

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

**October 21, 2015**

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, Treasurer Jensen, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Smithson, Secretary Murphy, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Elliott.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 2015, Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Elliott 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 \$108,007.04 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$22,066.26 as presented. Trustee Smithson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Smithson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:** No comments from audience.

**PRIOR BUSINESS:**

**1. NuStar Pipeline**

Director Marien included the letter sent to NuStar Pipeline Company in the Board packet. Right after the Board packet had been distributed, Director Marien received a phone call from NuStar Pipeline informing him that NuStar representatives were looking at a different route outside of the District for the pipeline. This issue should go away and paperwork will be kept in the file.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Group Camp Rules Revision:**

As per last Board meeting, Director Marien was to present new wording for the Group Camp Rules. Staff recommends revising the rules to say, "A group of 15 or more individuals and or coordinated groups (examples: clubs, organizations, scouts, family reunions, or interest groups). Trustee Murphy questioned the significance of the number "15". Director Marien explained that any number under fifteen, staff felt they could use the regular campground verses the group campground. The main agenda of revising the rules were to encourage higher use of the group campground. Trustee Parish suggested that staff try this for a year to see how well it goes.

Trustee Smithson MOVED to approve the new group camp rules as presented. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE." Motion carried.

## **2. Authorization to Purchase Compact Tractors**

Shane Ravellette reminded the Board that the District was working with a joint purchasing contract with the County Board of Commissioners and had selected to work with Sloan Implement. A decision had been made to purchase John Deere tractors due to the convenience of local John Deere Franchises nearby and would enable cross compatibility of current and future purchases. Sloan Implement offered a reasonable price and trade-in for the 1993 John Deere tractor and the 1999 New Holland tractor. Staff recommends the purchase of two John Deere 3033R compact utility tractors from Sloan Implement for \$45,901.76.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the purchase of two John Deere 3033R compact utility tractors for \$45,901.76 from Sloan Implement of Assumption. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Smithson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

## **3. Summer Camp Report**

Richie Wolf reviewed the Summer Camp Report that was included in the Board packet. Trustee Parish asked if Richie knew the total number of "individuals" that came to camp. Richie didn't have that particular information available but stated that 160 slots were filled for Earth Adventures. Summer camp made less of a profit this summer than last summer mainly due to an increase in staff. This year four counselors were hired but Richie is recommending the hiring of three full-time and one part-time for next summer. Trustee Murphy questioned if the District was where they wanted to be with summer camp. Richie stated that camp did not perform as well as he had expected but the District faces competition with many other camps. Trustee Smith wondered which aspect of summer camp has more appeal, and Richie stated that Adventure Club seems to attract more individuals with 206 slots filled this summer. Richie stated that mini-camps seem to fare well and that is one way to latch onto campers at an early age and, hopefully, retain them through all age groups of the summer camp program. One of the major expenses for summer camp was the bussing fees. Last year the District was able to employ a local church for transportation but this year had to use First Student. With the purchase of the new 15 passenger transit, this should save money. The District also was able to partner with Millikin University in using their vans to transport campers to the YMCA for swimming at .45 a mile. Trustee Smithson questioned Richie as to what does he expect to have the most growth next year, and his response was Earth Adventures. He reported that the fee for Earth Adventures is \$115.00 a week and currently Adventure Club which meets once a week is \$10.00 for a three hour camp. Staff recommends increasing the fee for Adventure Club from \$10.00 to \$12.00 for next summer.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the fee increase for Adventure Club from \$10.00 to \$12.00. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Smithson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

## **4. Staff Reports**

Richie Wolf highlighted the change in the District's recycling program. The District has entered into a contract with Midwest Fiber for on-site pick up. This will save staff time in transporting recyclables. In turn with the new hand dryers, garbage pickup has been cut in half. He announced that the "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee" was holding a meeting on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Rock Springs Nature Center and invited the Board to participate. Shane highlighted staff had been busy with end of season work but that the biggest challenge has been staffing. Rock Springs Conservation Area is short one staff after the resident guard moved to the Friends Creek Conservation Area. Currently, they have received two applications.

Director Marien reported on the success of Prairie Pedal with the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest attendance the Foundation has had. He reported that thank-you notes have been sent to all sponsors and volunteers. For the most part, evaluations from the event were good with a few criticisms concerning the route. He feels there are areas to work on for improvement. The approximate net profit for the event was \$30,000.00.

**5. Other**

No other business.

**COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:**

Trustee Elliott thanked the District staff for a job well done with the Prairie Pedal Fundraising event. She felt it would not be as successful without the help of the staff and expressed her appreciation for all their hard work. Trustee Murphy commented how impressed she was with the Board Tour and that it's worth the time to keep doing. All Board members were in agreement.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Trustee Murphy MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. for the purpose of

1. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Smithson MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:17 p.m. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Smithson MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 21, 2015. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Trustee Elliott MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:19 p.m. Trustee Smithson SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

---

President

ATTEST:

---

Secretary