

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

March 21, 2018

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

Board members present: President Murphy, 1st Vice-President Jensen and Secretary Elliott

Board member absent: Treasurer Johnson, 2nd Vice-President White

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the February 21, 2018, Regular Public Meeting as presented. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$133,029.77 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$14,177.58. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

Semaj W. Allen, 2172 West Riverview, Decatur, IL 62522, suggested to the Board that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has a program to mentor new hunters and suggested that the Board and staff may want to look into the program.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Archery Hunting Violation:

The hunter from last month's Board meeting that was in violation of the District's Deer Archery Program asked the Board to reconsider the permanent suspension from the program. Staff reviewed his explanation and is recommending that the Board consider a two-year suspension instead of a permanent suspension. Trustees were in agreement that his explanation of the violation seemed valid and agreed with the staff to remove the permanent suspension for a two-year suspension from the program.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the two-year suspension instead of a permanent suspension for the hunter's violation of the District's rules of taking a buck before taking a doe. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Sand Creek Crossings:

Staff reviewed the Sand Creek Crossings with a few Board members and agreed with the Architect’s recommendation. The crossings will be placed beside the horse trail for pedestrians to cross the creek while the horses will go straight across using the trail. The architect’s suggestion will allow minimal impact to the site and allow horses their space. Shane Ravellette reported that the crossings will be six inches up to eighteen inches high in response to Trustee Jensen’s question. Shane did inform the Board that in case of a flood the crossing will be covered but the crossing will be sturdy enough to allow water to flow over it. The cost of each crossing should be approximately \$20,000 - \$25,000. Paul Marien stated that there were plenty of funds available through the Greenway fund. Currently two crossings are being planned with construction occurring sometime late summer or early fall. Trustee Murphy commented that the riding community should be notified about the construction. Shane said that the crossings would be complete one at a time to enable use of the trails. Paul Marien stated that there will be minimal impact upon the riding community. All were in agreement to move forward requiring no formal action to take place at this time.

3. Wood Waste Guidelines Policy Approval:

Operations presented a Wood Waste Guidelines Policy to the Board at February’s meeting asking them to review the policy. Staff asked the Board to formally approve the policy for implementation including both parts of the policy as presented in the packet.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Wood Waste Guidelines Policy as presented. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, “AYE”. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve the FY19 Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance:

Paul Marien stated that the Board needed to formally approve the Fiscal Year 2019 Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance which was reviewed in the budget study session prior to the meeting. The Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance is annually adopted at the March meeting and must be on display for public viewing for thirty days before being approved at the April meeting.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance as presented. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Jensen, “AYE”; Trustee Murphy, “AYE”; and Trustee Elliott, “AYE”. Motion carried.

2. Set Budget Hearing Date:

Director Paul Marien recommended scheduling the required budget hearing just before the regular meeting on April 25, 2018, at 5:25 p.m. He confirmed that this allows for the Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance to be on display to the public for 30 days.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to hold the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance Hearing on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 5:25 p.m. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Trustee Nomination Committee:

Paul Marien reminded the Board that it was time to think about President Murphy's replacement by July 1, 2018. The President appoints the 1st Vice-President and one other person to serve on the nominating committee. Trustee Jensen and Trustee Elliott will comprise the nominating committee and will present candidates at the next Board meeting. Trustee Elliott stated that she would get some input from Trustee White and Trustee Johnson. The recruitment process and nominating form was included in the Board packet. The county board meets twice a month and a name needs to be submitted at their May meeting. Some discussion followed concerning the diversity of the Board such as recruiting an educator, a farmer, an attorney or someone from the medical field. Shane Ravellette felt that philosophy was important as well. Trustee Murphy suggested someone with experience with executive searches, policies, legal issues and involvement with other organizations was also important. The nominating committee will meet and bring nominations back to the Board.

4. Federal Surplus Renewal:

The District's eligibility to participate in the State's Surplus Property program has lapsed and Board approval is required to continue in the program. There is no cost to be in the program and it's an opportunity to pick up various equipment for low dollars such as desks, cabinets, shelving, etc. A resolution is required to be passed as part of the application process. The resolution was included in the Board's packet.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the Resolution for participation in the State of Illinois Federal Surplus Property Program. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Playground Final Payout:

The playground has been completed and final payment of \$33,943.66 is required to Kinney Contractors. The architect has inspected and approved the work completed. Staff is also happy with the project. The playground has already been opened up and is being used.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the final payout to Kinney Contractors for the playground project in the amount of \$33, 943.66. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the motion. . Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Volunteer Recognition Dinner:

Paul Marien reminded the Board members of the upcoming Volunteer Recognition Dinner on April 3, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. Mail invitations were sent out.

7. Staff Reports:

Paul Marien informed the Board that the District's attorney had drafted the contract for the Master Plan Update and a kick-off meeting was to be held on Wednesday, March 28th, including Shane Ravellette, Richie Wolf and himself. Hitchcock Design Group has already been requesting files. Paul announced that he will retain title of President of the Illinois Association of Conservation Districts for another year. He reported that no legislators attended the Legislative Breakfast held in Springfield and that the District was better off holding one-on-one meetings with the legislators. The Oglesby Mansion Greenhouse is needing some work and it's up to the District Board to decide what needs to be done. Paul is currently discussing options with the Oglesby Board.

Pam Smith reported that work had been completed on boxing up files for record retention and was awaiting approval from the State for disposal of the records. Most of the month was spent compiling the Budget book for the study session. The annual workers compensation audit was conducted but it would be a few months before the District would hear the results. She attended a free Sunshine Laws seminar in Champaign and learned more about the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act. The Illinois Funds interest rate is still increasing and was at 1.384% at the end of February.

Shane Ravellette reported that three staff attended the NRPA Maintenance Management School in Wheeling, West Virginia. Several staff attended the IACD Annual Conference as well. Matt Sayers was just hired for site technician at the Rock Springs Conservation Area. An old tree line was removed at Sand Creek that had suffered herbicide damage. Friends Creek staff cleaned up the area around the campground and the picnic area. Natural Resources worked with a tree shear attachment on the Bobcat to remove black locust near Dipper Lane.

Richie Wolf reported that the maple syrup program was a success with an average of 21 individuals attending four different sessions. The District received pre and post coverage of the event. He reminded the Board that the Festival of Spring was being held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 from noon until 4:00 p.m. The playground ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held that day. The Summer Concert Series was going to have a co-sponsor – Stifel Nicolaus Investments.

8. Other

No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustees applauded the good job on the budget presentation.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Jensen MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:20 p.m.

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

President

ATTEST:

Secretary