

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

April 22, 2015

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by President Leonard with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: President Leonard, 2nd Vice-President Jensen, and Secretary Parish.

Board member absent: Treasurer Murphy.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2015, Regular Public Meeting, March 18, 2015, Budget Study Session, April 9, 2015, April 14, 2015 and April 15, 2015 Special Meetings. Trustee Jensen 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 \$132,751.99 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$8,396.93. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

President Leonard called for comments from the audience. Bob Sampson shared his thoughts of Kathy Merner. He spoke very highly of Kathy and commented on her being one of the finest Executive Director's any public entity has had in Macon County.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Gerber Bank Agreement:

Director Merner reported that she had finally received an email back from Gerber Bank inquiring into the status of the agreement. She will be getting together with Gerber Bank and report back to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Deer Herd Management Program Recommendations:

Mitch Lovgren, who just replaced Rich Crowe as the Natural Resource Specialist, presented an update on the Deer Herd Management Program. He reported that the deer collision and browse is still high and recommends continuing the deer management program with one exception. The requirement for in-person deer check-in will be eliminated. Mitch reported that the County deer harvest was down 3% while the District's was up 30%. The District had 98 in-county hunters, 9 out of county and 7 out of state this past year. The District saw an increase over last year but is still down from a few years ago.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the recommended Deer Herd Management Program as presented by Mitch Lovgren for another year. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Approve Depositories for Conservation Funds:

Trustee Parish questioned if there were any better interest rates outside of the City. Director Merner reported that staff research found they were all about the same and that staff had been watching the Illinois Funds and they were no better either.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the following list of depositories:

DEPOSITORIES FOR FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2015 – MARCH 31, 2016

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 Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Approve Signatories:

Director Merner presented the resolution for the 2015-2016 signatories as follows:

SIGNATORIES RESOLUTION
Fiscal Year April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Macon County Conservation District that Darrell Parish, Board Secretary; Ed Leonard, Board President; Lucy Murphy, Board Treasurer; and Norm Jensen, Board 2nd Vice-President; and Executive Director be authorized to endorse all checks and depositories for the Macon County Conservation District for all the District funds at all applicable banks, effective April 23, 2015.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to accept the signatories' resolution as presented. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried

4. Approve 2015-2016 Meeting Schedule:

Trustee Parish questioned which local paper is used to publish notices. Both Herald & Review and Tribune are used based upon timing and content.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the following meeting schedule

2015

May 20, Wednesday

June 17, Wednesday

July 15, Wednesday

August 19, Wednesday

September 16, Wednesday

October 21, Wednesday

November 18, Wednesday

December 16, Wednesday

2016

January 20, Wednesday

February 17, Wednesday

March 16, Wednesday

April 20, Wednesday

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

5. Approve Banking Authorization

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Macon County Conservation District that Pamela J. Smith, Finance/HR Manager, be authorized to conduct official banking business such as transfer funds, stop payment of checks, closing accounts, redeeming certificates approved by signer and general inquiries of accounts on deposit in behalf of Macon County Conservation District for all the District funds at all applicable banks listed below, effective April 22, 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

Presented this 22nd day of April, 2015.
Passed this 22nd day of April 2015.
Approved this 22nd day April 2015.

Trustee Parish MOVED to accept the banking authorization resolution as presented. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. 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. Staff recommendation is to adopt the Ordinance as presented.

Trustee Parish MOVED to adopt the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for fiscal year April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016, as presented. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried

7. Carolyn Mason Master Naturalist Scholarship Fund:

Director Merner shared with the Board that the family of Carolyn Mason had named the Macon County Conservation District as recipient for memorials to establish a scholarship fund for the Master Naturalist Program. She suggested that the Board consider transferring these funds to the Foundation for tracking purposes. Trustee Parish questioned who would be administering the scholarship funds and the criteria for awarding the monies. He suggested creating a policy for the selection process. Director Merner is to contact the U of I Extension Office on advice for handling the scholarship and the selection process. She will report back to the Board. The Board will approve the transfer of funds pending information on the selection process.

8. Special Event Application – Pollination Celebration

Staff explained that the Master Naturalist Program was holding a fundraising event called "Pollination Celebration" for a scholarship in memory of Carolyn Mason. The District will be partnering with the University of Illinois Extension Office and holding the event at the Rock Springs Nature Center on June 6, 2015. Staff recommend Board approval of this special event.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the special event "Pollination Celebration" co-hosted by the University of Illinois Extension Office and the District on June 6, 2015. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

9. Authorization to Purchase Mower

Paul Marien reported that the mower at Friends Creek Conservation Area was in need of replacement as presented in the budget. The State of Illinois joint purchasing program has a suitable replacement through Central IL Ag in Clinton. Central IL Ag will honor the bid price of \$12,024.00. The net price to the District will be \$8,024.00 after a trade in value of \$4,000 for the current mower. Staff recommends purchasing the mower through the State bidding process. This is a critical piece of equipment for Friends Creek Conservation Area as they only have two turf mowers.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the purchase of a Toro Model 74267 zero turn mower for a net price of \$8,024.00 after trade in value of current mower. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried

10. Resident Guard Duties and Agreement

Director Merner briefly reviewed the recommended changes to the resident guard description and agreement. Changes were recommended due to the upcoming retirement of one of the resident guards in the near future.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the proposed agreement and job description as presented. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

11. Staff Reports

Some of the highlights from the staff reports were as follows:

Richie Wolf received positive feedback on the Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Summer Camp registration is underway and Program Services will be hiring three new summer camp counselors. A week long camp will again be offered like last year as well as Camp Connections, Pioneer Camp, and Extreme Camp. He reminded the Board of the upcoming Festival of Spring on April 25, 2015.

Paul Marien reported on the job search for a Site Technician as well as a Natural Resource Specialist. Gage Elder has been hired as the Site Technician and Mitch Lovgren has been promoted from Natural Resource Technician to Natural Resource Specialist. Paul also informed the Board that the District will be hosting approximately 300 individuals from ADM for their summer internship program (240 interns along with ADM personnel).

Director Merner reported that she is tying up loose ends before her last day. She reported that new signs had been installed at the Rock Springs Conservation Area.

12. Other

No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Parish echoed Bob Sampson's comments regarding Director Merner and thanked her for all her contributions to the District. Trustee Leonard commented, "The District is far better off because of you (Kathy)."

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Parish MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:12 p.m. for the purpose of

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity.
2. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body.
3. 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.

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

Trustee Parish MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:55 p.m. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 22, 2015. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Jensen MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:55 p.m. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary