

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

September 17, 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: Treasurer Jensen, President Parish, 1st Vice-President Smithson, and 2nd Vice-President Elliott.

Board members absent: Secretary Murphy

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2015, Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$157,952.68 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$21,731.89 as presented. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Smithson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

Bill Faber, newly elected City Councilman, briefly introduced himself to the Board and wanted them to contact him if there was anything he could do for the District. He uses Sand Creek Conservation Area and praised the District for the great job that is done in keeping the trails in good shape.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Gerber Bank Agreement

Staff met with Roger Dotson with Gerber State Bank to review the ACH Agreement. He explained that the bank cannot override any of the agreement since it was established by the FDIC. Although most of the agreement does not apply to the District, the District falls under the agreement because of the ACH transactions for payroll direct deposits. After speaking with Roger, reviewing the agreement and confirming with the District attorney, staff feels comfortable signing the agreement. The attorney is in agreement with staff in recommending that the agreement be signed.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve signing the Gerber Bank Agreement as originally presented. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Smithson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. NuStar Pipeline

Director Marien drafted a letter in response to NuStar's request to construct an ammonia pipeline through the Bois du Sangamon Nature Preserve. The drafted letter is in the hands of the District's attorney for review. The District has a statutory obligation to protect the area under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act. NuStar would have to go through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to change statutory authority. Paul does not believe the request will move forward. The pipeline crosses the access lane and clips the northeast corner of the property. The pipeline is to serve Archer Daniels Midland. Director Marien will keep the Board informed as he receives updates.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review Annual Treasurer's Statement:

Director Marien explained that the Treasurer's Statement must be prepared annually and filed with the County Clerk within six months following the end of the fiscal year.

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

2. Foundation Director Appointment:

The Macon County Conservation Foundation Board recommends appointing Eric Wherley to complete Mark Stahl's term to serve a three-year term on the Foundation Board. Eric Wherley's bio was included in the Board packet. The Macon County Conservation District Board must approve this appointment. No discussion followed.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the nomination of Eric Wherley as Director on the Macon County Conservation Foundation Board. Trustee Smithson SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Easement Request at 1269 Koshinski Lane:

Director Marien explained that the District had been contacted by an attorney representing one of the District's neighbors on Dipper Lane who was trying to sell their house. They are requesting easement access across the District's property to access their property at 1269 Koshinski Lane. Director Marien used maps to explain the situation to the Board. After researching, their title company did not find any access. Trustee Parish questioned why other neighbors had not requested easement. Director Marien is assuming this title company was better at researching than others. The attorney doesn't see any problem with granting the easement. Trustee Parish recommended that the expenses be covered by the requestor.

Trustee Smithson MOVED to approve the easement request with the stipulation that the party involved pay all the associated fees. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Smithson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Group Camp Rules Revision:

Director Marien explained that the Group Camp rules at Friends Creek Conservation Area were originally written to include only “organized groups”. With some recent requests from families, staff proposed to change the rules to include families along with organized groups. Trustee Parish questioned the definition of family and suggested that staff review the proposed language and bring back to the Board. Director Marien explained that it had originally been intended for use by Scouts but has not been used very much. By changing the rules, staff had hoped to increase the usage of the Group Camp. Director Marien will review the language and bring back to the Board at the next meeting. Decision to approve the revision was tabled.

5. Authorization to Approve Truck:

Staff is requesting authorization to purchase a replacement dump truck through the State of Illinois joint purchasing program with Bob Ridings. The dump truck is a 2016 Ford F550 regular cab. Shane Ravellette, Operations Manager, emphasized that it will be able to pull a trailer holding Natural Resources equipment. He is pleased with the price of \$37,920.00 including trade.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the purchase of a dump truck through the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Contract from Bob Ridings Ford dealership in the amount of \$37,920.00. Trustee Smithson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Smithson, “AYE”; Trustee Jensen, “AYE”; Trustee Parish, “AYE”; and Trustee Elliott, “AYE. Motion carried.

6. Authorization to Purchase Compact Tractors

Shane Ravellette explained the District wanting to purchase two compact tractors through the Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners who has negotiated a joint purchasing contract with John Deere. Since the District falls under the “special purpose districts”, they are eligible to use this contract. Shane is looking at the price of \$26,500 before trade in. If Board agrees with using the program, Shane will bring exact pricing back to the Board. The Board members present were in agreement to move forward.

7. Payout – Sand Creek Drainage Improvement Project:

Director Marien explained that the drainage project had been completed at Sand Creek and looked good. Staff recommends payment of \$28,402.62 to Eric Vieback Land Improvement for the finished work. EPA will be funding 60% of the project with the Macon County Conservation Foundation funding the remaining 40%.

Trustee Smithson MOVED to approve the payout to Eric Vieback Land Improvement in the amount of \$28,402.62 for the Sand Creek Drainage Improvement Project. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Smithson, “AYE”; Trustee Jensen, “AYE”; Trustee Parish, “AYE”; and Trustee Elliott, “AYE. Motion carried.

8. Payout – Nature Center Painting

H.F. Fritch and Sons completed the outside painting of the Nature Center. Staff were pleased with their work and recommend payment in the amount of \$22,431.00.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the payout to H.F. Fritch and Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$22,431.00 for the painting of the Nature Center. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Smithson, “AYE”; Trustee Jensen, “AYE”; Trustee Parish, “AYE”; and Trustee Elliott, “AYE. Motion carried.

9. Final Payout- Mansion West Porch

Jones & Sullivan Construction have submitted a final pay request in the amount of \$16,365.30 for the Oglesby Mansion west porch renovation including the new lift. The lift is complete and operable. Staff recommends the Board approve this payment to Jones and Sullivan for the work completed.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the final payout to Jones and Sullivan Construction in the amount of \$16,365.30 for renovations to the Oglesby Mansion west porch. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Smithson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE. Motion carried.

10. Staff Reports

Shane Ravellette reported that renovation on the Friends Creek resident guard house was complete and Andy Murphy would be relocating and working at Friends Creek Conservation Area as of Monday. Hopefully the District will have a replacement at Rocks Springs Conservation Area early to mid-October. The Deer Herd Management program letters and maps have been mailed out. The only change this year is that hunters will self check-in instead of checking in with staff.

Richie Wolf reported that summer camp was over and will be providing a report in October. Prairie Celebration will be held this Saturday and Sunday and invited the Board members to come out to the event. Richie reported that Monarch Mania was a success with 150 monarchs captured and tagged. He was excited to report that the District should be receiving their Ford transit between October 5th and 10th. On October 17th, the ponds will be stocked with trout.

Director Marien reported that he is happy to have Shane Ravellette on board and has been working with him for a seamless transition. He reported that Prairie Pedal would be held next week.

11. Other

No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: No Comments from the Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Elliott MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:40 p.m. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary