

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

November 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, 1st Vice-President Murphy, Secretary Jensen, Treasurer Elliott and 2nd Vice-President Johnson

Board members absent: None

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 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 \$119,519.86 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$53,739.81. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: None.

PRIOR BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Adopt Tax Levy:

Paul Marien proposed to the Board that the District levy the maximum rate of 5%, which is the maximum that can be levied without a Truth & Taxation Hearing. The District is levying the maximum rate for the corporate fund, which is .1%. This answered Trustee Parish's question as to whether or not the District was levying to the maximum rate. Paul had previously called and discussed with the County Clerk to verify the District's options.

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

2. Rock Springs Playground:

Trustee Elliott had asked for the playground to be added to this month’s agenda. She pointed out that it had been discussed with the Foundation Board but had not been discussed in detail with the Trustees. Trustee Elliott presented pictures to the Trustees of her grandchildren playing with logs that had been cut from a large tree. Trustee Murphy presented some pictures of playgrounds that she had “googled” on the internet and shared her ideas with the Board. Both Trustees explained that they were wanting more of a “nature play” area than a park district or school district playground. Paul Marien did explain that the District tries to leave the natural areas as they are for nature play, such as the teepee that had been built in the pine forest. Despite individuals thinking that the District had created this play area, it actually just evolved through the assistance of the public visiting the Pine Forest. But to have an established play area at Rock Springs, Paul explained that there were certain standards that had to be followed. He emphasized that the playground had to be equipped to handle a large number of children at once. Trustee Parish suggested just putting a couple of logs outside of the playground area to see what type of interest in playing on the logs is generated. Paul mentioned that the Children’s Museum has a nice playground but they take it in and out daily, yet the District cannot afford to do that. Trustee Elliott questioned the life of the current playground and Paul did state that the playground had run its course and the company from which the equipment was purchased is no longer in business. The playground had lasted 20 years. Trustee Elliott emphasized that replacing the playground cannot be put off. Paul said that funds had been put into this year’s budget for replacing the playground but will not be enough funds. More funds will be budgeted for next fiscal year but they will begin the process of looking for ideas now. Paul stated that he is not opposed to finding a playground that will meet the “nature play” concept everyone is wanting, but he will need to find a source. He also suggested that the District may need to hire a designer. Trustee Parish suggested that Paul contact Massey & Massey. Trustee Murphy suggested that the playground could be a potential fundraising project for the Foundation Board. Paul will proceed with contacting a designer and bring something back to the Board.

3. Holiday Schedule:

**MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
2017**

MONDAY (<i>observed</i>)	NEW YEAR’S DAY	JANUARY 2
<i>(Since New Year’s Day falls on Sunday, the Holiday is observed on Monday)</i>		
MONDAY	MLK JR. DAY	JANUARY 16
MONDAY	PRESIDENT’S DAY	FEBRUARY 20
FRIDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	APRIL 14
MONDAY	MEMORIAL DAY	MAY 29
TUESDAY	INDEPENDENCE DAY	JULY 4

MONDAY	LABOR DAY	SEPTEMBER 4
FRIDAY (observed)	VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 10
<i>(Since Veterans Day falls on a Saturday, the Holiday is observed on the Friday before)</i>		
THURSDAY	THANKSGIVING DAY	NOVEMBER 23
FRIDAY	THANKSGIVING	NOVEMBER 24
FRIDAY (observed)	CHRISTMAS EVE	DECEMBER 22
<i>(Since Christmas Eve falls on Sunday it is being observed on Friday before)</i>		
MONDAY	CHRISTMAS DAY	DECEMBER 25
MONDAY	NEW YEARS DAY	JANUARY 1, 2018

Trustee Parish asked if the schedule was the same as last year with the exception of adding the New Year Holiday for the following year, and Paul Marien’s response was “yes”.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve the Staff Holiday schedule as presented. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, “AYE”. Motion carried.

4. Part Time Dental and Vision Insurance

Paul Marien presented to the Board the option of offering Dental and Vision insurance to the regular part-time employees. He felt this would be more attractive in hiring and would hopefully minimize turnover. The Board was given the cost of adding employee only or adding employee and dependents as a comparison. The overall cost is minimal for the District. Trustee Murphy questioned if this was a matter that the Director could handle without Board approval but all were in agreement that it was a matter that should be approved by the Board. After some discussion of various options, such as offering a pay increase instead of the insurance, the Board came to the conclusion that it would be nice to offer the dental and vision insurance to employees and their dependents at the District’s expense. There are currently only six regular part-time employees.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve offering dental and vision insurance to part-time employees and their dependents at the cost of the District. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, “AYE”; Trustee Jensen, “AYE”; Trustee Parish “AYE”; Trustee Murphy, “AYE”; and Trustee Elliott, “AYE”. Motion carried.

5. Staff Reports:

Shane Ravellette reported that his department was in the process of getting ready for the winter months. Friends Creek maintenance shop had just installed a new heater in their shop. The campground season had ended and a report will be generated for the December Board meeting. All seasonal employees had finished working and the new Natural Resource Technician had settled into the house and position. Shane

reported that the deer herd management program was ahead of last year's numbers at this time.

Richie Wolf reported that the District had a nice turnout for the Fall Harvest Festival. The llama was a popular attraction and he was thankful for the Shiloh Ranch for loaning a trailer used to haul the llama. The candlelight tour was a success with approximately 101 individuals attending in a two hour period.

Paul Marien reported that the Massey deed had been recorded but they will reside in the house until December 11th. Shane Ravellette was working on getting the property off the tax records. The Auer property title had been recorded and the trust dissolved. He is currently working with Busey Farm management on managing the property for the Foundation. Paul reported that a volunteer whose wife had passed away wanted to have an automatic door opener installed at the main entrance to the Nature Center as a memorial to his wife. The Oglesby Mansion year-end letters had been completed and mailed out and staff were currently working on the Foundation year-end letter. The Monarch Mural Challenge in partnership with Sue Scherer had taken off with ten classes participating to date. Paul and Shane Ravellette both attended the IAPD legal symposium on employer/labor laws, drones, and other legal matters. The sludge lagoon project was progressing, though the seeds had not been planted as of yet, they were working on getting the seeds.

6. Other:

Paul Marien informed the Trustees that Dwayne Andreas had passed away.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Murphy MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary