

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

April 23, 2014

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Horn, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: President Horn, 2nd Vice-President Murphy, Treasurer Parish and Secretary Stahl. Board member absent: 1st Vice-President Leonard.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2014, Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$119,762.85 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$20,035.73. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

President Horn called for comments from the audience. There were no comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Rannebarger Property:

At this time, Director Merner did not have anything to report. A meeting was being held with the county on Friday and she would report back to the Board after that meeting.

2. Willow Branch Wetland Plan

Director Merner reported that she, Paul, the Army Corp of Engineers, and our engineer had a meeting about this project and it appears that the best option would to establish a mitigation bank. She reported that just prior to the meeting, she had received several documents from the DeKalb Forest Preserve District for review. She would review these documents and conduct other research and report back to the Board. The District would set up a bank in which we would receive funds from those buying wetland credits. There is an application checklist to follow. The mitigation would be paying for more than what you are damaging according to a formula from the Army Corps of Engineers. The funding would not be predictable. Director Merner will discuss with the City, County Highway and other municipalities to see if there is a need for a mitigation bank. Potential costs to look at for determining the value of a credit would be land value, engineering cost, design costs, construction and long-term maintenance. David Horn also arranged for Eric with Ducks Unlimited to look over the site.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Deer Herd Management Program Recommendations:

Rich Crowe presented data on the Deer Herd Management Program and recommended to the Board that the District continue the program for the 2014 season with no changes to the program. Rich reviewed the history of the program and reviewed two metrics that are used in their study: (1) the number of vehicle accidents within two miles has remained consistent and (2) plant browsing, which is relatively high. The season is scheduled to begin October 24th and end December 19th. Trustee Parish questioned if the season could be extended to help lower the browse presence. Staff explained that the first few weeks of the program are the busiest and as the temperatures get colder, there are fewer hunters. In response to Trustee Stahl's question regarding the costs of the program, Rich Crowe replied that the largest cost is staff time to sell permits, promoting the program, as well as policing the program. Rich also stated that he felt the District's program was pretty consistent with other agencies as far as the fees that are charged. He explained that the District tries to keep the program affordable while providing a recreational outlet. Overall the Board would like to see a reduction in the browse presence.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve the recommended Deer Herd Management Program as presented by Rich Crowe. Trustee Parish SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Approve 2014-2015 Meeting Schedule:

Trustee Stahl MOVED to approve the following meeting schedule

2014

May 21, Wednesday

June 18, Wednesday

July 16, Wednesday

August 20, Wednesday

September 17, Wednesday

October 15, Wednesday

November 19, Wednesday

December 17, Wednesday

2015

January 21, Wednesday

February 18, Wednesday

March 18, Wednesday

April 22, Wednesday**

(Fourth Wednesday to accommodate the 30 day budget review period)

Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Approve Depository Designation:

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the following list of depositories:

DEPOSITORIES FOR FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2014 – MARCH 31, 2015

Hickory Point Bank
Gerber State Bank
Regions Financial Company
PNC Bank
Busey Bank
State Bank of Niantic
Soy Capital Bank
The Illinois Funds
Town & Country Bank
First Mid-Illinois Bank and Trust
Prairie State Bank & Trust
Buena Vista National Bank
Scott State Bank
Peoples Bank of Macon
State Bank of Blue Mound
State Bank of Cerro Gordo

Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, “AYE”.

4. Approve Signatories:

Director Merner presented the resolution for the 2014-2015 signatories as follows:

SIGNATORIES RESOLUTION
Fiscal Year April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Macon County Conservation District that Kathleen Merner, Executive Director; Darrell Parish, Board Treasurer; Ed Leonard, 1st Vice-President; Mark Stahl, Board Secretary; and Lucy Murphy, 2nd Vice-President; be authorized to endorse all checks for the Macon County Conservation District for all the District funds at all applicable banks, effective April 24, 2014.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to accept the signatories’ resolution as presented. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, “AYE”. Motion carried.

5. Adopt Budget and Appropriation Ordinance:

The Board received a copy of the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. Director Merner informed the Board that the Budget to be adopted is the same as the tentative budget presented with the salary change as recommended at the last meeting on March 19, 2014. Staff recommendation is to adopt the Ordinance as presented.

Trustee Parish MOVED to adopt the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for fiscal year April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015, as presented. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, “AYE”; Trustee Parish, “AYE”; Trustee Murphy, “AYE”; Trustee Horn, “AYE”. Motion carried.

6. Departmental Reports:

President Horn asked staff to comment on highlights from their reports submitted in the Board packet. Paul Marien, Richie Wolf, Pam Smith and Director Merner summarized the highlights of their reports.

Director Merner reported that she had submitted the application for the Clean Energy Grant on behalf of the Foundation, for their new pilot program.

Richie Wolf reminded the Board of the upcoming Festival of Spring on Saturday, April 26th and encouraged them to see the quilts that were on display in the Nature Center.

7. Other: No other business reported.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: There were no comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Stahl **MOVED** to go into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of the discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06; and the selection of a person to fill a public office.

Trustee Parish **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Stahl **MOVED** to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:35 p.m. Trustee Parish **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Murphy **MOVED** to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 23, 2014. Trustee Stahl **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Stahl **MOVED** to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:36 p.m. Trustee Parish **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Secretary

President