

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

May 15, 2013

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Elliott, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: President Elliott, 1st Vice-President Horn, and 2nd Vice-President Parish.

Board members absent: Treasurer Stahl, and Secretary Leonard

Trustee Horn MOVED to approve the Minutes of the April 24th Regular Public Meeting, the April 24th Public Hearing on the Budget, and the March 20th Budget Study Session minutes. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$102,642.87 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$25,465.87. Trustee Horn SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

President Elliott called for comments from the audience.

A presentation about the restoration project and animal studies undertaken this school year by Millikin students at Rock Springs Conservation Area was given by Gregg Marcello, Assistant Professor of Biology from Millikin University. Gregg thanked the Board for the research opportunity his students were given at the Rock Springs Conservation Area.

There were no other comments from the audience.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Other: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Leiby Hall Conservation Area Plan and Grant Application:

Director Merner informed the Board that the District staff recommends the Conservation District seek grant assistance through the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) to improve the Leiby Hall Conservation Area so it can be opened to the public. Staff explained that the District frequently receives calls regarding fishing in the pond on this piece of property but currently there is no access except by walking. The preliminary concept plan is to include a cantilevered fishing dock,

shoreline fishing area, gravel parking lot surrounded by some turf, one-third mile of trail, an automatic gate similar to Ft. Daniel Conservation Area, and plans to restore hay to prairie grasses. If approved, the grant from OSLAD would assist with 50% of the cost. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) requires a resolution of authorization from the Conservation District that acknowledges the District has the resources to complete the project in the given timeline of the grant. Staff seeks the Board's approval of the resolution.

Trustee Horn **MOVED** to approve the resolution certifying and acknowledging that the District has 100% of the funds necessary to complete the pending OSLAD/LWCF project within the timeframes specified for project execution and that failure to adhere to the specified project timeframe or failure to proceed with the project because of insufficient funds or change in local recreation priorities is sufficient cause for project grant termination which will also result in the ineligibility of the local project sponsor for subsequent Illinois DNR outdoor recreation grant assistance consideration in the next two consecutive grant cycles following project termination. Trustee Parish **SECONDED** the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Kaufman Property:

Mr. Kaufman wishes to donate 4.93 acres of land located on South Shores Drive that includes lake frontage. This parcel was assessed with the District's evaluation tool and scored in the range of "moderate interest". This would be the second land holding of the District that bounds Lake Decatur. This proposal comes with an endowment to provide financial support for on-going care. If the Board has an interest in acquiring this parcel, staff recommends that the District request the land be restored to a condition that would be acceptable to the District (removal of exotics), that a driveway and gate be installed as there presently is no access except through a private drive on adjacent property. This is a strategic piece of property in that it can serve in educational programs, as a demonstration for conservation practices for the lake front and as a means of ultimately protecting the watershed. Mr. Kaufman has expressed that he does not want the property developed, thus the reason for donating the property to the Conservation District.

Trustee Parish **MOVED** to pursue discussion with Mr. Kaufman regarding the restoration and access issues as a condition of accepting the property. Trustee Horn **SECONDED** the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Renewal – Delta Dental Insurance

Director Merner reported that the Delta Dental Insurance renewal is due July 1, 2013. The district received notification of the rates effective July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015. The rates have not changed from the current year and will remain \$23.93 for single coverage and \$75.44 for family coverage and are guaranteed for two years. Benefits will remain the same.

Trustee Parish **MOVED** to accept the renewal for Delta Dental effective July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015. Trustee Horn **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Approve Summer Camp Contract

Director Merner reported that the District had received the Camp Connections contract from the Decatur Public School System for four weeks of programming in the amount of \$7,300.00. The program is one week less than the previous year. Staff recommends approving the contract.

Trustee Horn MOVED to approve the Camp Connections contract as presented. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. ADA Policy:

Director Merner updated the Board regarding the issue with "other mobility devices" being used in equestrian areas. According to John McGovern if the area was designed for equestrian use, then the use of "other mobility devices" does not apply to that area. Regarding the ADA policy for "other mobility devices", Director Merner is working with Bill Clevenger at the Decatur Park District with a goal of adopting similar language in each district's policy because of the bike trail system. With various segments owned by each agency, drastically different policies would create confusion for the public. Director Merner will update the Board on progress.

6. Departmental Reports:

President Elliott asked if staff had anything to add to their reports. Paul Marien added that personnel have been very busy with the rainy season and that the campground is open. Jeff Tish reported that Meridian School District was holding an all-day event at Griswold Conservation Area. Pam Smith reminded the Board that the auditors would be on site May 21st and May 22nd.

7. Other: None

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Parish MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 8:13 p.m. Trustee Horn SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary