

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

January 16, 2013

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order by 1st Vice-President Horn, at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: 1st Vice-President Horn, Secretary Leonard, Treasurer Stahl, and 2nd Vice-President Darrel Parish.

Board members absent: President Elliott

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting of December 19th, Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. Before the Board voted on approving the December 19th minutes, Trustee Horn requested the Board to amend the minutes to say the same as his comments for the November 17th meeting as follows: *“Trustee Horn shared a research article with the Board pertaining to decision to continue to farm 28 tillable acres at Grove Branch for the next three years instead of examining other alternatives, including conversion to perennial grassland.”* Some discussion followed and Trustee Parish suggested that the “Trustee Comments” section of the minutes was not the proper time to discuss such matters but suggested that Trustee Horn ask that the item be placed on the agenda if he wanted to discuss it at future meetings.

After discussion, Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting of December 19th as amended. Trustee Parish SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted “AYE” with the exception of Trustee Parish who abstained. Motion carried.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$117, 254.76 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$21, 292.70. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, “AYE”, Trustee Parish, “AYE”; Trustee Horn, “AYE”; and Trustee Leonard, “AYE”. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Other: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Update on Land Acquisition at Fort Daniel:

Director Merner informed the Board that the Simpsons received the mortgage release from their mortgage company for the property we are planning to purchase. Purchasing this property will give the District a bigger buffer along Big Creek. Staff has authorized Bodine Services to complete

the phase I environmental survey. If that report indicates there are no environmental issues to be concerned with, the District can proceed with the closing.

2. Approve Agreement with Massie and Massie:

Director Merner informed the Board that Massie, Massie & Associates were asked to submit a proposal to develop a concept plan for improvements to the Leiby Hall Conservation Area to open the area for public use. Staff proposes that the District apply for grant assistance with the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Program (OSLAD) administered by the IL Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The concept plan will be needed when applying for grant funding. Staff emphasized that this property has been owned for 13 years and that it was time to do some development. Paul Marien explained that the property has a pond with steep sides but with no access. Massie and Massie has been taken out to the site and instructed that the District wants minimal impact to the site. Staff has laid out the components to be included in the concept plan. The plan would include vehicular access, a pedestrian trail to the pond, fishing deck and parking lot. There will be a self-closing electric gate installed at the site as well. According to IDNR, no restroom facilities are required. Trustee Horn questioned if this development was in line with the 2004 Master Plan. Staff stated that the 2004 Master Plan had been amended to include this development. Trustee Horn requested that the Plan be sent to the Trustees. Staff reported that the OSLAD grant is due July 1st but would more than likely, if funded, be 2014 before the project began. Massie and Massie will produce a preliminary development plan and display Board for a fee of \$5,550.00. Staff recommends approving their proposal.

Trustee Parish MOVED to accept the Proposal from Massie and Massie for the concept plan for a fee of \$5,550 as presented. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Mansion Project Millwork Contract Award:

Staff asked local mill shops to price the cost of milling the woodwork for the east porch of the Oglesby Mansion. Huff Lumber and Brad Milliman, Inc., were given the plans to determine the quantities and price for the fabrication of the decorative woodwork for the porch. Brad Milliman quoted the project using Douglas fir just as specified for \$17,952.00, while Huff Lumber quoted the project using mahogany for a price of \$20,705.00. Milliman would be fabricated locally while Huff Lumber would use a shop in Kentucky for pieces that they cannot produce themselves. Staff recommends awarding the project to Brad Milliman, Inc., to produce the porch woodwork in the amount of \$17,952.00. Some discussion followed concerning why the District did not buy a machine to do the work themselves. Director Merner reminded the Trustees that the District will own the knives for future projects.

Trustee Parish MOVED to award the bid to Brad Milliman, Inc., to produce the porch woodwork for \$17,952.00. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

4: Special Event Application for Sand Creek Trail Run:

Director Merner wanted to inform the Board that the Decatur Running Club has presented this running event at Sand Creek Conservation Area for two years. This Club is very good at policing their own event and does a good job at cleaning up afterwards so she wanted the Board to be aware that staff has given them permission to run the event again in 2013.

5. Award Contract for Natural Resources Project:

Director Merner reminded the Board that part of the requirements for the Willow Branch land acquisition was to complete the major site restoration within three years. The grant award included \$10,000 to fund the initial restoration. Rich Crowe, Natural Resources Specialist, handled this project in soliciting bids for custom removal of Bush Honeysuckle. Two contractors bid on the project: Earl Carr Eureka Tree Movers and Ken Hoene Timber Services. Staff recommends accepting the \$3,900 bid from Eureka Tree Movers to mow and perform follow-up spraying of 9.2 acres of Bush Honeysuckle on the new addition to Willow Branch. Both contractors have done good work for the District in the past but Earl Carr Eureka Tree Movers came in at \$3,900 while Ken Hoene Timber Services came in at \$7,187.50. Both contractors saw the same job specifications. Trustee Horn suggested the possibility of staff removing the Bush Honeysuckle instead of outsourcing the project. Director Merner stated that it made more sense to contract the job out as it was more than the District staff could handle due to limited number of staff and smaller equipment. In addition, the Grant sets a time limit that cannot be met with our own staff. This will get the project jump-started. The removal will require staff's assistance and follow-up as well.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to award the bid for the Natural Resources Project at Willow Branch addition to Earl Carr Eureka Tree Movers for \$3,900.00. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

Paul Marien also informed the Board that he had met with Jeanne Maxwell to discuss the matter of renting out pasture land for her horses but she was still undecided as to what she wanted to do. In one year or less, she may decide to sell her horses. Staff will continue to negotiate with her.

6. Staff Reports:

The Board heard reports from Director Merner, Administration Department; Paul Marien, Operations Department and Pam Smith, Administration Department. Jeff Tish, Program Services, was not present to give his report but was included in the Board Packet for the Trustee's Review. Vice-President Horn asked if any Trustees had questions for Director Merner and the response was "no".

7. Other:

Trustee Horn requested clarification as to what could and could not be said under the “Trustee Comments” section of the Board Meeting. He requested that staff look into the District Governing documents for clarification. Much discussion followed to clarify the situation and answer Trustee Horn’s question. Director Merner and other Trustees tried to clarify that an item of importance, particularly for a change in policy, needs to be added as an agenda item and posted before the next meeting. The public must be given notice of agenda items. Much discussion followed concerning the process and what “other” business meant. After discussion, all were in agreement that a subject matter could be brought up in “other” business on the agenda but that nothing could be voted on until it was added as an agenda item and posted for public notice. Then at the next meeting, it could be addressed and voted on.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Horn advised the Trustees that he had sent out two documents for them to read concerning high nitrate levels in Decatur and the Decatur Watershed. He stated that there was a perception problem for the District concerning adding nitrates to the soil.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Parish MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 8:10 p.m. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, “AYE”. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

SECRETARY