

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

May 20, 2015

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by 2nd Vice-President Jensen with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: 2nd Vice-President Jensen, Secretary Parish, and Treasurer Murphy.

Board member absent: President Leonard

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Minutes of the April 22, 2015, Regular Public Meeting, April 22, 2015, Budget Hearing, and May 6, 2015, Special Meeting. 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 \$108,001.11 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$25,600.61. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: There were no comments from the audience.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Gerber Bank Agreement:

The letter written by Kathy Merner on April 30, 2015, was included in the packet to the Board. At this time, Paul Marien is waiting for a response from Gerber Bank.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Announcement of New Executive Director

Second Vice-President Jensen recapped the Executive Director Search. A consulting firm, GovHRUSA, was chosen to lead the search. They received fifty-five applications and narrowed the search to eleven candidates. Six candidates received a personal interview either in person or via skype with three receiving a second interview. Paul was chosen as the best candidate from the final three. Trustee Jensen reported that Paul has the full backing of the Board.

Trustee Parish MOVED to officially appoint Paul Marien as the new Executive Director of the Macon County Conservation District effective immediately. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Paul thanked the Board and said he was honored to have the position and promised to do his very best.

2. Carolyn Mason Master Naturalist Scholarship Fund:

Paul Marien updated the Board as to the process of the Carolyn Mason Master Naturalist Scholarship Fund. Upon transfer of the funds to the Foundation, staff will coordinate with the University of Illinois Extension Office in setting up the application process. Two to three scholarships of \$100.00 will be given annually. Staff recommends the transfer of \$3,210.00 to the Macon County Conservation Foundation to set up and monitor the scholarship.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the transfer of the Carolyn Mason memorial funds to the Foundation in the amount of \$3,210.00 Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Appointment of Foundation Director:

The Macon County Conservation Foundation Board recommends appointing Chris Siudyla to serve a three-year term on the Foundation Board. Chris Siudyla's bio was included in the Board packet. The Macon County Conservation District must approve this appointment.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve the appointment of Chris Siudyla to the Macon County Conservation Foundation Board. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Approval of Technology Contract - MCK:

Pam Smith presented the annual technology contract from May, Cocagne, & King (MCK). Each year the District must estimate the number of hours needed for technology assistance. Pam troubleshoots all minor problems but MCK assists with the server maintenance and major issues that arise. In consulting with MCK, it was decided that 51 contracted hours should be enough hours for the year beginning May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016. The contract price would be set at \$105.00 per hour. Without this contracted price, any service provided would cost the District \$125.00 per hour. MCK has been very flexible in past years in working with the District on overage and shortage of hours. Staff recommends approving this contract for 51 hours at \$105.00 per hour.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the contract with MCK for 51 hours at \$105.00 per hour for May 1, 2015, through April 30, 2016. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Approval of Decatur Running Club Event Permit

For the past four years, the Decatur Running Club has used Sand Creek for their annual charity running event. Paul stated that the event does not create a conflict with District Programs, and that the District has never had a problem with the event. It utilizes about three-fourths of the day and will be held on October 10, 2015. Staff recommends approving this special event.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to authorize the Decatur Running Club to hold a special event on October 10, 2015, at Sand Creek Conservation Area. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Nuisance Wildlife Control Permit:

Paul Marien informed the Board that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) can provide Government Agencies a nuisance wildlife control permit. Currently in order to get rid of any nuisance wildlife such as raccoons, the District has to go through the permit requirements like any other private operators. Obtaining an annual nuisance wildlife control permit would allow the District to trap wildlife and expedite the process. The wildlife would be caught in a live trap (humane method) and animal control called for disposal. Staff recommends obtaining this annual nuisance wildlife control permit.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve the District to apply for an annual Nuisance Wildlife Control Permit. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

7. Windfarm Plan Review

Paul Marien provided an update on the status of the windfarm and its impact on the Conservation District. He and Mitch Lovgren drove the site to get a visual of the area. It was flat farm ground with rolling hills in the northern section. It is located away from any Conservation property. There is a block of forests that has the possibility of supporting wildlife and Paul's review will recommend that E.ON Climate and Renewables of North America be sensitive to the abruption of the waterways and treed area during construction. Paul is to draft a review to the County and will share this with the Board. Trustee Parish inquired as to the height of the wind turbines. Paul stated that their peak was 500 feet high and the height to the top of the tower was 300 feet.

8. Renewal: Dental Insurance

Pam Smith reviewed the Delta Dental Insurance renewal for benefit year beginning July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2017. The increase is approximately 3% but is guaranteed for two years. Delta Dental also offered a rider in which the District could add the required ACA (Affordable Care Act) kids preferred plan. The District's insurance broker advised the District to wait until it was mandatory before adding on the rider. Staff recommends that the Board approve the Delta Dental Insurance renewal as presented.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Delta Dental premium renewal at the new rate. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

9. Staff Reports

Paul Marien reported that the campgrounds were open and had been busy. He was in the process of searching for a Natural Resources Technician to replace Mitch Lovgren since Mitch was promoted to the Natural Resource Specialist position.

Trustee Murphy questioned Richie Wolf on the program numbers being down. He reported that was mainly due to the rain during the Festival of Spring. Richie Wolf reported that summer camp begins June 8th, the summer historic intern began this week and the Summer Prairie Islander was mailed out. He reported that the new exhibit is set up featuring the "museum in a box" program.

10. Other

No other business to report.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Parish complimented the staff and other Board members for the wonderful reception that was held in honor of Kathy Merner's retirement.

Trustee Murphy commented how impressed she was in the seamless transition since Kathy's retirement and complimented the staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Parish MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:05 p.m. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary