

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## CHEBOYGAN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Phone: (231)627-8484 Website: [www.cdcheboygan.org](http://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.*

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### 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

#### CHEBOYGAN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022 – 6 P.M – 8 P.M.

TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, INDIAN RIVER, MI.

~ Native American Production of Maple Sugar Presented by Keith Knecht, Interpreter of Native American Ways and Traditional Arts ~

~ District Director Election ~

~ District Program Updates ~

~ Door Prizes ~

~ Refreshments & Beverages ~

PLEASE RSVP BY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022 AT (231)627-8484 OR EMAIL:

[pegbannatyne@gmail.com](mailto:pegbannatyne@gmail.com)

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***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 42<sup>nd</sup> Conservation District in Michigan on June 1, 1948, the date of the Certificate of Organization issued by the Secretary of the State of Michigan.



## **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 22 Highlights (Oct. 1, 2021 – July 18, 2022):** (Cheboygan & Presque Isle)

Site Visits: 48 on 3,565 acres

Qualified Forest Program Acres Enrolled: 2,194

### **OUTREACH:**

- Field day at Ox Heights Farm.
- Tree Core demo/ecology lesson at Rogers City Montessori
- Non Traditional Career Opportunities for Women – a panel discussion at Rogers City Library
- Elderberry Workshop at Library with Herbalist Val Maharg
- Coastal ISN Partner Presentation (invasive pests of note in NE MI)
- Garden Club Annual Meeting Presentation
- Grow Your Own Mushroom workshop at Onaway Library
- Forests and Fire: A science discussion (collaboration with Alpena CD)
- 4-H Ocqueoc Outdoor Center Youth Camp – Tree ID workshop
- Community tree planting at Carmeuse site
- Tree Sale
- Gypsy Moth Update at Onaway Library
- Michigan SAF Spring Conference (tree planting)
- MediLodge Nursing Home Week (tree pest and planting presentation tree planting demo)
- Huron Pines/PICD Public Invasive workday at Vogler

**YEAR END FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**Cheboygan Conservation District**

Receipts & Disbursements as of 9/30/2022

**INCOME**

State – Operations Grant	\$ 40,000.00
Cheboygan County Commissioners	13,700.00
HAP Income	2,593.84
Operations Revenue	658.50
Tree Sale	10,425.55

**Total Income**      **\$ 67,377.89**

**EXPENSE**

District Operations	\$ 36,813.13
HAP Expense	1,528.84
Tree Sale	5,620.26

**Total Expense**      **\$ 43,962.23**

Statement of Financial Position as of 9/30/2022

**ASSETS**

Current    \$ 38,840.38

**Total Assets**      **\$ 38,840.38**

**LIABILITIES**

Current    \$ 4,100.87

**Total Liabilities**      **\$ 4,100.87**

**EQUITY**

Opening Balance Equity

Net Income

\$ 11,323.85

23,415.66

**Total Equity**      **\$ 34,739.51**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**      **\$ 38,840.38**

## **FISCAL YEAR 2022 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, etc....
- ❖ District Forester assisted individuals through Forestry Assistance Program and the Qualified Forest Program.
- ❖ Six (6) properties were enrolled in Qualified Forest Program for Fiscal Year 2022. A total of eighty-three (83) properties have been enrolled since the program's inception in 2013.
- ❖ Held Monthly District Board Meetings which were open to the public.
- ❖ Participated in Hunting Access Program – Currently have two (2) Landowners enrolled with three (3) properties.
- ❖ Prepared District Annual Business for Fiscal Year 2023.
- ❖ Prepared District Conservation Needs Assessment 2021 – 2026.
- ❖ Maintained District Website ([www.cdcheboygan.org](http://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 2022 and Districts Budget Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 2023.
- ❖ Ordered Seedlings for spring 2023 Tree Sale from Nurseries.
- ❖ Purchased a 7 Ft. No-Till Drill for Cheboygan County landowners to lease.
- ❖ Began process for seeking non-funding support for Little Black Watershed: estimation of the watershed needs (repairs & maintenance) and to obtain funds through grants and other sources.

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**~ 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.



## LANDOWNERS - PAYMENTS FOR YOU, LAND FOR HUNTERS

The Hunting Access Program is now available in northern Michigan. It is a way for private landowners to treat their parcel as if it were public hunting land while being paid to do so. The program is flexible - allowing a high potential reimbursement depending on the quality of your habitat. The conservation district does all the leg work.

The Hunting Access Program (HAP) offers:

- Increased payments - between \$5 and \$20 per acre based on habitat quality and access limitations (Farm Bill acres earn an additional \$5 per acre).
- Increased service through your county's Conservation District who will: perform the habitat evaluation, handle landowner contracts, post signs and promote the program locally.
- The Michigan DNR has compiled a complete list of HAP sites across Michigan, there are also detailed maps of almost every Michigan hunting location available. The information can be found at the Michigan DNR site at: [www.michigan.gov/hap](http://www.michigan.gov/hap)

Why enroll your properties in HAP?

- Opportunity to reduce nuisance wildlife management.
- Annual compensation payments of up to \$25 an acre.
- You decide to allow all species hunting, youth and apprentice hunting only, small game only, deer only, sharp-tailed grouse only, elk only or a combination of these. Turkey only has reached the property cap. Turkey hunting can still be done under small game hunting but is no longer a stand-alone option.
- Limit the number of hunters at one time.
- Preserve Michigan's hunting tradition and hunter recruitment.
- Free landowner liability coverage. P.A. 451 of 1994 provides liability protection for landowners enrolled in HAP. "No cause of action shall arise for injuries to persons hunting on lands leased under HAP unless injuries were caused by gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct of owner, tenant, or lessee."

How do you enroll?

- Landowners in eligible HAP counties owning 40 (35 acres after the safety zone has been removed) or more acres that contain a minimum amount of no less than 5% of habitat (grassland, wetland and/or forest) are eligible to apply.
- HAP contracts are currently for one (1) year and run September 1 - May 31.
- For questions and to enroll your property, call the district office at: (231)627-8484 or email: [pegbannatyne@gmail.com](mailto:pegbannatyne@gmail.com)

**CURRENTLY 2 CHEBOYGAN COUNTY LANDOWNERS WITH 3 PROPERTIES ARE ENROLLED IN THE HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM. PROPERTIES CAN BE VIEWED AT [www.michigan.gov/hap](http://www.michigan.gov/hap)**

## DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S & STAFF

**OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Wednesday, 8 a.m. - Noon & 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Carl Reimann, Chairman  
Leroy L. Ormsbee, Secretary-Treasurer  
Steven Fitzner, Member  
John Studer, Member  
William Neelis, Member

### STAFF:

Peggy Bannatyne, District Manager  
Currently Vacant, District Forester -  
Home District Presque Isle CD  
Chris Anderson, MAEAP Technician -  
Home District Charlevoix CD

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Boyd Byelich, District Conservationist

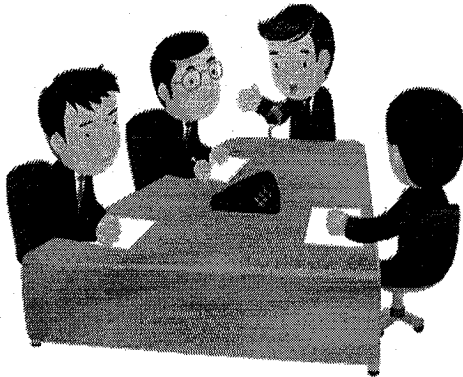
(989)733-2694

21090 M-68, Suite B

Onaway, MI. 49765

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### DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

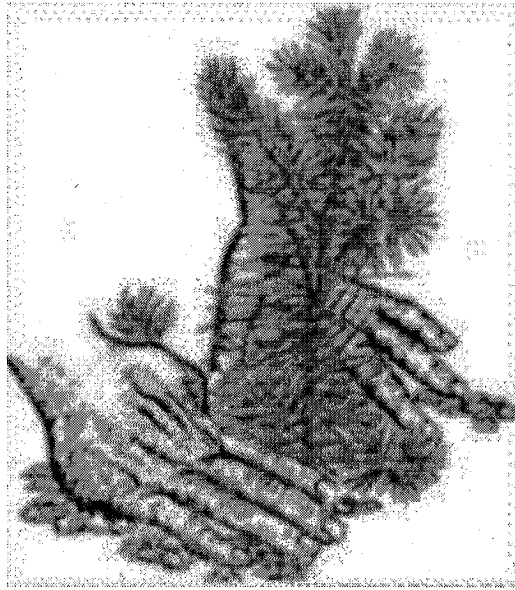


*Board meetings are on the fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m. The meetings are currently held at the Burt Township Hall, located at 7029 W. Birchwood Road, Cheboygan, Michigan. Meeting notices are posted one week prior to meeting on the bulletin board across from the district office & on the district website:*

*[www.cdcheboygan.org](http://www.cdcheboygan.org)*

***Meetings are open to the public.***

**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.**



## ~ TEN REASONS TO PLANT TREES ~

1. **Cut Soil Erosion** – Rows of trees break wind on flatter lands and healthy forest protect soil from water erosion on hillsides.
2. **Improve Air & Water Quality** – A forest floor of leaves and decaying wood acts as a giant sponge by absorbing, filtering, and holding water: one acre of trees provides fresh, clean oxygen for seven people and will clean the air polluted by eight cars operated for 12 hours.
3. **Increase Income** – Properly managed trees can provide excellent source of income, such as the sale of trees or wood products.
4. **Save Energy** – Studies show windbreaks can reduce winter fuel consumption by 10 to 30 percent. Trees also save energy by shading – one tree has the cooling effect of five air conditioners.
5. **Protect Livestock** – Trees reduce the wind and can significantly reduce animal stress. Livestock not only need less feed, but their gains are higher. Shade provided by trees is also helpful to animals on very hot days.
6. **Sound Barrier** – Trees and windbreaks reduce noise from high-speed traffic and other sounds. Plant leaves, branches, and twigs all absorb sounds of different frequencies.
7. **Homes for Wildlife** – Wooded areas make valuable cover, nesting and breeding areas for upland game and songbirds. In winter, when all other food is blanketed with snow, seeds and fruits of trees and shrubs provide food for non-migratory species.
8. **Living Snow Fence** – In snow country, properly locating a living fence of trees and shrubs parallel to your driveway or highway helps hold snow on the fields and off the roads.
9. **Improve Crop Yields** – Soil particles blown by strong winds frequently damage small crops. Yields also may be lowered by the effects of hot winds. Trees protect against these hazards.
10. **Beautify the Countryside** – Well-kept wooded areas, windbreaks, and other tree plantings undeniably enhance the aesthetic value of the countryside.



## **MAEAP HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022**

As another fiscal year comes to a close, the MAEAP train keeps on chugging along. As of me writing this article we have 6,255 verifications on between farms and forest, wetland, and habitat. This has been another good year for new farm verifications. We do have a tremendous amount of farm systems that need to be re-verified under the five year rotation and that is what will be concentrated on for the next program year. While we didn't have any new verifications in Cheboygan County this year, we did have eight in the other three counties that I cover (Charlevoix, Otsego and Emmet). And that includes one farm that was verified in all four systems (farmland, cropping, livestock, and forest, wetland and habitat). That is a huge accomplishment for a producer. Last year was a food year and next year will be even busier.

MAEAP is confidential, voluntary, and a free environmental verification program. There is no cost for a site visit. We cover agriculture of all sizes and all commodities. We even verify forest, wetlands, and habitat for landowners. If you have any questions or want to have me out to your farm or property please contact me.

MAEAP Technician Christopher Anderson

Email: [chris@charlevoixcd.org](mailto:chris@charlevoixcd.org)

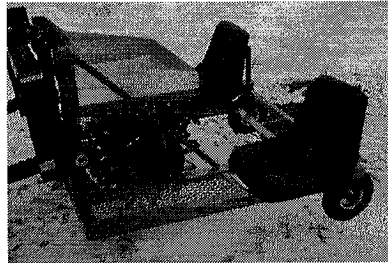
Phone: (231)-582-6193





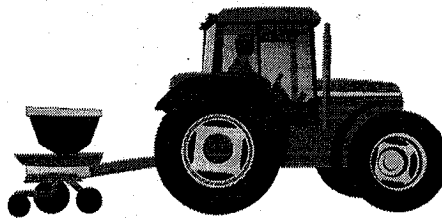
### DISTRICT'S SPRING 2022 SEEDLING SALE

Each year the district holds a spring tree seedling sale. Cheboygan County landowners can purchase tree and shrub seedlings, small fruit, and planting aids. 76 orders were distributed at the Cheboygan County Fairground on Friday, April 29<sup>h</sup> & Saturday April 30, 2022, with 7 additional orders in the days following with a total of 83 orders. A total of 10,335 seedlings, 545 fruit plants, 48 ferns, 225 marking flags, 205 mesh tree guards and 15 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](mailto:pegbannatyne@gmail.com).



### TREE PLANTING EQUIPMENT FOR LEASE

The district has a Mechanical CT-8 tree planter and tree planting bars available for lease. The tree planter has its own trailer for transporting. Rental fee for the tree planter is \$50 a day with a \$25 deposit required. Tree planting bar rental fee is \$5 a day with a \$10 deposit required. For more information, call Peggy at the district office at (231)627-8484.

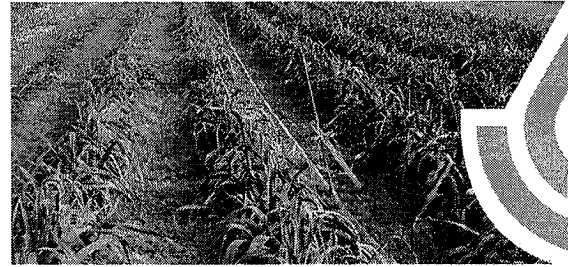


### WOODS NO-TILL 7 Ft. DRILL FOR LEASE

The district recently purchased a Wood 7 Ft. no-till drill for county landowners to lease. The drill has its own trailer for transporting. Rental fee for the no-till drill is \$175.00 a day with a \$30.00 administration fee. A \$75.00 deposit is required. For more information, call Peggy at the district office at (231)627-8484

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Natural Resources Conservation Service



*USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.*

## Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides technical and financial assistance to producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

## Benefits

Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers with one-on-one help and financial assistance to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices. Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while improving agricultural operations.

## Program at a Glance

NRCS will help you develop a conservation plan that meets your goals and vision. This plan becomes your roadmap for selecting the right conservation practices for your land. NRCS offers about 200 unique practices designed for working farms, ranches, and forests.

NRCS financial assistance can cover part of the costs of implementing conservation practices.

## Who is Eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including:

- Conventional and organic
- Specialty crops and commodity crops
- Forestry and wildlife
- Historically underserved farmers\*
- Livestock operations

\*Increased and advance payments available for historically underserved producers (beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and military veterans.)

## How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator).

Applications for EQIP financial assistance are accepted throughout the year. Specific state deadlines are set for ranking and funding. If your application is ranked and selected, you will enter into a contract with NRCS to receive financial assistance for the cost of implementing conservation practices. Payment rates for conservation practices are reviewed and set each fiscal year.

## More Information

For more information, visit [nrcs.usda.gov/farbill](http://nrcs.usda.gov/farbill) or [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov).

Find your local USDA Service Center at [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator).

## What's New in the 2018 Farm Bill

Adds potential resource concerns related to beneficial cost-effective operation changes.

Raises cap for organic producers to \$140,000 over four years.

New enrollment option through incentive contracts to address priority resource concerns.

Requires advance payment option be offered to historically underserved producers.

Authorizes direct program assistance to irrigation districts, including acequias and other entities, for purposes of improving water use efficiencies.

