

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

November 15, 2017

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Murphy, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: President Murphy, Treasurer Johnson, Secretary Elliott, and 1st Vice-President Jensen

Board member absent: 2nd Vice-President White

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2017, Regular Public Meeting as presented. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$139,055.52 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$67,804.53. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Rock Springs Playground:

Paul Marien reported that the playground equipment has been installed and the project is 95% completed. The sitting wall still needs to be completed. The contractor moved all fencing and the playground has already been used by school children. Staff are pleased with the work that has been done. Questions were raised about the covering of the seat wall and about the concern with sharp corners. Paul told the Board that the seat wall would be similar to the wall in front of the Nature Center. Trustee Murphy commented how nice the walkway was leading to the pavilion making the pavilions more noticeable. Fiber engineered wood chips compose the ground covering for the playground. Paul announced that almost \$50,000.00 has been raised as of this date for the playground. Trustee Elliott thanked all the Board members for making contributions to the playground fundraising. She also questioned if some of the tags on the equipment could be removed. Shane Ravellette will check into the matter. A brief discussion followed concerning the timing of the official grand opening and all were in agreement that it would be best to wait until spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Adopt Tax Levy:

Paul Marien reminded the Board that the tax levy was to be filed annually by the last Tuesday in December. He discussed with the Board that he was decreasing

the amount levied compared to last year to bring the levy request more in line with what is to be actually received. The levy was based on the most recent EAV (equalized assessed value). Staff recommends approving the levy ordinance as presented.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the tax levy as presented. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott. Motion carried.

2. Land & Water Reserve Program:

Information on the Land and Water Reserve Program was included in the Board packet. Brett Burkart was in the audience to answer any questions that the Board may have concerning the program. Brett was responsible for doing most of the legwork. He had previously interned for the Nature Preserves. Approximately 421 acres of the western portion of Rock Springs Conservation Area has been selected for its qualifying features, particularly 100 acres of bottomland forest. Paul Marien confirmed that this project was part of the Master Plan. In addition to wanting approval to proceed with the process, Paul wanted Board approval for naming the reserve the "Rock Springs Land and Water Reserve." All members present were in agreement with Paul's proposal. After a brief discussion, the Board decided a motion was needed to move forward with the process of registering the proposed acreage as a land and water reserve.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve moving forward with the process of registering the mentioned land as a land and water reserve naming it "Rock springs Land and Water Reserve." Trustee Jensen SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Volunteer Holiday Luncheon

Paul Marien reminded the Board of the upcoming Volunteer Holiday Party on Thursday, December 7, 2017, with registration beginning at 11:30 and lunch being served at noon in the auditorium at the Rock Springs Nature Center. He encouraged all members to attend.

4. Employee Health Insurance Update:

The District's Health Insurance renewal is January 1, 2018. United Healthcare's proposed premium for the new benefit year is a 14% increase. Our broker was only able to find one other plan comparable to our current plan. Currently the District is still in transitional relief and does not have to be ACA compliant. Staff recommends remaining with United Healthcare for another year. The anticipated increase was 30-35% so the 14% increase is better than anticipated.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve renewing with United Healthcare for the 2018 benefit year. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Approve 2018 Holiday Schedule:

**MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
2018**

MONDAY	NEW YEAR'S DAY	JANUARY 1
MONDAY	MLK JR. DAY	JANUARY 15
MONDAY	PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEBRUARY 19
FRIDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	MARCH 30
MONDAY	MEMORIAL DAY	MAY 28
WEDNESDAY	INDEPENDENCE DAY	JULY 4
MONDAY	LABOR DAY	SEPTEMBER 3
MONDAY (observed)	VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 12
<i>(Since Veterans Day falls on a Sunday, the Holiday is observed on the Monday after)</i>		
THURSDAY	THANKSGIVING DAY	NOVEMBER 22
FRIDAY	THANKSGIVING	NOVEMBER 23
MONDAY	CHRISTMAS EVE	DECEMBER 24
TUESDAY	CHRISTMAS DAY	DECEMBER 25
TUESDAY	NEW YEARS DAY	JANUARY 1, 2019

Paul Marien noted that the Holiday Schedule follows the County's schedule. This is the same holiday schedule as last year with the dates updated for 2018.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the 2018 Holiday Schedule as presented. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Hickory Point Bank Accounts

Pam Smith explained that since the total funds at Hickory Point Bank exceeded the FDIC limit, Hickory Point Bank has been collateralizing any funds above the \$250,000.00 limit while decreasing the interest rate earned. After meeting with representatives from Hickory Point Bank, staff decided to roll the funds over to a sweep account to earn a better interest rate and to transfer \$200,000.00 into a certificate of deposit earning .40% instead of earning .15%. Hickory Point Bank requires all current signers on the money market accounts to sign the certificate of deposit. Pam has the forms for signatures available after the meeting.

7. Staff Reports

Pam Smith highlighted the month's activities for October. Budget sheets were prepared and distributed to supervisors. Insurance bids were solicited by the broker for presentation at the Board meeting. The Staff Christmas party was scheduled for December 1, 2017, at the Beach House. The tax levy ordinance was prepared for Board approval. Pam and Paul Marien met with Hickory Point Representatives to discuss alternatives for deposits to earn better interest.

Shane Ravellette reported that staff are happy with the progress of the playground. Natural Resources staff were busy recycling scrap from various sites. Shane praised the Friends Creek staff for the great job in generating campground revenue totaling about \$36,000.00 – a 20% over projected revenue. Sand Creek staff continue to work on land management mowing and exotic removal as well as preparing for burn season. Shane reported that the skylight in the Nature Center roof is still an outstanding issue and is still scheduled for replacement sometime in December.

Richie Wolf reported that over 300 people attended the Fall Harvest Festival. He announced that the Candlelight Tour would be held this Saturday, November 18th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Homestead Farm. The “Dive-In” program sponsored by the IEPA (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency) was a success with 350 students participating in 14 sessions from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Students from Mt. Zion and Dennis lab participated in the event. The District earned a stipend of \$800.00 for hosting the event. Richie reported that a \$10,000.00 donation was being presented to the Foundation Board from the Decatur Power Squadron at tomorrow’s meeting.

Paul Marien reported that the land conversion at Sand Creek Conservation Area for the beltway project has been completed. Paul and Richie Wolf met with the new Decatur Public Schools Superintendent to make an introduction of the Rock Springs Nature Center. One of the Superintendent’s goals is to improve the bus funds for school field trips. The Superintendent did report that his plans were to continue with the School District’s summer camp program – Camp Connections.

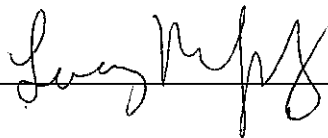
8. Other

No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:


ADJOURNMENT:

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



President

ATTEST:



Secretary