



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”*

March 20th, 2026



Call To Order!

2. Roll Call! (State Name and Association(s))
3. Consider Approval of March 20th, 2026 KCD Meeting Agenda
4. Consider Approval of January 16th, 2026 KCD Board Meeting Minutes
5. *Public Comments:*



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Treasurer Reports

Review and Approve all January 2026 & February 2026 Financials:

- Reconciliations - Signature Needed
- Bank Statement
- Balance Sheet
 - QBD compared to QBO
- Profit & Loss Summary
 - QBD compared to QBO
- Bills & Deposits Summary
- Payroll Detailed Report
- Treasurer Check List

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. ~~USDA NRCS Soil Con Report - Celina Robertson; Soil Conservationist~~
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

- Completed finalizing details for our Annual Meeting & Election of the Board
- Worked with multiple farmers on applying to the MDARD Specialty Crop Grant with Little Pistol Farms & applying to the MDARD Regenerative Farmer Network Grant with Silver Beet Farms, Beyond Sustainable Farms, Long Valley Farms, Flower Field Farmstead and Tiller's International.
- Strategizing a plan for IWLA course to align with KCD future growth.
- Outreach for upcoming events including tree sale, mushroom workshops and scrap tire recycling.

MDARD Partner Report - Jack Knorek; MDARD Regional Coordinator

Highlights

- We received a congratulations for receiving the MDARD Regenerative Agriculture Education and Outreach grant!
- CPU has created a CD Operations SharePoint for documents and training resources - Additionally, an updated CD Operations Manual will be updated to the site soon for DM reference.
- REMINDER! Q2 Reporting is due April 15th
- The CD retention and disposal schedule GS#38 has been updated. This update lengthens the requirements for keeping Oath of Office records and has added a schedule for volunteer records.
- Fall MACD Conference has been announced for October 20th - 22nd in Lansing, MI! If you can mark your calendars now, it would be wonderful to have a Board Member there representing us!
- MSU is offering a new monthly series on Local Government Policy and Practices throughout 2026.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Programs - Di'Shun Melbert; District Conservationist

Highlights



- Attended a Soil Health Testing Training
- EQIP Application Deadline is April 10th, 2026 - Di'Shun is prioritizing conservation planning for clients who are applying to EQIP FY26.
- Leaving for paternity leave for 12 weeks starting April 10th, 2026 - No current updates from the area office on coverage at this time. Request has been made for an experienced Soil Conservationist who would be able to take over full time during this 12 week phase.

USDA-NRCS Soil Con Report - Celina

Robertson; Soil Conservationist

Highlights

- No updates this month!





Conservation Technical Assurance Initiative - Allison Marshall; CTAI Technician (BCD/KCD/NRCS)

Highlights

NRCS Kalamazoo:

- Completed all initial payment processing steps for 2 clients (certified practices, generated 1245 Payment Application Form, got signatures, did payment checklist, and sent payment request). (BD, GE, BCH, LT/SF, MAL, TK/GW)
- Coordinated and carried out a site visit to certify brush management for 1 client. (JC)
- Called a forester to get brush management certification for 1 client. (BCH)
- Called one client, completed their cover crop certification, contacted their seed dealers for seed tag (LT/SF).
- Made corrections for 2 contracts' payments (BCH, JC)
- Solicited new 1199 from client.
- Uploaded 902s and producer farm data reports for 2 clients (MAL, GW)

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

Highlights

- An MDARD Permit has officially been awarded and an order submitted to a lab to introduce for the first time in Michigan, MAMW weevils to control mile-a-minute weed. All monitored under a GVSU Graduate Study. Weevils to be released mid-June.
- We are ramping up to invite fellow CISMAs to come and assist us in applying pre-emergent herbicide to pre-determined locations for MAMW control.
- **Events/Outreach:** Kalamazoo River & River Trail Clean Up - Organizer: Michigan Waterways Stewards - March 28, 2026
Table at Barry Roubaix April 18, 2026 – Bike Decon and Plants to look out for.



Produce Safety - Patrick Gordon; Produce Safety Technician

Highlights



- 2/2/26 National Conservation Planning Partnership Soil Health Meeting
- Travel to San Antonio NACD Annual Meeting/ CCP Field Work (2/14)
- NACD/ CCP Field Work (2/15- 2/20)
- Completed Level 2 Conservation Planning Training



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

Highlights

Deliverable Item	January 2026	February 2026
Total Individual Consultations	3	4
QFP Enrollment in Acres	0	0
Total Referrals to Public (MAEAP, etc.) or Private Sector	6	6
Media Occurrences	3	3
Outreach Events	1	5
Total Outreach Event Attendance	30	315
Any Narratives (Highlights, Impacts, Successes, or Details you'd like to share.)	<p>Working with 6 county equalization departments to sort out QFP eligible landowners and send out mailers to them.</p> <p>Final setup for Buning Issues, will be passing on my position as Chair of the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council.</p> <p>2 QFP properties in the process of application should have roughly 200 acres enrolled soon.</p>	<p>Cultivating Resilience to reach farmers with forested land</p> <p>Burning Issues to connect with landowners interested in Rx Fire and get more familiar with resources available</p> <p>Presentation for Laketown Township on Oak Wilt Management</p> <p>QFP + Conservation Easement presentation w/ Allegan landowners and neighboring land conservancies</p> <p>Faces of Conservation & BCD Annual Meeting</p>
What do you need increased support with?	<p>February will be a month full of events, looking forward to reporting back and taking lessons from them to the future.</p>	<p>I have had so much support from every <u>county</u> I work in, as <u>long</u> as we keep this pace we will be in for a great year!</p>

- Spring has sprung! After the cold start to February, and after attending so many events all across my service area, we are seeing a huge increase in interested clients. We are starting to work with a few local foresters to host QFP related events across SW MI, and we have been able to start making use of the Michigan Forest Associations' Forest and Water Fund!



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Old Business:

- Annual Meeting Recap!
 - Feedback on event?
 - Election Results - Lisa Robb will be available as a notary after this meeting!
- Tree Sale Coming Up!!!!
 - Ed - Pick Up Date April 13th
 - Pick Up Locations and Checks in your folder.
 - Volunteer Dates @ Farmstead Flats:
 - April 14th & 15th
 - Tree Sale Pick Up Dates @ KCD Office:
 - April 17th & 18th
- Kalamazoo Environmental Council - NEXT MEETING Monday, March 23rd from 3PM-4PM @ KCD Office.
 - Exploring options to fulfill this community need: request county funds? progress towards millage?



New Business:

- David Benac (ViceChair) has officially resigned from his position. We would like to appoint Sandy Bliesener to the board!
- Now that we have a full board with all 5 chairs filled - lets officially nominate new board positions.
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair
 - Treasurer
 - Secritary
- Taylor Van Winkle has come to me with interest to fund a small project around localizing food sources. I found this to be a great opportunity to further our Incubator Farmer Project work, and obtain and intern!

Public Acts & Notices:

1. Johansen: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Site-Specific Review (SSR) 10096-20262-13 - Zone C water withdrawal.

- Any Comments or Concerns?



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?
- How can you better contribute to the growth of KCD?

NEXT MEETING - 8 AM on

~~April 17th, 2026~~

**(RESCHEDULE: Please motion to
change our next board meeting to
either the 10th or 24th,
at the KCD office, Thank you!**



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MEETING ADJOURNED!