



KALAMAZOO CONSERVATION DISTRICT

March 20th, 2026

Board Meeting Agenda

KCD Office – 5950 Portage Rd. Suit B, Portage, MI 49002

Working with our community to protect, conserve, and restore the natural resources of Kalamazoo County!

1 – CALL TO ORDER by Chair, Ed Cagney, at 8AM.

2 – ROLL CALL: Directors present: Ed Cagney, Tricia Keala, Andrew Fern

Directors absent: Lynn Coville

Also present: Chandra Kinney, Sandra Bliesener, John Gisler, Katie Schneider, Celina Robinson

3 – CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MARCH 20th, 2026, BOARD MEETING AGENDA:

Approval of Agenda movement carried by Tricia, seconded by Andrew; Voice Vote: Y3 N0 Motion: Carried

4 – CONSIDER APPROVAL OF JANUARY, KCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 16th, 2025, movement carried by Andrew, seconded by Tricia; Voice Vote: Y3 N0 Motion: Carried

5 – PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- **John Gisler:** Training office of emergency management April 13th in Oshtemo from 3-4:30p & April 15th from 3-4:30p in the Expo Center. Sky observers training April 18th. Additionally, KAZO is changing from Sheriff security to personal security as it has become too expensive to manage the enforcement. Hopefully not having a Sheriff that can display a badge and make an arrest will not cause any issues.
- **Katie Schneider:** Introduced herself as the Owner of Little Pistol Farms a specialty pumpkin farm in Oshtemo. She was happy to share her experience representing the district at Legislative Action Day on March 11th, 2026! Her story made an incredible impact on our Representatives and Senators, helping relay a message of vital importance to support Conservation Districts in Michigan!

6 - TREASURER REPORT:

Review and approve all January & February Financials:

- Balance Sheet (QBD+QBO)
- Deposits Summary
- Bills Summary
- Profit & Loss Summary (QBD+QBO+YTD)
- Payroll Summary
- Bank Reconciliation

Movement to approve January's Report carried out by Tricia, seconded by Andrew. Voice Vote: Y3 N0 Motion: Carried

~~Movement to approve February's Report carried out by ___, seconded by ___ Voice Vote: Y N Motion: No motion at this time.~~

7 - TECHNICAL REPORTS:

- KCD DM Report– Chandra Kinney, District Manager
- MDARD Partner Report – Jack Knorek, MDARD Regional Coordinator

- NRCS DC Report – Di’Shun Melbert
- CTAP Report – James Benjamin, MAEAP Technician
- ~~NRCS Soil Con. Report – Celina Robertson, Soil Conservationist~~
- BCK-CISMA – Sara Hutteman, Invasive Species Coordinator
- Produce Safety – Patrick Gordon, Produce Safety Technician
- CTAI Report – Allison Marshall, CTAI Technician (BCD/KCD/NRCS)
- FAP Report – Ben Savoie; Regional Forester

8 - OLD BUSINESS:

- Annual Meeting Recap – Outstanding feedback from community. Official Outcome of the Election: Tricia Keala 17 votes, Andrew Fern 18 votes. Tricia has been reelected for a full 4 year term. Andrew has been elected to complete the remaining 2 years of this elected officials term.
- Tree Sale Coming Up – Ed Pickup Trees April 13th, Volunteer Days April 14th & 15th, Sale Days April 17th & 18th.
- Kalamazoo Environmental Council – Looking for a pathway to create a resource HUB, I have shared this is my vision for KCD, thus would love the collaborative efforts. True need would be to hire a full time Communications & Outreach Specialist to collaborate with community to build HUB and fully manage its growth. KCD: Should we request money from the county to support this role? OR, should we pursue a millage to allow for a more impactful long term growth? – Board discussed pursuing and millage and having DM research pathway for a successful millage request.

9 - NEW BUSINESS:

- Appoint Sandy Bliesener as a new Board of Directors – Motion to appoint Sandra Bliesener to the Kalamazoo Conservation District Board of Directors, carried by Andrew, seconded by Tricia. Voice Vote: Y3 N0, Motion: Carried
- Evaluate Board Roles and Responsibilities – Sandra nominated Tricia as Vice Chair. Motion to make Tricia Keala the KCD Vice Chair carried by Ed, seconded by Sandra. Voice Vote: Y3 N0, Motion: Carried. Ed Nominated Andrew for Treasurer/Secretary Position. Motion to make Andrew Fern the KCD Treasurer/Secretary carried by Ed, seconded by Sandy. Voice Vote: Y3 N0. Motion: Carried
- Scrap Tire Recycling Events Launch – Registration for our 4 upcoming Scrap Tire Recycling Events has launched and registration is now available!
- Kalamazoo County Government Supporting Incubator Farmer Start-Up – The county is partnering with us to launch an Incubator Farmer Program, offering \$10,000 to hire an intern to help us get the program off the ground!

10 - PUBLIC ACTS & NOTICES:

- Johansen Determination Letter E.G.L.E. – No comments.

11 - DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

- Tricia’s space at Farmstead Flats is ready for a new beginning farmer to enter the space!

12 - ADJOURNMENT

Movement carried by Andrew, seconded by Tricia; Voice Vote: Y4 N0 Motion: Carried

➤ ***NEXT MEETING – 8 AM on April 10th, 2026, at the KCD office!!!***

X: _____ **Date of Approved Minutes:** _____