

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
March 15, 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 Parish, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Board members absent:

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Minutes of the February 15, 2017, Regular Public Meeting as presented. Trustee Jensen 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 \$108, 783.88 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$26, 659.97. 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.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No comments from the audience.

PRIOR BUSINESS: No prior business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve tentative Budget and Appropriations Ordinance:

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 for FY2018 as presented. 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.

2. Set Budget Hearing Date:

Director Paul Marien recommended scheduling the required budget hearing just before the regular meeting on April 19, 2017. After some discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to hold the Budget & Appropriation Hearing for April 19, 2017, at 5:25 p.m. This allows for a separate Budget Hearing before the regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m.

3. Nature Center Roof Bids:

Shane Ravellette reported that the District had received four bids for replacing the roof on the Rock Springs Nature Center building. Staff budgeted \$200,000.00 for the roof project including front entry improvements. The lowest bidder was Top Quality Roofing replacing the current roof with 50-year asphalt shingles and modifying the entry way for \$190,850. The lowest bidder for a metal roof was \$296,300. Some discussion followed concerning the life of the asphalt versus the metal roof but overall the Board was in agreement using the asphalt shingles. Paul Marien commented that with the recent wind storm, staff were picking up blown off shingles, indicating that something must be done to replace the roof. The shingles on the original building dates back to 1988 with the addition roof dating back to 1998. He recommends to be more conservative that the Board approve the 50-year asphalt shingles. The architect recommends a darker brown shingle, which Paul felt would be complimentary to the siding on the building. Top Quality Roofing has completed several projects for the District and staff has been happy with their work.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve the bid from Top Quality Roofing for \$190,850.00. Trustee Jensen 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.

4. Legislative Breakfast:

Paul Marien announced that the Legislative Breakfast has been canceled due to lack of interest. He suggested that they meet with legislators one-on-one, similar to last year. The District has some capital projects that they would like to propose to the legislators. Paul commented that the meetings last year brought good awareness of the Conservation District. Last year Paul Marien and Trustee Parish met with Sue Scherer which resulted in the Monarch Mural. Shane Ravellette and Paul Marien also met with Andy Manar who was not aware that there was a conservation district in his territory. Trustee Parish suggested that it would be useful to make a trip to Springfield to see as many of the legislators as possible. Trustee Murphy suggested that the bike trail federal grant application should be brought to Senator Durbin's attention. Trustee Parish suggested that at least one Board member should attend these one-on-one meetings with Paul Marien and recommended that Paul work on setting up one-on-one meetings that will be convenient for the legislators. After the dates are established, contact a Board member to attend each of the sessions with him.

5. Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Paul Marien announced the Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be held on April 11, 2017, with registration beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner being served at 6:00 p.m. Trustee Parish encouraged all the Board members to attend. He has attended in the past and commented on how enjoyable it is. Paul reviewed the volunteer report that was generated by Jenny Garver, Volunteer Coordinator.

6. Special Event Request:

Decatur Christian School approached the District about holding a fundraiser run for their school at Friends Creek on October 7, 2017. Paul Marien stated that he could not see any conflicts that would prevent them from holding the run but as per the Special Events Policy, Board approval is needed.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the special event for Decatur Christian School on October 7, 2017. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

7. Staff Reports:

Shane Ravellette reported that staff at Rock Springs Conservation Area have been working on bush honeysuckle removal and that all material had been purchased to complete the log cabin in the Children's Awareness Room at the Nature Center. Hopefully within the next two weeks the project will be completed. Staff at Sand Creek Conservation Area have been proactively removing troubled trees. Staff have been busy preparing the comfort station at Friends Creek for the beginning camping season. Staff have had good jump on prescribed burning.

Richie Wolf reported that approximately 120 individuals attended the Maple Syrup Event over four different sessions, despite there was no sap due to the weather. Hopefully by the end of the month, there will be Summer Camp Counselor applications to review for this year's summer camp. Applications were due by the end of March. April 3, 2017 will be the opening of camp registration. Richie reported that all 20 school bus trips, which the Audubon Society sponsored, have been filled. They saw an overwhelming response. The cost of the bus service is \$250.00 per bus. Schools are charged a \$1.50 per student for school programs.

Paul Marien reported that the month had been spent working on the 2018 Fiscal Year Budget. The District has been asked to the second stage of the Illinois Clean Energy Grant for the land acquisition. He saw this as a good sign. Paul toured the sludge lagoon and reported that all work had been completed and the hardwood trees had been planted. He also stated that he would need to review the access lane and easement to that property.

Pam Smith reported that a significant time had been spent on reviewing and putting together the budget book. Confirmation of the tax levy had been sent for approval. The worker's compensation audit that was performed in February went well and they were pleased with our record keeping. Another FOIA request had been completed for SmartProcure.

8. Other:

No other business reported.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

No comments from the Trustees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Elliott MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. for

1. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body (5 ILCS 120/2(c) (5).

Trustee Jensen 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.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:13 p.m. 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.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 15, 2017. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Land Purchase resolution:

Trustee Parish asked for a motion to approve the land purchase resolution discussed in the executive session.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the land purchase resolution as discussed in the executive session. 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.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

President

ATTEST: _____
Secretary