



KALAMAZOO  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT  
**MONTHLY  
MEETING OF THE  
BOARD**

***Our Mission: “Working  
with our community to  
protect, conserve, and  
restore the natural resources  
of Kalamazoo County”***

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# Call To Order!

2. Roll Call! (State Name and Association(s))

3. Consider Approval of January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 KCD Meeting Agenda

4. Consider Approval of December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 KCD Board Meeting Minutes

***5. Public Comments:***



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# Treasurer Reports

Review and Approve all December 2025 Financials;

- Signed banking review summary
- Balance Sheet
  - QBD compared to QBO
- Bills & Deposits Summary
- Profit & Loss YTF
- Profit & Loss Summary
  - QBD compared to QBO
- Payroll Summary
- Budget vs Actual
- Budget Appropriation

Any Questions?



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# Technical Reports:

1. Kalamazoo CD DM Report - Chandra Kinney; District Manager
2. MDARD Partner Report - Jack Knorek; MDARD Regional Coordinator
3. ~~Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs - Di'Shun Melbert; District Conservationist~~
4. CTAP Report - James Benjamin; MAEAP & Regenerative Agriculture Technician
5. NACD-TA Conservation Steward Report - Michael Marinez; Conservation Stewardship Technician
6. ~~CTAI Report - Allison Marshall. CTAI Technician (BCD/KCD/NRCS)~~
7. BCK-CISMA - Sara Hutteman; Invasive Species Coordinator
8. ~~Produce Safety - Patrick Gordon; Produce Safety Technician~~
9. Forestry Assistance Program - Ben Savoie; Regional Forester (Housed in Barry)



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# **Kalamazoo CD DM Report - Chandra Kinney; District Manager \*Highlights\***

- Presented at the MACD Conference
- Hosted our first Pilot Hunt in Kalamazoo - at Ed's Farm!
- Awarded Emerging Leader of the Year at MACD Conference
- Awarded \$10k of unrestricted funds from KZCF
- Finalized and submitted RAP Grant
- Finalized Annual Report
- Finalized Annual Meeting Event Details

Had a wonderful Holiday!

# MDARD Partner Report - Jack Knorek; MDARD Regional Coordinator

## \*Highlights\*

- Save the date: MACD will be hosting Legislative Day in Lansing on March 11th
- The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) is launching a new pilot program featuring a streamlined, hybrid training model designed to better support conservation planners on their path to certification.
- NFWF announced the Healthy American Forests Initiative RFP to support watershed restoration and vegetation management projects on National Forest System lands to achieve a healthy forest ecosystem. Applications have been extended until March 17th

CD Operations Funding Accomplishments	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Number of new grant proposals submitted	249	288	275	367
Number of new grants received	168 (67%)	172 (60%)	147 (53%)	227 (62%)
Total funds leveraged due to the Operations grant	\$11.8M	\$12.9M	\$16.6M	\$20.9M
Number of districts with millage support from county	N/A	13	13	14
Number of board meetings conducted	751	721	736	813
Number of municipality meetings attended	1,024	1,350	1,146	1,302
Number of legislative meetings attended	271	229	697	325
Number of FTE employees	231	299	293	320
Number of seasonal employees	86	87	69	58
Attrition - number of re-filled technician positions	N/A	32	49	36
Attrition - number of re-filled administrative positions	N/A	5	23	11
Number of programs	443	443	530	531
Number of outreach events/workshops hosted	1,174	1,484	1,791	2,424
Number of outreach events/workshops attendees	69,111	99,675	128,957	153,436
Number of trees & plants sold	N/A	2,010,224	1,457,396	1,338,293





~~Natural Resources Conservation Service~~  
~~Programs~~ ~~Di'Shun Melbert; District~~  
~~Conservationist~~  
~~\*Highlights\*~~



- No Updates this month





# **Conservation Stewardship - Michael Marinez; Conservation Stewardship Technician \*Highlights\***



- Pilot hunt hosted
- Working on Ag Learn Courses for CCP1
- Worked to create a partnership with MDNR and Hunters Feeding Michigan
- Attended MACD Conference

# **BCK-Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area - Sarah Huetteman; Invasive Species Coordinator**

## **\*Highlights\***

- Spongy Moth Workshop - Jan. 9th
- Faces of Conservation - Feb. 27th
- Kzoo River & River Trail Cleanup - March 28th
- Two for Red Swamp Crayfish – Trapping RSC in 9 lakes and collecting eDNA sampling \$15K each for one year.
- One for European Frog Bit survey – Currently no positive identifications within BCK \$13K over two years - Goal is to visit 20 sites in two years to survey for EFB



~~**Produce Safety—Patrick Gordon;**~~

~~**Produce Safety Technician**~~

~~**\*Highlights\***~~

- No Updates this Month





# ~~Conservation Technical Assurance Initiative—Allison Marshall; CTAI Technician (BCD/KCD/NRCS)~~

## ~~\*Highlights\*~~

- No updates this month



# Forestry Assistance Program - Ben Savoie; Regional Forester (Housed in Barry)

## \*Highlights\*

Deliverable Item	November 2025	December 2025
Total Individual Consultations (Site Visits, etc.)	5	3
QFP Enrollment in Acres	0	0
Total Referrals to Public (MAEAP, etc.) or Private Sector	8	5
Media Occurrences	3	3
Outreach Events Conducted/Presented	0	0

Any Narratives (Highlights, Impacts, Successes, or Details you'd like to share.)	<p>Meeting with new service area counties in the next month to determine needs and strategies to reach new clients.</p> <p>I will be reaching out to see when would be good to meet each new district's board of directors.</p> <p>MPFC Annual Conference, "Burning Issues" is currently being polished up and will be ready at Fort Custer this February.</p>	<p>Met with most of the new counties for a presentation on QFP as well as an overview of my program and goals. For the year.</p> <p>Working on getting lists of eligible parcels for QFP in the 6 new counties for mailers in the next month.</p> <p>Finished up all tree farm inspections before the 2026 Tree Farm audit.</p>
What do you need increased support with?	Looking forward to meeting with all of you for determining the best strategies to move towards program goals.	Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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# Old Business:

- Annual Meeting & Election:
  - DATE CHANGE!!!!!!! MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 5 PM - 8:30 PM at the AZO Venue, Lounge & Grill
- Final Review of our Annual Report





# New Business:

- Annual Plan Review
- Asylum Lake Committee - Green Zoning

# Public Acts & Notices:

1. EGLE Site-Specific Review Determination Letter

- Any Comments or Concerns?



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## DIRECTORS TIME!

- How do you see us aligning to better growth strategies?
- What connections do you have?
- What's going on in your world - environmental related?

MEETING ADJOURNED

**NEXT MEETING - 8 AM on  
February 20th, 2025  
at the KCD office**