How Did Soil and Water Conservation District Come to be Formed?

Although many soil conservation activities occurred in the United States in the 1920s, it wasn’t until the 1930s that actions became serious. On May 12, 1934, the worst dust storm in the nation’s history swept eastward from the Great Plains to the Atlantic Ocean, obscuring the sun and depositing obvious films of dust as it moved. This catastrophic storm served as the catalyst for public outcry and congressional action for soil and water conservation throughout the nation.

On April 27, 1935, congress passed, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the Soil Conservation Act of 1935, Public Law No. 46, which established the Soil Conservation Service within the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Previously, farmers had surprisingly little direct contact with the USDA and were very sceptical of federal involvement. Several government officials recognized the built-in fragility of this budding relationship and realized that the long term cooperation of landowners would depend on a linkage of federal, state and local government.

Because of their efforts, Congress passed a resolution which the President signed, calling for states to become the conduit for soil and water conservation assistance from USDA to landowners. The new law established a state soil conservation agency and procedures whereby local soil and water conservation districts could be organized.

The Iosco Conservation District was established by a vote of the people of Iosco County at a referendum which was held July 12, 1951. The District is governed by a five member Board.

The District shares office space with Natural Resource Conservation Service in the USDA Service Center on M-55 in Tawas City.

Board Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Conservation District Office, at 4:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend these meetings. -Portions adapted from http://mahoningswed.org/history.htm

We are here to help and advise our community members on wise land use decisions so that we can collectively maintain the health of our natural resources for future generations.
ABOUT OUR DIRECTORS

Richard Payea:
Rick was born in Dearborn, MI and his family relocated to Tawas when he was 2 years old. After graduating from Tawas High School he went on to obtain BAs in Biology, Natural Science and Math at Alma College. Later he attended the University of Guadalajara, Mexico where he received his MD and PHD. His internship took place at Pontiac General and residency at Flint St. Joseph, then on to private practice here in the Tawas Area. Rick has served on the Board since 2013, currently as Board Chairman, and is seeking reelection this year for a four year term.

Cliff Miller:
Cliff Miller was born and raised in the Tawas Area. Graduating from Tawas High School in 2003, he went on to earn a Bachelor’s of Business degree from Northwood University in 2007. After graduating from college, he spent the next five years working for the Hanover Insurance Group. In 2012 Cliff returned home and has been employed as a Certified Insurance Counselor at Tri-County Insurance Agency. He has been involved with the Iosco Conservation District since 2013 as Treasurer of the Board of Directors. Cliff looks forward to continuing to support the momentum of the district. Cliff’s current term on the Board will expire in 2019.

Sharon Czaika:
Mostly known for being co-owner of Czaika’s Blueberry Farm in Tawas City, Sharon also holds a BA in Biology with emphasis in Ecology and an MA in Biology, has taught Biology at the high school and community college levels, and is an Advanced Master Gardener. Her history with the Conservation District started when she and the Alabaster Township Supervisor attended a nature walk led by the ICD Forester. She later invited the Forester to verify her tree identifications along the Alabaster Bike Path Arboretum. Next, she was asked to teach one of the four stations for the 5th grade field trip at the Ingalls property which led to an invitation to join the Board of Directors to fill a vacant position. This is Sharon’s second year of a four year term on the ICD Board of Directors.

Patrick Jacques:
Pat was born and raised in the Tawas area, and graduated from Tawas High School. Pat went on to obtain an Associate of Science degree in Natural Science from Alpena Community College and an Associate of Applied Science degree from the State University of New York. He is currently employed by the Weyerhaeuser Company. Pat is an asset to the Board because of his extensive knowledge of natural resources. His term on the Board will expire in 2021.

Brian Pritchett:
Brian grew up in Commerce Township, Michigan. He graduated from Central Michigan University with his Bachelors degree in Operational Management. Upon completing his studies he went to work for Exel Logistics in Johnstown, New York. In 2015, Brian and his wife, Jill, moved to East Tawas from Spartanburg, South Carolina. He currently works for Cooper Standard in Oscoda. He became involved in the Conservation District late in 2016 and is eager to help continue to grow the District’s conservation efforts. Brian has completed the first year of his first term on the Board of Directors.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.
MAEAP stands for the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program. It’s a **free, confidential program** designed to assist all sizes and types of farms in addressing and mitigating any potential environmental risks. The program is intended to be delivered to farmers using 3 steps.

**These steps include:**

1) **Education:** This gives the farmer a chance to learn about the program and its benefits before scheduling a farm visit with their technician.

2) **On Farm Risk Assessment:** This involves having your local technician out to evaluate your farms management practices. The farm has the opportunity to go through various assessments unique to their operation which include: Farmstead, Cropping, Livestock, Greenhouse, Nursery/Christmas tree and the new Forest, Habitat and Wetlands Assessment. The technician will give you an Action Plan and can provide technical assistance for implementing certain practices.

3) **Verification:** If the farmer completes the needed improvements highlighted in their Action Plan, the producer can become verified and be able to get a MAEAP sign, along with other incentives for completion.

_If you would like more information about the program or to set up a free farm visit, please contact your county technician:_

**Iosco County**
Amanda Turner
989-726-3413

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**2017 Iosco County MAEAP Verifications:**

- Beebe Farm– Cropping System
- Iosco CD Ingall’s Forest- Forest, Wetlands and Habitat System
- Whispering Leaf Farm LLC- Farmstead, Cropping and Livestock Systems

**TOTAL VERIFICATIONS: 5**
Farm Bill Programs Activity Update:
- 9 EQIP contracts have been obligated.
- 4 applications currently in process for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- Processing one application for the Conservation Stewardship Program.
- Met with 3 landowners interested in technical and financial assistance.
- FY 2017 payments made $61,851.
- Payments made to date in FY 2018 are $8,834.
- Conservation practices applied on 646 acres in FY 2017.

Conservation Practice Design/Installation/Certification/Payments:
- Payment made for tree/shrub establishment.
- Certification and payment made for tree/shrub establishment.
- Complete inspection of water control structure with area engineer.
- Completed wetland and highly erodible land reconsiderations for 2 landowners.

Meetings/Trainings:
- MACD summer conference June 4-5 in Bay City.

Special Projects/Activities:
- Project RED May 24.

Reminders:
- Currently taking applications for all programs.

Landowners should make an appointment with their local NRCS office to begin the conservation planning process. More information about the programs available can be found online at www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov.

Ingalls Forest Challenge Course - Continued from previous page

The finishing touches for the stations are currently being completed, and signage for the course, is being established. The course will be officially complete by the end of summer, 2018.

Each station is designed to be fun, yet challenging. Skills necessary for completing the course range from balancing at the “The Whale Watch” and “The Rope Walk” stations to problem solving at “The Cube”, “The Wall” and “The Zig Zag” stations. “All Aboard” and “The Shuffle” require both. All stations develop communication, cooperation and mutual assistance among group members as they complete tasks. For safety reasons, spotters are required at each station.

The seven station course is located along the trails at Ingalls forest. Scheduling for use of the course is available through losco Conservation District. (989-362-3842, Ext. 5)
Hunter Access Program Available in Iosco County

Landowners in Iosco County have an opportunity to receive payments for allowing hunters to use their property. Hunter Access Program (HAP) is a voluntary land leasing program. The DNR leases lands from private landowners to provide additional hunting areas for hunters living in, or near, high urban development and limited public land. Private landowners determine if all hunters, or youth and apprentice hunters only, may hunt on their property. They also determine if hunters may harvest deer only, turkey only, small game only, all legal species, or a combination of any of these options. Property owners specify the maximum number of hunters allowed on the land at any one time. Enrolled lands can be found throughout lower Michigan and a portion of the eastern Upper Peninsula.

Two properties in Iosco County (one of which is the Iosco Conservation District’s Ingalls Forest) are currently enrolled in the program and more properties are always being sought. Properties must be at least 40 acres in order to be enrolled. The Iosco Conservation District is available to assist in establishing and monitoring HAP properties and is operating the program under a $3,500 grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).

More information, along with a current listing of enrolled HAP lands, can be found at www.gov/hap. Questions and inquiries may be directed to the Iosco Conservation District by calling 989-362-3842, ext 5.

Coming Soon - Ingalls Forest Challenge Course

Looking for a new way to enjoy the forest? Check out the newly constructed Ingalls Forest Challenge Course. The challenge course is designed for groups of 6-10 people and can be used recreationally or educationally. Participants work together to complete the challenge tasks at each station. Although some physical ability is an advantage in completing the task at a station, it is the communication and teamwork skills developed on the course that will ultimately allow a group to be successful.

The Ingalls Forest Challenge Course is the result of hours of planning and construction by many individuals and the financial support of several organizations. Directors and staff from Iosco Conservation District, along with members of partner organizations H2O and Tawas Elks, began planning the design of this project in fall, 2016. Purchase of construction materials was made possible through donations from each of the partner organizations and in fall, 2017, construction began.

Under the leadership of District Forester, Eric Brandon, and Tawas Elks member, Brad Saegesser, much of the construction was completed in a single day. Students from the IRESA Alternative Education Program provided much of the labor for the construction project and were supported by adult volunteer assistance from ICD, H2O and Tawas Elks.

continued on next page...
Iosco Conservation District

Profit & Loss
January through December 2017

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

HAP
270.300 - Annual Meeting Income
270.302 - Donations
Total 270.300 - Annual Meeting Income

281.600 - Other Income
281.605 - Interest earned
286.604 - Conference sponsorship
291.600 - Other Income - Other
Total 281.600 - Other Income

294.000 - Tree Sales and other sales income
294.600 - Tree Sale Flyer sponsorship
294.647 - Spring Tree Sale revenue
294.648 - Miscellaneous Sales
294.649 - Tree Sales and other sales income - Other
Total 294.000 - Tree Sales and other sales income

Total Income

Gross Profit


Expense

280.000 - Legal's Property Expenses
270.000 - Annual Meeting Expenses
270.201 - Printing supplies and cost
Total 270.000 - Annual Meeting Expense

281.700 - District Operation Expenses
281.703 - Payroll Expenses

281.704 - Personal service control
281.701 - Admin wages
Total 281.700 - Personal service control

281.765 - Federal Tax
281.766 - State Tax

281.702 - USA Exp

281.816 - Annual Sales Tax
281.817 - Workers Compensation
281.818 - Employee Fingerprinting
Total 281 - District Operation Expenses

281.800 - Other Services and Charges
281.805 - Insurance Expense
281.808 - Transportation-Millage-Staff
281.810 - Professional Fees
281.811 - Post Office Exp
281.814 - Conference Expenses
Total 281.800 - Other Services and Charges

282.000 - Office Supplies
282.301 - Supplies
282.302 - WiFi Cost
Total 282.000 - Office Supplies

286.000 - Tree Sale Expenses
286.301 - Refunds - Tree Sales
286.302 - Tree Sale Supplies
286.303 - Cost of Goods Sold - Trees
286.205 - Printing and Advertising
286.600 - Tree Sale Expenses - Other
Total 286.000 - Tree Sale Expenses

Total Expense

Net Ordinary Income

Net Income

Iosco Conservation District Organization Partners

H2O
Huron Pines
Tawas Area Schools
NRCS
Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Outdoor Writers Association
Ascension Health System Tawas St. Joseph Hospital

Iosco Conservation District
190 W M-55
Tawas City MI 48763
989-362-3842, ext. 5
www.ioscoconservation.org
## Iosco Conservation District
### Summary Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>Dec 31, 17</th>
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<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
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<table>
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<th>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</th>
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<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</td>
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### Accomplishments 2017

**Iosco Conservation District**

- Reforestation Tree Sale
- Phragmites Treatment Project at Tawas St. Joseph Hospital
- Pavilion Construction Project
- Ingalls Forest Challenge Course
- Countywide MAEAP Certifications including Ingalls Forest
- Spring and Fall Mushroom Hunts
- Tree Grafting Workshops
- Winter Tree ID
- Wheels to Woods field trip to Britt Family Maple Syrup
- Information booths at Iosco County Fair, Michigan Forest Association Conference, Project RED, Family Fun Fair

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*Sustaining the Land for Future Generations*
Ingalls Forest Becomes MAEAP Certified

On June 28, 2017, Erin Satchell from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) visited Ingalls Forest. Ingalls Forest is owned and managed by losco Conservation District. The purpose of Satchell’s visit was to verify requirements of the Forest, Wetlands and Habitat System at Ingalls Forest had been met. The risk assessments completed by MAEAP Technician, Amanda Turner, along with leadership efforts made by District Forester, Eric Brandon, laid the foundation for this verification. losco Conservation District was commended for implementing good management tools for the tree farm operation at Ingalls Forest. Certification under this MAEAP verification is valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance.

Representatives from losco Conservation District hold signs that are now on display at the entrance to Ingalls Forest. Pictured (left to right) are District Manager Allen Pauly, MAEAP Technician Amanda Turner, District Forester Eric Brandon, and ICD Directors Cliff Miller and Sharon Czaika.

Pavilion Constructed at Ingalls Forest

In Fall, 2017, construction of an open sided pavilion structure began. Under the direction and dedicated efforts of ICD Director, Rick Payea, and District Forester, Eric Brandon, a completed pavilion now stands on the former site of a barn structure that had been razed years earlier due to safety concerns. Payea and Brandon, along with a loose band of volunteers, spent countless hours to get the structure to a point that the structure could withstand a Michigan winter. The two resumed efforts this spring to finish the roof with shingles.

This project could not have been made possible without the expertise and specialized tools and equipment provided by Payea and Brandon. Their time and work invested in constructing the pavilion will serve ICD and the greater losco County region well for many years to come. In fact, the pavilion has already seen use. The Spring Mushroom Hunt was centered at the pavilion. The structure also provided a meeting site and shaded work station for 90 sixth grade students who visited Ingalls Forest on a very hot spring day.

While the pavilion was erected for the purpose of providing a protected area for ICD meetings and educational programming, it can also be rented to organizations and private parties who are seeking a rustic outdoor setting for events. Rental of the pavilion can be arranged by contacting the ICD office at 989-362-3842, ext. 5.