Approved: _____

Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District

Board Meeting Minutes- March 5th, 2013

Board Members Present: Orville Kabat, Tom Allan, Jane Bishop, Forbes McDonald
Absent: Tina Love
NRCS/District Staff Present: Kristina Denison, Patrick Blanzy, Mark Pittenger, Pat Carr, Kent Dankenbring, Bryan Hill. **Absent:** Michelle Jarvie, Nick Cassel, Todd Insley
MDA Representative: Absent

-- February minutes and treasurers reports were reviewed. Motion made by Kabat to accept, second by Bishop. Carried.

Program Reports:
-- Farm Service Agency (FSA) Report – Due to a family emergency the FSA Representative was not able to report.
-- Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Report – Dankenbring. The office had a large sign-up however not all applications were funded. Twenty-five Forest Management Plans, 2 CNMP applications, 2 Seasonal High Tunnels and 1 MAEAP fund code were pre-approved.
-- Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Report – Jarvie, presented by Denison. Updated numbers presented and currently at 76.7% of FY13 deliverables.
-- Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) Report – Blanzy. Increase in field visits and educational outreach. Interest in program continues to grow.
-- Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Report – Cassel, presented by Denison. A proposal was submitted for funding to restore habitat at the Cut River following the removal of Garlic Mustard. More invasive workshops presented and planning for the various activities in March.

- Conversation ensued regarding the possibility of supplementing the Phragmites grant in order to ensure that all landowners are engaged and able to participate in the program. Denison and Cassel will keep an eye open for funding opportunities.
- The topic of dredging in the area was also brought up and it was noted that the District should continue to be aware of what is going on in the area and how we can assist the community with our services.

Other Business:

- Vehicle Mileage calculations for each of the programs and overall for the District were presented. Currently, the majority of MAEAP/FAP activities fall under NRCS usage and thus they are able to use the NRCS Vehicle. An estimate of approximately 13,000 miles are travelled per year for the other programs (CWMA, SESC and District) which is just under $7,000 in mileage being paid out per year. It was felt that this amount was reasonable and no immediate action is necessary in terms of acquiring a vehicle at the time being but that options will be kept open and further research will continue.
- The tree sale is in full swing with over 45 orders and over $4,000 in sales. In addition we are seeing an increase in number of people donating in addition to their order.
- The current policy books were distributed for review over the next month or two by the board to suggest any changes or updates they deem necessary and also to update with the name change following the district merger.
- The district received a $750 amendment to the Forestry Assistance Program grant under MDARD as well as 2 contracts from UPRCD for work on Phragmites ($3,000 for hosting a kick-off workshop for the EUP and $1,500 to provide GIS Mapping Services.) Contracts were reviewed and a motion made by Kabat to sign the contracts. Second by Bishop. Motion carried and contracts were signed by the Chairman.

Allan moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Kabat. Meeting Adjourned.