

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

January 20, 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, Secretary Murphy
Board members absent: Vice-President Smithson and 2nd Vice-President Elliott

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve the Minutes of the December 16, 2015, Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Jensen 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 \$138,979.49 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$23,390.05 as presented. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. NuStar Pipeline:

Director Paul Marien updated the Board on his attendance at the hearing held in Springfield. The District's attorney had advised Paul to attend this pre-conference hearing for the pipeline. Paul stated that the pipeline will not be crossing the District's property. They have developed alternative routes. Because the District's property is within 250 feet of the proposed route, the District will continue to be notified of all proceedings. The next hearing will be in June. Paul did ask NuStar to send written notification that the pipeline would not be crossing District property and will keep the Board apprised.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Nature Center Energy Report:

Shane Ravellette briefly reviewed the annual energy report with the Board. The District has been tracking energy usage since 2008 and have reported more efficient energy use resulting in financial savings. Paul Marien contributed the savings to better building management and cost saving measures that have been implemented. Shane reported that the District will continue to make changes and will always have funds in the budget to implement new cost saving measures.

2. Surplus Equipment Disposal:

A list was presented to the Board for disposal with one large item on the list. A Cronkite 20 ton trailer was no longer needed. The District was replacing the large dump truck with a smaller model making it impossible to transport the old trailer. This will be

taken to the auto auction on Mound Road. Most of the other items on the list were non-use equipment. Staff needs Board authorization to dispose of these items.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the surplus equipment disposal as presented. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. BIKE PATH GRANT OPPORTUNITY:

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy through a private foundation will make \$85,000 available each year for the next five years to improve rails-to-trails, bike trails, multi-use trails and connective community corridors. This will be a nationwide competitive process. Shane Ravellette would like to apply for the grant to use funds to repair the aging bridges on the bike trail as well as working on the trail shoulder and crack repairs. Paul Marien reported to the Board that there are no grants at the State level at this time. Trustee Jensen inquired as to the length of the trail with Paul Marien replying that there was 2.2 miles of trail to maintain. Trustee Murphy suggested that Shane apply and if the request is denied, the District should approach local entities for funding. Staff requests board authorization to apply for the grant.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve applying for the Rails-to Trails Conservancy grant. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Staff Reports

Richie Wolf reported that the Volunteer Holiday party was a success with over 100 volunteers attending the event. The first Conservation Area transit tour was full with twelve and the second trip was completely full but had to be canceled because of the weather. He announced the grand opening of the 50th Anniversary Celebration exhibit on Sunday from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and invited all Board members to attend.

Shane Ravellette reported on the flooding the District had experienced and fortunately there was no damage to the bridges. Chastain & Associates inspected the bridges and found no problems to report. Willow Branch had just been planted in seeds before the heavy rains but upon initial inspection, we don't believe as many seeds were lost as originally expected.

Paul Marien reported on the IACD (Illinois Association of Conservation Districts) statewide conference that was being held on February 25 & 26th. To date, 57 had registered for the event. This is the first statewide conference to be held. The District will host an annual legislative breakfast in conjunction with the Decatur Park District sometime in April. Paul has coordinated a meeting with IDNR (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) on April 21st. Trustee Murphy suggested that Paul set an agenda for their next meeting and suggested it would be nice to hold the meeting on site.

5. Other

No other business to report.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Jensen wondered about the state of the pine forest and the safety of the public due to the falling trees. Shane Ravellette assured him that the District had posted "no public access" into the red pine forest and were doing what they could to keep the public safe.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Jensen MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:13 p.m. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary