

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

February 20, 2013

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order by President Elliott, at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Board members absent: None

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting of January 16th, 2013. Trustee Horn 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 \$130,042.94 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$24,455.55. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Joe Riley from the Labor Local 159 addressed the Board regarding the bid for Ft. Daniels Bridge. He asked the Board to consider awarding Otto Baum the bid. Otto Baum bid was only \$2,000 higher than the lowest bid by Triple K Konstruction. Joe emphasized that Otto Baum was a local contractor and would employ Macon County residents.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Grove Branch Cash Rent Contract:

Trustee Horn addressed the Board concerning developing a better policy instead of farming in order to be in compliance with the Master Plan, which addresses restoration. He encouraged the Board to set aside funds in the upcoming years to begin restoration process, especially after the District has been collecting income for 37 years from the tillable acreage. Trustee Leonard questioned the agreement with the landlord and no fault tillage, which staff stated was in the lease.

Trustee Horn MOVED that the District set aside in the Budget this year and the next two years to restore tillable acreage at Grove Branch to be in compliance with the Master Plan that was established in 2004. No SECOND to the motion was made.

2. Nominating Committee

Trustee Parish updated the Board on the status of nominations. They currently have three nominations. Trustee Horn has two other possible candidates with Trustee Parish having one

other candidate to contact for a total of six possible candidates. Trustee Horn and Parish will meet to set up interviews.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Award Contract for Fort Daniel Trail Bridge Construction:

Director Merner addressed the concern of the audience and informed them that the District had applied for a \$70,000 grant to help with this project. The audience questioned the Board's authority and discretion to make the award. Director Merner stated that there are no issues to cause them to disqualify the lowest bidder unless the lowest bidder has not performed or are not paying prevailing wage, otherwise there is no reason to eliminate them. The grant requires the District to award the job to the lowest bidder unless there are performance reasons to disqualify them. The State bidding laws do not restrict contractors to those within the county. The staff did verify the contractor's qualifications and found no issues.

Trustee Parish MOVED to award the bid of \$87,097 for the Fort Daniel Bridges project to Triple K Konstruction. Trustee Horn SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Payout to Eureka Tree Movers:

Staff explained that Eureka Tree Movers had been contracted to do the first phase of mowing at Willow Branch Conservation Area. Rich Crowe has been managing this project. Staff confirmed that they have satisfactorily completed this first phase and submitted invoice for payment. Total contract price is \$3,900 but staff recommends paying them \$3,400 for this first phase and holding back \$500 until second phase is completed in May.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve the payout in the amount of \$3,400 to Eureka Tree Movers. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Pasture Lease - Maxwell:

Staff met with Jeannie Maxwell to discuss renting the pasture part of the land for her horses until she could get her own land established. Staff researched the subject and found a formula to use in determining the value. Staff presented Jeannie Maxwell with an offer of \$170.00 a month but she was thinking more along the line of \$250-\$300 per year. Staff presented the matter to the Board for their consideration. After some discussion, Trustee Parish suggested that Paul negotiate more with her and learn what it cost to feed horses.

4: Architect/Engineering Services Contract for Maintenance Building:

Director Merner informed the Board that the District had received three proposals from three architectural/engineers to renovate the maintenance building at Griswold Conservation Area and the old structure at Rock Springs Conservation Area. Staff plans on conducting interviews and asked if any Board members were interested. Trustee Leonard stated that he would be interested if it works into his schedule. Director Merner will keep Trustee Leonard informed.

5. Award Contract-Fuel Bid:

Staff informed the Board that this was the first time they had gone out to bid for diesel/gasohol pricing. The bid was patterned after the Sanitary District's process. The District's current vendor is Morgan Distributing. Paul Marien explained the process and recommended awarding the bid to Evergreen FS from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

Trustee Parish MOVED to award the bid to Evergreen FS for the District's fuel supply for Fiscal Year 2014. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Energy Report:

Director Merner wanted to update the Board on energy use at the Rock Springs Nature Center. The District has been tracking energy usage since the energy audit was performed. She emphasized that consumption was down and that staff had completed the conversion to all energy-efficient lighting in the Nature Center and had implemented other energy efficient improvements throughout the building.

7. Research Project – Prairie Grasses for Heat Source:

Staff had been asked to report on grass pellets as an alternate heating method for the District. Director Merner summarized the report that had been included in the Board packet citing the resources used as Cornell University and Vermont Grass Energy. The Director had also spoken with Steve Johns. The conclusion reached was that there is not a process that is viable for the market and that it may be three to four years away before being a viable product. Trustee Horn thanked the Director for performing and reporting on the research.

8. Energy Contracts:

Director Merner informed the Board that the District had received the materials concerning the county-wide electrical contract for residences. Unless one opts out of the program, the residence is included. Two out of the four District houses use Ameren as their current suppliers. Griswold District house and Friends Creek house don't qualify as they are part of a co-op (Shelby and Cornbelt). The other two residential houses will go with County program.

9. Set Budget Study Session

The Board members agreed to set the budget study session for 4:30 p.m. on March 20, 2013. All members were in agreement.

10. Vision Insurance Coverage:

Director Merner updated the Board on retiree insurance coverage. Retirees can stay on health insurance and delta dental until they reach the age of 65. However, the District's vision plan leaves the decision up to the organization. She stated that the Board needs to establish a policy for retirees. The only issue that the District would have is ensuring the retiree reimburses the District in a timely manner. Trustee Parish suggested that the District put a time restraint on the reimbursement.

Trustee Parish MOVED that the District allow retirees to keep their vision insurance with VSP pending that retiree is no more than 60 days behind in reimbursing the District. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted "AYE". Motion carried.

11. Transfer Funds from the Building Fund to the General Corporate Fund:

Director Merner explained to the Board that years ago there was an inter-fund loan to pay for the addition to the Nature Center. The District has been transferring funds from the Building Fund to the Corporate Fund each year to pay off the loan. This year the Nearing Trust distribution was \$65,902.18 and staff recommends moving these funds to the General Corporate Fund.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to transfer \$65,902.18 from the Building Fund to the Corporate Fund. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted "AYE". Motion carried.

12. Transfer of Funds from Contingencies to Legal Fees Line Item:

Director Merner informed the Board that due to volume of projects and other matters this year they needed to authorize transferring budget funds from the contingency line item to the legal fees line item. The Board had budgeted \$12,000 for legal fees and appropriated \$13,200. The staff recommends transferring \$1,200 from contingencies to legal fees in order to pay legal fees.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to transfer \$1,200 from contingencies to legal fees. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted "AYE". Motion carried.

13. Correspondence from the Macon County Treasurer Regarding DMH and Property Taxes:

Director Merner reviewed the letter from the County that was included in the Board packet concerning Decatur Memorial Hospital's tax-exempt status. The letter notified the District that a refund was due to the hospital for re-establishing their exempt/partial exempt status. This refund would impact the District by approximately \$18,000 being deducted from the first tax levy distribution this year.

14. Staff Reports:

Due to a matter of time, Director Merner asked the Board if they had any questions concerning the staff reports that had been included in their Board packets. None of the Trustees had any questions for the staff.

15. Other

Director Merner informed the Board that the District would be closing on the Simpson property tomorrow (February 21st).

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Parish MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 8:17 p.m. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

SECRETARY