

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

**May 21, 2014**

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

Board members present: President Horn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Murphy, Treasurer Parish, and Secretary Stahl. Board member absent: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Leonard.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to approve the Minutes of the April 23, 2014, Regular Public Meeting with correction to Item 5. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Horn noted error found in Item #5, Trustee Elliott needed to be changed to Trustee Murphy.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$131,953.09 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$10,806.81 as presented. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:**

President Horn called for comments from the audience. There were no comments.

**PRIOR BUSINESS:**

**1. Willow Branch Wetland Plan:**

Trustee Horn reported on his recent meeting with Caterpillar Foundation. While meeting with Caterpillar on another item, he discussed Willow Branch. He reported that the Foundation is open to a proposal from the Conservation District regarding restoration of the wetlands in that complex, beginning with calendar year 2015. Trustee Horn encouraged the Board to begin development of the wetland in 2015 and for them to reach out to other partners who may be able to provide support. He stated that there was another Millikin University Biologist interested in monitoring the wetlands as well as support from Ducks Unlimited. He emphasized that this was a unique ecological feature for Central Illinois. Trustee Murphy commended him on his good work.

**2. Other:** No other business reported.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Dental Insurance Renewal:**

The District's Dental Insurance is due for renewal as of July 1, 2014. There is no change in the current premium rate with the total premium being \$1,001.00 monthly. Staff recommends renewing the Dental Insurance policy for another year at the renewal rate.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to approve the Delta Dental insurance renewal as presented. Trustee Parish SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**2. Inquiry regarding office space - IDNR:**

Director Merner reminded the Board that an IDNR (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) wildlife biologist used to occupy office space in the lower level of the Rock Springs Nature Center. IDNR is in the process of hiring a new biologist for the area and voiced an interest in leasing space from the District. Staff feels that the expertise is beneficial to staff and recommends leasing the space to IDNR. Once Director Merner hears from IDNR and has received a contract, she will present to the Board for approval.

**3. Meeting Report: IL Association of Conservation & Forest Preserve Districts:**

Director Merner briefly reported on the meeting in Springfield. Most of the meeting was reviewing legislation that is being considered. Of interest to some of the larger agencies is to offer programs of interest to conservation agencies at the annual Park and Recreation conference sponsored by the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association. She reported that she would be traveling to Bryon, Illinois on Thursday for a meeting of some of the smaller conservation and forest preserve districts.

**4. Report from IL Association of Conservation Districts Meeting:**

Director Merner reported that the Conservation Association used to hold retreats for all levels of staff and determined that they would work on organizing a staff retreat for next year and include the forest preserve districts as well.

**5. Foundation Report:**

Director Merner reported that the Foundation Fundraising and Marketing Committee were working together on major gift solicitation this summer. Prairie Pedal is quickly approaching. She also reported that she had submitted two grants. One of the grants was from ADM to support educational programs such as "Into the Wild" and programs at Dennis School. The District received thank you letters from the students, which are being bundled together and being sent to contacts at ADM. The District hopes to expand the educational programs to more schools this year. The second grant applied for was a "Challenge Grant" with the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. This grant could net up to \$30,000 for restoration work.

Director Merner reminded the Board that a tour for donors and others interested is being held on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Rock Springs Conservation Area.

**6. Opening new bank account for Kaufman Endowment:**

The Auditor recommended that the District open a separate bank account for the Kaufman endowment funds. Currently the District has a separate fund account for the funds, but the auditor felt a separate bank account for the restricted funds was necessary. A new money market account will be opened at Hickory Point Bank with the funds being transferred from the current money market account to the new money market account.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to approve opening new bank account for the funds received from the Kaufman Endowment. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**7. Departmental Reports:**

President Horn asked staff to comment on highlights from their reports submitted in the Board packet. Paul Marien, Richie Wolf, Pam Smith, and Director Merner summarized the highlights of their reports.

**8. Other:** No other business reported.

**COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:** Trustee Horn reminded the Board and staff that he would not be at the June meeting. He stated that it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the Board and firmly believes that the District is the best run organization in Central Illinois. He thanked the Director and staff for exemplary work on a daily basis. He thanked his fellow Board members for their excellent work and said he knew he was leaving the Board in good hands.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Trustee Parish **MOVED** to go into Executive Session at 6:08 p.m. for the purpose of the selection of a person to fill a public office.

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

Trustee Parish **MOVED** to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:15 p.m. Trustee Murphy **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Murphy **MOVED** to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 21, 2014. Trustee Stahl **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE:**

Trustee Parish reported that the Nominating Committee recommends Norman Jensen as the new trustee nomination for the Macon County Conservation District Board, effective July 1, 2014.

Trustee Murphy **MOVED** to submit Norman Jensen's name to the County Board as nominee to serve on the District Board. Trustee Stahl **SECONDED** the motion. All Members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Trustee Stahl **MOVED** to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:18 p.m. Trustee Parish **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

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First Vice-President

ATTEST:

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Secretary