

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

**January 15, 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Leonard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Murphy, Treasurer Parish. Board members absent: Secretary Stahl.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2013, Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$108,340.06 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$7,544.14. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:**

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

**PRIOR BUSINESS:**

**1. Ameren Transmission Line:**

Director Merner reported that she and the attorney have been following the case. Everett Nicholas filed Kathleen Merner's testimony regarding the impact of the proposed transmission line on the District. Ameren then filed a brief followed by the District filing a reply brief. The District attorney attended hearings in order to cross examine the Illinois Commerce Commission staff that created the alternate route for the transmission line. According to the attorney, it looks like the alternate route is now a "moot" point. President Horn thanked the Director for a job well done. She will continue to keep the Board informed.

**2. Nomination Process-Board Members**

Direct Merner shared the updated nomination process with the Board. The Board suggested two minor changes be made as follows:

In the paragraph titled "Contact top prospect", they recommended changing "interview should include a **Board member or two**....." to read "....should include **two Board members**....."

Second minor change would be to change the second to last sentence in the same paragraph to read "...."that this person is **the best** candidate...." from "....this person is a good candidate..."

The Board also discussed changing the wording in the "**Conduct Orientation**" paragraph to state the orientation would be conducted by the Executive Director; but after some discussion, the Board decided to not make any changes.

Trustee Parish MOVED to adopt the process as policy for this year as per the changes discussed. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**3. Farm Lease-Willow Branch**

Per Board discussion at the December meeting, Director Merner spoke with Dean Kyburz at Busey Bank and confirmed that the cash rent is \$326/acre with a management fee of 5%. Dean Kyburz is also preparing paperwork for the adjacent 44 acres with the same farmer since the previous farmer is no longer interested in farming the property. She stated that the engineer is scheduled to go to the site as he wants to refresh his memory and see the improvements that have been made and then he will put together a proposal for the property. Director Merner also informed the Board that there is another impact to consider before beginning restoration work on the property. The Forest/Wetland mitigation plan for the beltway may help with the funding of the restoration. She recommended that the District not begin any restoration work until we review the mitigation plan for the highway. Trustee Horn suggested beginning the planning stage and then Director Merner to touch base with the County. Director Merner will keep the Board informed.

**4. Other:** No other business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Flood Mapping:**

Paul Marien briefly explained the meetings that he has been attending with the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) whereby they are updating maps for flood insurance purposes as well as digitizing maps. The floodplain study includes Stevens and Spring Creeks, which includes part of the Rock Springs area. If agencies participate in this project, it can lower the flood risk percentage for federal funding. The Foundation does hold some property as well. This will be an eighteen-month process. The main concept is that areas will be identified that should not be developed, which will help lower insurance rates for the area. Draft maps are not yet available but the District will keep the Board informed.

**2. Final Payout – Eureka Tree Movers:**

A pay request has been submitted by Eureka Tree Movers for the follow-up herbicide spraying at Willow Branch to complete their contract. The staff is happy with their work and recommends the Board authorize final payout in the amount of \$500.00.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve final payout in the amount of \$500.00 to Eureka Tree Movers. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, “AYE”; Trustee Horn, “AYE”; Trustee Leonard, “AYE” and Trustee Murphy, “AYE”. Motion carried.

**3. Payout –Governor Oglesby Mansion Porch**

Paul Marien reported that the contractor has submitted all required paperwork for the job completed in July and August. There will be a change order forthcoming. Staff recommends the Board authorize payment of \$38,919.00 to Christy-Foltz.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to authorize payment of \$38,919 to Christy-Foltz for the completed work on the Mansion’s east porch. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, “AYE”; Trustee Horn, “AYE”; Trustee Leonard, “AYE” and Trustee Murphy, “AYE”. Motion carried.

**4. Concealed Carry Law:**

Director Merner reported that she had received the final copy of the concealed carry law drafted by the District's attorney. She reported that the regulations from the Illinois State Police are scheduled to be released on Friday and may have an impact on the current draft. She suggested that the Board may want to hold off adopting any policy until the attorney can incorporate these regulations into the District's policy. Trustee Murphy asked for time to review and research the concealed carry law. Director Merner will add the concealed carry policy to the February Board Agenda.

**5. 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 highlighted the results of the Kaufman property survey, stating that the District will not have to make an accessible drive to the property as the District owns part of the current driveway.

**6. Other:**

Director Merner reminded the Board that they must annually complete the "Open Meetings Act" training on their anniversary date each year. She asked the Board members to complete the training before the next Board meeting and bring a printed copy of the certificate.

**COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:** There were no Comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Trustee Leonard MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:27 p.m. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

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President

ATTEST:

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Secretary