

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

February 17, 2016

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, 1st Vice-President Smithson, and 2nd Vice-President Elliott

Board members absent: Secretary Murphy

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2016, 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 \$192,385.48 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$29,759.30 as presented. Trustee Smithson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Smithson, "AYE" Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No comments from the audience.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

No prior business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Power of Attorney Resolution:

Director Paul Marien reported to the Board that the Operations Manager has the responsibility of managing the Conservation District's farm programs. As the previous Operations Manager, Paul needs to pass these responsibilities to Shane Ravellette as the new Operations Manager, which requires a resolution from the Board. This resolution grants Shane signing authority for the District to participate in farm programs offered by the FSA (Farm Service Agency).

Trustee Smithson MOVED to approve the resolution for granting Shane Ravellette Power of Attorney as presented. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Smithson, "AYE" Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Set Budget Study Session

The Board needed to set a date for the budget study session. Director Paul Marien suggested in the past, the meeting had been held at 4:00 p.m., immediately before the regular public meeting. He stated it usually only takes approximately one hour to walk through the budget. The Trustees mutually agreed to set the Budget Study Session for 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

3. Lincoln Homestead Trail Improvements Support

Director Paul Marien reported that the Macon County Community Environment Council (CEC) is asking for a letter of support from the District in applying for grants for restoration work at the Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park. They would like to open a canoe access point and provide management of vegetation at the site. Director Marien stated that the District definitely could not provide financial support but on a limited basis offer consultation from the staff and let them utilize the District's volunteer database. He feels that the District has nothing to lose. Director Marien is asking for Board approval to write a letter of support.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve Director Marien sending a letter of support on behalf of the District. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Staff Reports

Pam Smith reported that W-2's and 1099's were distributed before the end of January and approximately 20 boxes of various accounting documents had been boxed for destruction pending the State's approval.

Richie Wolf reported that President's Day weekend was very successful with some ski rental and 53 individuals attending the "Snake & Turtle Show." He reported that fourteen eagles were seen during the Pere Marquette Eagle Trip – the most eagles that had been seen so far this year. Richie also reported that Herald & Review and WAND-TV had provided some good coverage of recent activities at the District.

Shane Ravellette reported that the new tractors had been put to use in cleaning up the bike trail and announced that the River Trail was officially opened. The trailer that had been auctioned sold for \$2,900 with the District receiving \$2,800. Staff were pleased with the result for a trailer that was over 20 years old. Shane reported that the District was still seeking a replacement for the Natural Resources Specialist. Several applications have been received and he hoped to begin the interview process the first or second week in March.

Director Marien gave an update on the Sandcreek land conversion. He had found a discrepancy in the acreage reported on the paperwork so it had to be sent back for correction. The amended document was just received but there was no funding for the project at this time. Title transfer may be able to happen. The 50th Anniversary Open House attracted approximately 82 individuals. A meeting regarding the lagoon project is being scheduled with the Sanitary District.

5. Other

Proofs for the new signs in the kiosks at the Information Shelter has been received and were shared with the Board members after the meeting. They have been sent off for fabrication with Hopewell Manufacturing in Pennsylvania. It will be approximately six weeks before the District receives them.

Director Paul Marien reminded the Board to begin thinking about nominations for a new trustee (to replace Jim Smithson who was completing a one-year term). Trustee Parish stated that normally the Vice-President and the newest Trustee serve on the nominating committee but since Trustee Smithson is the Vice-President and fairly new, he recommended other Trustees should serve on the committee. Trustee Elliott volunteered herself and Trustee Murphy to serve on the committee but welcomed any suggestions from the other Board members.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Jensen shared an article from Purple Martin Conservation written by a recent Millikin graduate. In the article, the student gave credit to the Macon County Conservation District for helping him pursue his interest in conservation.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Smithson MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:11 p.m. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary