

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

October 18, 2017

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

Board members present: President Murphy, Treasurer Johnson, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President White

Board member absent: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Jensen and Secretary Elliott

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2017, Regular Public Meeting as presented. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee White MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$154,834.34 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$63,511.54. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:** None

**PRIOR BUSINESS:**

**1. Playground Project:**

Fundraising for the playground is ongoing with approximately \$24,000 given to date plus a large donation of \$19,000.00 pledged for a total of \$43,000.00. Shane Ravellette gave an update on the progress of construction of the playground. The old playground equipment has been removed and the contractor should be starting construction on Tuesday. Also, the first equipment should arrive by next Tuesday. Weather permitting construction could be done by end of November.

**2. Master Plan RFQ**

Paul Marien included a list of consultants included in the Board packet that will be solicited for request for qualifications (RFQ). Vandewalle and Associates was the firm that conducted the last master plan. Paul noted that the Applied Ecological Services consultants were geared more toward environmental. The RFQ will be sent to the list of consultants and after receiving their responses, three consultants will be selected for the interview process. Trustee White inquired into the timeline for the process. Paul stated that the RFQ would be sent out in December with deadline of January 6, 2018 for responses with interviews beginning in January. Trustee Murphy suggested that Paul inquire into association with Clean Energy and Grand Victoria.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Roof payout:**

The District received the second payout application for work completed on the Nature Center roof. Ten percent is still being held back until the remaining work is completed. The skylight remains to be installed and will be the first or second week of December until completed. Staff recommends approving the pay request for \$65,245.50 to Top Qualify Roofing.

Trustee White MOVED to approve the second pay request for work completed on the Nature Center Roof to Top Quality Roofing for \$65,245.50. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**2. Forsyth's TIF District Proposal:**

Paul Marien shared with the Board that the Village of Forsyth is proposing a tax increment financing district (TIF) for a redevelopment plan. He shared a map of the proposed area with the Board. The proposal covers most of the commercial area in Forsyth. Paul did consult with the tax accessor and the District attorney who both commented that there was nothing the District could do. There is no reason to oppose the proposal. The District would not realize any tax gain from the redevelopment for about 23 years. No action is required from the Board but Paul wanted the Board to be aware of the proposal.

**3. Summer Camp Report**

Richie Wolf reviewed the summer camp that was included in the Board packet. The District realized a net profit of \$6,101.80 from the five summer camp programs. He explained that the Earth Adventures and Adventure Camp were the most profitable. Pioneer Camp and the Mini Camps required two paid staff to assist with the children with one staff being a long tenured employee. He explained two reasons for the decrease in net profit was due to the week of July 4<sup>th</sup> being a wash since it was in the middle of the week and the revenue that was lost from Camp Connections – a \$3,200.00 loss. Paul Marien will be scheduling a meeting to speak with the new superintendent regarding the summer camp programs. Trustee Murphy suggested that staff should get on the School Board agenda to discuss District programs and become more familiar with School Board members such as Beth Nolan. Richie reported that there were no major camp incidences and that the same Director has been used for the past two years.

**4. Staff Reports:**

Pam Smith reported that a process for administering the Carolyn Mason Scholarship has been established and there were two District Volunteers in the current Master Naturalist program who had applied for the scholarship. Staff were busy reconciling the cash received the day of the Prairie Pedal event and was happy to report it was only \$5.00 short. A certificate of deposit matured at the Peoples Bank of Macon and was redeemed in the amount of \$106,160.70. The District is in the process of completing an application to deposit the funds into "The Illinois Funds" for investment which is currently paying 1.06% versus the .03% the funds were earning at

the bank. The District received their second installment of the tax levy in the amount of \$815,559.72.

Paul Marien reported that he and Shane Ravellette attended a meeting with the Illinois EPA concerning the reduction of E.coli that has been found in the Sangamon River. The Oglesby Mansion held their annual meeting in October and will be holding their big fundraiser this Friday. Paul gave an update on the Foundation's Prairie Pedal event and reported that approximately \$23,000.00 had been given by sponsors, \$5,725.00 from the riders and \$1,225.00 from the raffle tickets. Trustee White commented that he heard some good feedback that the Prairie Pedal Ride was one of the best, well-marked rides in the area. Preliminary results from the survey reveal positive comments. The only negative comments, which are common, were less gravel and having "beer" afterwards. Participants seemed to like the socks. Paul and Shane also attended a meeting with the newly appointed Sheriff Buffett making him more aware of the District properties.

Richie Wolf reported that they have been busy with lots of field trips. The Fall Festival is coming up on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. A big event is coming on November 2<sup>nd</sup> called "DIVE IN" with the EPA. Approximately 350 students will be on site visiting 14 different stations concentrating on water related education. The two schools represented are from Mt. Zion and Dennis Lab. The Illinois Bicentennial exhibit is now on display in the Nature Center.

Shane Ravellette reported that the District had good media coverage from the Herald and Review on the Prairie burn that was conducted at Rock Springs. Staff was busy working on the new addition at Friends Creek recycling scrap metal and tires. Camping at Friends Creek is wrapping up and the camp host and staff have done a wonderful job. The revenue for camping has exceeded the projected budget. The accessible horse ramp at Sand Creek was completed and was made possible by a memorial donation. The shop lane at Rock Springs was oiled and chipped and part of the picnic roadway at Friends Creek was resurfaced.

#### **5. Other:**

Paul Marien discussed the Trustee's District email accounts that are posted on the website for general public access. Since the Trustees have difficulty checking those email accounts, Paul asked permission from the Trustees to review those email accounts and delete junk email and pass important information on to them. Most recently a patron had left a compliment regarding the campground on one of the Trustee's email accounts. All Board members were in agreement with Paul reviewing the email accounts.

#### **COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:**

Trustee Johnson raised the question whether or not if wood could be sold at the Friends Creek Campground and Paul's response was that it is not supposed to happen on District property.

Trustee White commented on how much he enjoyed the Trustee tour and highly recommended that a tour should be given to the Foundation Board. He had a new perspective now and learned a lot. He suggested that it would help the

Foundation Board members to tell a story if they were more familiar with the properties.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Trustee White MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:25 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 pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).**

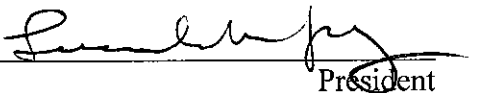
Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee White MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:29 p.m. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.


Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 18, 2017. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Trustee White MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

  
President

ATTEST:

  
Secretary