



**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MINUTES
FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2010**

Tom Springer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:09 PM on December 21, 2010.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Springer Carol Higgins, Eddie Mackay, and Stephen Mock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Henry Miller

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy DeShon, John Graham, and Josh Crandall

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

GUESTS/PUBLIC FORUM: No guests present.

REPORTS: Staff reports were provided in advance of the meeting. Discussion of John's report ensued. John reported his attendance at the MACD Conference, paid for by scholarship. He attended a variety of classes and was most excited to report attending the Natural Shoreline Features workshop, which is intended to teach-the-teacher. The board was very excited by the possibility that John could begin to schedule meetings, such as with the Lake Templene Association and potentially earn income for the district. This fits the tangential goal of becoming more involved and engaged with the public so that when we are ready for the millage, people will be quite familiar with what we do. John also let us know that the MACD Regional meeting is being scheduled for July 27th: location and time to be determined.

Josh Crandall reported that he is working a significant amount of time in Coldwater until the new DC is hired, probably late March. St. Joe has most of its work under control but this is not true in Branch. Since they have not had a DC for a significant period of this last year, contracts and contacts with the farmers is chaotic. Josh reported that CSP, WHIP, and EQIP applications are due during January: AWEP applications are due in February. All of the CRP contracts have been signed and delivered to FSA. Josh also reported that the latest news is that NRCS will be considering "Energy" as an issue to address in coming years. Perhaps this could mean that diesel powered irrigation systems could be converted to an alternative energy source.

Carol Higgins reported that she will be representing the Potawatomi RC&D at the 2011 NARC&DC Leadership Forum: February 14-15 in Washington DC where she hopes to meet with Debbie Stabenow, the new Chair of the Senate Ag Committee and others. Carol will also be attending the 2011 Michigan Family Farms Conference on January 15, 2011.

GSP ST. JOE/BRANCH MOU: Stephen Mock motioned and Eddie Mackay seconded to authorize Tom Springer to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between St. Joe and Branch County Conservation Districts. Motion carried unanimously.

JOHN GRAHAM'S 2011 WORK AGREEMENT: Stephen Mock motioned and Eddie Mackay seconded to approve John's status change from "Seasonal" to "Regular, Part Time", providing for sick and vacation pay for every 80 hours worked. Motion carried unanimously.

SESC PERMIT FEES: Carol Higgins motioned and Eddie Mackay seconded to increase SESC permit fees, as listed in the Executive Director's report, effective 1/1/11. Motion carried unanimously.

AMY DESHON'S 2011 WORK AGREEMENT: Carol Higgins motioned and Eddie Mackay seconded to have Tom Springer sign Amy's 2011 Work Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW HIRE (SEASONAL IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN): Carol Higgins motioned and Eddie Mackay seconded to hire an additional, seasonal Irrigation Technician, as soon as is feasible. Motion carried unanimously.

RIVER CLEANUP PROJECT: Stephen Mock motioned and Eddie Mackay seconded to proceed with the River Cleanup Project as outlined by the Executive Director. Motion carried unanimously.

EDDIE MACKAY'S NOMINATION: Stephen Mock motioned and Carol Higgins seconded to nominate Eddie Mackay for the National Cattleman's Association Environmental Stewardship 2011 Award for his good work in pushing through a small farmer MEAEP program. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES: Carol Higgins motioned to approve the minutes of the November Board meeting. Stephen Mock seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED: Thomas M. Springer DATE: 11/11/11

AMY DESHON'S ANNUAL REVIEW: Tabled until the January meeting.

NOTTAWA TOWNSHIP PROPERTY TAXES: Carol Higgins motioned and Stephen Mock seconded to pay \$669.04 in property taxes on the MillFARM property in February after the Conservation District has received its County Appropriation. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVING THE ADJUSTED 2010-2011 ANNUAL BUDGET: Tabled until the January meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Financials were provided in advance of the meeting. Carol Higgins motioned and Stephen Mock seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn the meeting was taken from Eddie Mackay, Stephen Mock seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy DeShon
12/21/10