6: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw

- The 23rd annual State Competition was held on May 17 – 19th at Michigan State University, Lansing MI. Twenty four teams from across the state qualified and received invitations to attend.
- Top 10 Overall Placings: 1st Hillsdale High School - Conservation Commandos; 2nd Glen Lake High School The Eh Team; 3rd Branch Area Career Center BACC PM; 4th Caro High School Honey Baes; 5th Glen Lake High School The Fungi Cacti; 6th Oakland Tech Campus NW Scubadiving Deer; 7th Branch Area Career Center BACC AM; 8th New Buffalo High School Holy Shitake; 9th Glen Lake High School The Johnsons; 10th Saginaw Valley Lutheran Atoms Family
- The North American Envirothon Competition: The first place team, Conservation Commandos from Hillsdale represented Michigan on the campus of Mt. Saint Mary's University Emmitsburg, Maryland July 23rd – July 29th

Other Business

Region 10 – Clark Humrich noted that the Region 10 meeting did not have a quorum, therefore officers were not elected. He shared his willingness to volunteer to chair the Region 10 to represent the region on the State Council.

Region 3 – Carol Hart noted her interest in volunteering to chair Region 3.

Pelon noted his willingness to appoint Humrich and Hart, asking for confirmation by the State Council during the State Council meeting scheduled for Friday, November 4. Appointment and confirmation process is now allowed by the bylaw change approved by the General Assembly.

Randy Gentz, Region 1 Chair asked for a count of Conservation Districts in presence. Nancy Szikszay, Region 10 Chair confirmed 19 out of 75 members in attendance, with one District with staff only in presence.

Closing Remarks & Adjourn

Pelon called for any additional business to come before the Assembly. Hearing none, Pelon called the meeting adjourned at 11:55am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori Phalen, Executive Director