MUSKEGON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2023 – Muskegon Conservation District Offices

In attendance: Vicki Luthy, Chris Q-Fagundo, Doug Wood, Gale Nobes, Lora Swenson, Leigh Ann Mikesell, Claire Schlaff, Emily Frasch, Eric Gielow, Jacob Baelstrom, Amanda Snyder, Fallan Chabala, Jill Koebbe, Amanda St. Amour

Call to Order by Luthy followed by Introductions

1. Additions/Changes to Agenda: None
2. Acceptance of Minutes from April 18, 2023. Motion by Fagundo, Second by Wood. Motion Carried.
3. Approval of Treasurer’s Report: Balance as of April 18, 2023, $1079.27. No Activity. Balance as of June 20, 2022, $1079.27. Motion to approve by Luthy, Second by Wood, Motion Carried.
4. Old Busine

- Nomination of Officers and discussion on election, tabled until next meeting.

- Meeting Calendar, Presentations and Venues. Suggestions for:

Sports Complex and new zip line – Vail has coworker who also works at Complex.

Lara Swenson tour of Heritage Landing and/or Kayaking Tour of Heritage Landing

Working tours to Muskegon Lake restoration sites.

1. New Business - Claire Schlaff and acting as fiduciary for Chemours Environmental Committee and cleanup of DuPont Property.

Motion by Fagundo, Seconded by Wood: The MCECC to act at the CEIC’s fiduciary manager to receive and hold donations to CEIC and disburse contributions as allowed by federal law and rules for funds collected by a 501c3.

CEIC to provide a letter of support by White River Township and a draft agreement for review by MCECC’s membership. If all concerns brought forth by the MCECC membership are met, the agreement will be finalized by the board.

Discussion: CEIC sought fiduciary from White River Township, WMSDRC, Conservation District, Community Foundation, Trout Unlimited and WMEAC. Repeatedly referred to MCECC. WMEAC to provide a template for a fiduciary agreement. Conservation District has applied for grants on behalf of CEIC and will manage funds associated with grant projects. Eric Gielow and Jacob Baelstrom have offered to review any documents and provide legal assistance.

1. Presentation by Emily Grasch, Executive Director – Muskegon Conservation District

What the Conservation District is Up To

The conservation district has not received regular funding from the state since 2008. Operations funding is sporadic from grant projects. The CD partners with the NRCS but does not have NRCS assistance inhouse (no funding).

Current Focus Areas:

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid: No minimum size of infestation. CD will provide a free onsite consultation and estimated cost for treatment.

European Frogbit – invasive aquatic plant. CD partnering with West Michigan Conservation Network (formerly the West Michigan CISMA)

Invasive Treatments (some free services) for Japanese Knotweed, Oriental Bittersweet, Chinese Yam and Phragmites.

MS-4 Storm Water Program

Dune Grass Planting

Patterson Dam Removal in Ravenna

Mona Lake Watershed Planning

Tree and Plant Sale

1. Round Table Updates
2. Adjourned

Stay Tuned for Meeting Methods and Venues

Next Meeting September, 2023