

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

March 16, 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, Secretary Murphy, Treasurer Jensen, and 2nd Vice-President Elliott

Board member absent: 1st Vice-President Smithson

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the February 17, 2016, Regular Public Meeting as presented. Trustee Elliott 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 \$113,935.13 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$10,546.67. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: There were no comments from the audience.

PRIOR BUSINESS: No prior business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance:

The Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance is annually adopted at the March meeting and must be on display for public viewing for thirty days before being approved at the April meeting.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance as presented. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Set Budget Hearing:

Director Paul Marien recommended scheduling the required budget hearing just before the regular meeting on April 20, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. He confirmed that this allows for the Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance to be on display to the public for 30 days.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to hold the budget hearing on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. at the Rock Springs Nature Center. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Legislative Coffee/Brunch:

Director Paul Marien announced that the District and Decatur Park District were jointly hosting a Legislative Coffee/Brunch on April 11, 2016, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. and invited all Board members to attend. Thus far the following have agreed to attend: Andy Manar, Sue Scherer, Chapin Rose, a representative from Rodney Davis' office, a representative from Dick Durbin's office, and Bill Mitchell. Trustee Parish agreed to represent the District in presenting two platforms that were priority for the District: 1) Grant funding for capital projects, and 2) Environmental Education. Paul informed the Board that he and Richie Wolf had scheduled a meeting to meet with the Communications Director from the Decatur Public School System regarding programs. Trustee Murphy suggested inviting the superintendent as well as the Board President. A brief discussion followed concerning the playground located at Rock Springs Conservation Area, and Trustee Murphy suggested the "nature play" equipment.

4. Volunteer Recognition Dinner:

Director Paul Marien announced that the Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be held on April 19, 2016, at the Decatur Conference Hotel and they should be receiving an invitation in the mail. He encouraged all Board members to attend. Trustees are needed to assist with handing out 46 volunteer awards that evening for four, eight, twelve, twenty, and twenty-four years of service. The theme for the dinner will be "*Volunteers are Golden*" in honor of the District's 50th Anniversary. Two other awards will be given: one for Jim Smithson who will be going off the Board and another award for Director Emeritus for Dr. Richard Fritz.

5. Staff Reports:

Richie Wolf's highlights included that the Snake & Turtle Program which continues to be a popular activity. Fourteen eagles were seen during the eagle trip to Grafton. Summer camp registration begins April 1st. He will be hiring three counselors for the program, of which two have already been hired. A major public event, the Festival of Spring, will be held on April 23rd and encouraged Board members to attend. It will be from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Program Services will be holding four one-hour Maple Syrup sessions this weekend (March 19th).

Shane Ravelette's highlights including preparation for upcoming trainings and preparation for the busy months ahead. He reported that employees enjoyed the IACD Conference that was held in February. They received positive feedback. The Natural Resource Specialist position was filled internally with Ethan Snively. This leaves the Natural Resource Technician open.

Pam Smith's highlights included a FOIA request from SmartProcure requesting purchasing records from October 1, 2015 through present. The District's annual workers compensation audit was conducted with no issues reported. It will take a few months before the District knows if it will receive a premium refund or not.

Paul Marien's highlights included completion of the budget book, the successful IACD Conference at Starved Rock and an update on the 50th Anniversary events. The author is scheduled to be here October 6th and the District will be partnering with Millikin University's Institute for Science Entrepreneurship.

6. Other:

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Elliott inquired if the memorial money given in Dr. Fritz honor had been earmarked. Director Marien replied that he had been in contact with Nancy Fritz and was awaiting to hear from her.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Elliott MOVED to go into Executive Session at 5:58 p.m. for the purpose of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body.

Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:26 p.m. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 16, 2016. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Jensen MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:27 p.m. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary