

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

September 21, 2016

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

Board members present: President Parish, 1st Vice-President Murphy, Secretary Jensen, Treasurer Elliott, and 2nd Vice-President Johnson

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2016, Regular Public Meeting as presented. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$139,378.24 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$49,952.46. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No comments from audience.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Annual Treasurer's Statement:

The Annual Treasurer's Statement is to be completed and filed with the County Clerk six months after the fiscal year. Trustee Murphy questioned Jennifer Schrock being listed twice on the expense report as well as Shane Ravellette's salary. Pam Smith explained that Jennifer Schrock had changed how she wanted billing done but the report is run by ID code so it appeared twice and will be fixed for next year. Shane's salary was only a partial year salary after being hired the end of August 2015.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Annual Treasurer's Statement as presented. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Griswold Building Payout:

Shane Ravellette reported that the Griswold Maintenance Building was completed and that staff are happy with the results. It will be included as a stop on the Trustee Tour. Trustee Parish questioned if it had a concrete floor with Shane responding yes and it has an overhead door as well. There are also opaque panels that allow light making it a well-lighted area.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve payment of \$95,450.00 to Pro-Bilt Buildings for the completion of the Griswold Maintenance Building project. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Board Tour:

The Board had approved conducting the annual Trustee Tour on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at the August Board meeting. The agenda for October 12, 2016 beginning at 8:00 a.m. is as follows:

Rock Springs Conservation Area

Nature Center Improvements Tour
Massey Property Drive By
South Sludge Lagoon Project
Walnut Plantation Tour

Wright-Banton Audubon Area

Griswold Conservation Area

New Maintenance Building

Willow Branch Conservation Area II

Restoration Project

Powers Woods

END TOUR AT ROCK SPRINGS NATURE CENTER 2:30 P.M.

There will be some walking required at the Wright-Banton Audubon Area as well as the Willow Branch Conservation Area II. All Board members were in agreement with the agenda.

4. Employee Years of Service Recognition:

Paul Marien reminded the Board that the District had implemented an employee recognition service last year with awards being given out annually at the October quarterly staff meeting. This year the District recognizes the following employees for their years of service:

Doug Kerr, Operations Supervisor at Rock Springs Conservation Area – 40 years
Jeff Tish, Program Services Manager- 40 years
Andy Murphy, Site Technician at Friends Creek Conservation Area - 15 years
Bill Weiss, Administrative Assistant- 5 years

5. Staff Reports:

Shane Ravellette reported that new air conditioning/heating units will be installed in the Rock Springs Nature Center and he has been looking for some grant money to assist with the cost. Natural Resource staff conducted a small “growing season” burn at the wetland and it appears to be successful. Interviews have been held for the Natural Resource Technician with plans on making an offer to one of the candidates next week. The dead oak trees at Friends Creek Conservation Area have been removed. Nature Center projects have been completed and the next projects will be to install automated gates and the ADA accessible ramp at Bethel School.

Richie Wolf reported on Program Services events. Herald and Review has provided good coverage of several programs. He reported that “Illinois Stories” would be taping a segment on the 50th Anniversary. A new part-time Naturalist, Alysia Callison, was hired to replace Mikayla Mendenhall beginning October 3, 2016. She is a local Millikin graduate.

Paul Marien reported that as of this date, there were approximately 80 riders registered for the Prairie Pedal ride and they were organizing the rest stops. The rest stops will be at Lincoln Homestead Park, Griswold Conservation Area, and Willow Branch Conservation Area. Jeff Tish will be cooking chili again this year. Katherine Unruh was busy rounding up the Prairie Pedal raffle prizes. Trustee Elliott commented that the event would not happen without all the hard work that the District employees perform each year. The Sanitary Sludge Lagoon project is making progress and the Board will have an opportunity to view the progress during the Trustee Tour. Paul showed the Board the new “Explore Your Outdoor” brochure. He explained this gives the public ownership.

Paul gave an update on the 50th Anniversary commenting that this event could not have been accomplished without the support of Millikin University. Richard Louv will arrive on October 5th for the October 6th event. He mentioned that the panelists would be Dr. Getter, Ed Moyer with Decatur Public Schools, Megan Baskerville with Macon County Soil & Water, Richard Louv and himself.

Pam Smith highlighted that employees had taken advantage of the Employee Assistance Program that had been implemented two years ago and was happy to see it being used. She also noted that the District received another FOIA request from Smart Procure, which seems to be a regular request.

6. Other:

The District received notice from the City of Macon requesting a TIF (Tax Increment Financing) for the north end of the city.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES

No comments from the Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Jensen MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:15 p.m. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary