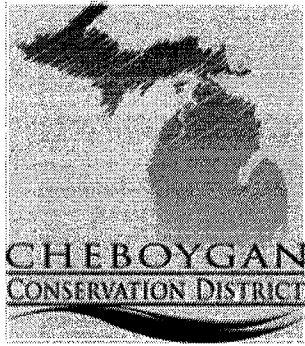


2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CHEBOYGAN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

870 S. Main St., P.O. Box 70, Cheboygan, Michigan 49721

Phone: (231)627-8484 Website: www.cdcheboygan.org



All District programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regards to race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status or physical or mental handicap.

District to Forgo Holding Annual Meeting for 2021

The District Board of Director's made the decision to cancel the Annual Meeting scheduled for October 20, 2021 due to spikes in COVID. Board members whose terms expired this year have been appointed by the District Chairman until an election is held at the annual meeting in October 2022. The district looks forward to gathering safely with the public at that time.

If you hunt, fish, boat, hike, garden, farm, or anything else involving natural resources, then you benefit from Michigan's 75 Conservation Districts working to put conservation on the land!

- Districts are local units of State Government by law that utilize state, federal and private sector resources to solve today's conservation problems. Districts are not non-profit.
- Districts provide linkages between landowners and managers and a host of conservation service providers which include state, federal and local governments, conservation organizations, and the agricultural community.
- Conservation Districts continually scan the needs of their local communities, work in partnership with others involved in conservation to set local priorities and develop action plans to solve natural resource problems.
- Programs carried out by Conservation Districts are as diverse as the landscape in Michigan. In southern Michigan, many of the programs deal with conservation needs of the farm community, while in northern Michigan there is more emphasis on forestry, wildlife, water quality and recreation.
- Delivery of these efforts by Conservation Districts allow citizens to manage their land for a cleaner, healthier, and more productive Michigan.
- Today there are nearly 3,000 Conservation Districts nationwide.

The Cheboygan Conservation District became the 42nd Conservation District in Michigan on June 1, 1948, the date of the Certificate of Organization issued by the Secretary of the State of Michigan.

Mission Statement: The Cheboygan Conservation District is dedicated in assisting the citizens of Cheboygan County by promoting wise use of our natural resources through education, technical assistance and community service.



THE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Brittany VanderWall, District Forester (Cheboygan & Presque Isle Counties)

The position is funded through a grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. I am the primary contact for all non-industrial private landowners regarding technical assistance, education, and advice on forest management activities in Presque Isle and Cheboygan counties.

My role is to assess properties and assist landowners with identification and organization for their management goals and refer them to private or public sector individuals/businesses in order to accomplish those goals. I discuss tax-relief and cost-share programs such as the Qualified Forest Program, Forest Stewardship Program, and Environmental Quality Incentives Program with landowners and assist them with the enrollment process. I assist landowners in identifying and monitoring their risk for invasive forest pest and diseases. I developed a Plan of Work under the guidance of an Advisory Panel made up of local private, public, and industrial natural resource professionals.

FY 21 Highlights: (Cheboygan & Presque Isle)

Site Visits: **78**

Referrals to Public & Private Sector: **65**

Qualified Forest Program Acres Enrolled: **3,339**

OUTREACH:

- Field day in Pellston in partnership with the Michigan Forest Association and the Michigan Tree Farm Committee. Approximately 12-15 landowners in attendance. Focus areas: timber harvesting, hardwood management, tree farm program requirement and enrollment working with a forester.
- Gypsy moth seminar at Rogers City Library. Low attendance, but engaged audience. Repeated early F.Y. 22 at Onaway Library to similar low attendance/high engagement audience.
- NEMGLISI Summer Institute utilized property (Herman Vogler Conservations Area) as a site for hands-on teacher learning regarding water quality.
- Rogers City clean-up hosted in partnership with Great Lakes, Great Responsibility. Over 4,000 pieces of trash were removed by the many volunteers who turned up to assist.
- Landowner Field Day in partnership with Headwaters Land Conservancy. Small, but engaged attendance. Focus areas: conservation easements, timber management, working with a forester and cost-share enrollment.
- Herman Vogler Conservation Area tree planting hosted in partnership with Huron Pines. 15-20 volunteers from the community planted 50-100 trees throughout the property in select areas. Huron Pines partner work at Herman Vogler/Rogers City area to continue into 2022.
- Posen Student Field Day at Thompson's Harbor in partnership with Huron Pines, NEMGLISI and NOAA B-WET. Students learned about rare coastal fern habitat and the rare dwarf lake iris flower.
- Creation of a TikTok account for forestry education. 31 videos posted to date. 4,967 followers and 20,800 video likes.

**YEAR END FINANCIAL POSITION
Cheboygan Conservation District**

Receipts & Disbursements as of 9/30/2021

INCOME

Cheboygan County Commissioners	\$ 13,227.40
HAP Income	2,102.90
Operations Revenue	389.71
Tree Sale	<u>8,278.10</u>

Total Income **\$ 23,998.11**

EXPENSE

District Operations	\$ 16,984.54
HAP Expense	1,330.40
Tree Sale	<u>5,620.26</u>

Total Expense **\$ 23,935.20**

Statement of Financial Position as of 9/30/2021

ASSETS

Current	\$ 14,907.32	Total Assets	\$ 14,907.32
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LIABILITIES

Current	\$ 3,583.47	Total Liabilities	\$ 3,583.47
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EQUITY

Opening Balance Equity	\$ 11,260.94		
Net Income	<u>62.91</u>		
		Total Equity	\$ 11,323.85

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$ 14,907.32**

DISTRICT'S SPRING 2021 SEEDLING SALE

Each year the district holds a spring tree seedling sale. Cheboygan County landowners can purchase tree and shrub seedlings, small fruit, and planting aids. 70 orders were distributed at the Cheboygan County Fairground on Friday, April 23rdth & Saturday April 24th, 2021. A total of 7,690 seedlings, 589 fruit plants, 57 ferns, 375 marking flags, 140 mesh tree guards and 21 bags of tree planting gel were sold. For more information about the tree sale or to have your name placed on the mailing list to receive an order form, please call Peggy at the district office at (231)627-8484 or email: pegbannatyne@gmail.com.

NRCS CONSERVATION RECAP FOR 2021

Boyd Byelich, NRCS District Conservationist

Cheboygan County continues to actively increase its conservation footprint, with great support of the Cheboygan Conservation District Board and Administrator. The consistent messaging of the benefits of conservation and opportunities for assistance in getting that conservation implemented on the ground has resulted in increased interest and participation in available programs.

2021 saw the obligation of 12 new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts, with a footprint on 1094 acres and a conservation assistance value of \$72,427.00. Combined with the 28 existing contracts, this represents conservation assistance on a total of 40 contracts, 3,216 acres, and \$621,391.00 in assistance. The EQIP program is the bread-and-butter conservation program responsible for financial assistance on about 95% of the conservation implemented on the ground. Typical contracts are for grazing systems, forest management plans, fuel and fertilizer storage, forest thinning, wildlife habitat improvements, and pollinator plantings.

In addition, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) had 2 new contracts. When combined with the one existing contract, this represents stewardship on 54 acres with a conservation contribution of \$33,398.00. This program is for enhancements and activities considered above-and-beyond the practices in the EQIP program. These activities may include early successional habitat development, crop enhancements, and grazing activities like monitoring, body condition scoring of livestock and bale grazing.

One interesting activity included the initiation of forage production plots in several counties. Staff met with interested producers and set up ¼ meter plots at two locations on each farm. Each month from June to October, staff clipped forage from the plots. One plot was clipped at a height of 1" to demonstrate the impacts of heavy grazing and the other plot was clipped at the recommended grazing height of 4" to see the difference when managed grazing is applied. The 4" minimum grazing height is universally recognized by universities as the height at which there is adequate leaf area remaining for the plant to recover from grazing and with no detrimental impact to their root systems. Please contact us if you would be interested in plots on your farm.

Please contact us if you are interested in any natural resource or agricultural activities on your land or farm. We can assist with any technical questions, and may be able to offer financial assistance for implementing conservation practices on your land. Contact Boyd Byelich at 307-286-4807 or boyd.byelich@usda.gov



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

FISCAL YEAR 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ❖ Held spring tree sale program – tree and shrub seedlings, small fruit plants and tree planting aids were sold.
- ❖ Assisted citizens with issues such as, natural resource management questions, historical aerial photos, soils information, etc....
- ❖ District Forester assisted individuals through Forestry Assistance Program and the Qualified Forest Program.
- ❖ Twelve (12) properties were enrolled in Qualified Forest Program for Fiscal Year 2021. A total of seventy-seven (77) properties have been enrolled since the program's inception in 2013.
- ❖ Held Bi-monthly District Board Meetings which were open to the public.
- ❖ Participated in Hunting Access Program – Currently have three (3) Landowners enrolled with four (4) properties.
- ❖ Prepared District Annual Plan of Work for Fiscal Year 2022.
- ❖ Conducted a Natural Resource Assessment Survey for input for five year District Resource Assessment which is currently being prepared.
- ❖ Maintained District Website (www.cdcheboygan.org) and Facebook.
- ❖ Promoted Forestry Assistance Program, Qualified Forest Program, Hunting Access Program & MAEAP through publications, website, and office bulletin board, etc....
- ❖ Partnered with USDA-NRCS and various partners to implement conservation practices under the Farm Bill Programs.
- ❖ Prepared Districts Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021 and Districts Budget Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 2022.
- ❖ Ordered Seedlings for spring 2022 Tree Sale from Nurseries.

~ THANK YOU! ~

The Cheboygan Conservation District Board of Director's & Staff would like to thank the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioner's for their continued financial support throughout the years.
