

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

**November 20, 2013**

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Horn, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Trustee Stahl MOVED to approve the Minutes of the October 16, 2013, Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$157,066.26 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$8,472.93. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:**

President Horn called for comments from the audience. There were none.

**PRIOR BUSINESS:**

1. **Other:** No prior business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Ameren Transmission Line:**

Director Merner reminded the Board that approximately a year ago Ameren held a meeting to discuss the location of the transmission line. The route has now changed and she attended a preconference hearing in October. Ameren is now considering a route that will cross through some of the District and Foundation property. Since land owned by the Conservation District is not subject to eminent domain, Director Merner proposes that the Foundation transfer title of said property to the Conservation District. She emphasized that the Foundation has been holding the property for the benefit of the District. It was the donor's intent that the Conservation District ultimately owns the land. There is no further action required by the Board at this time.

**2. Tax Levy:**

Every year the tax levy is to be filed by the last Tuesday in December. If the tax levy is to increase more than 105%, then the process is to publish a notice pursuant to the Truth in Taxation Act and hold a public hearing. After reviewing the fund accounts, Director Merner proposes increasing the levy by approximately 2.04% and making some adjustments to a few of the special fund accounts.

Trustee Parish MOVED to adopt the Tax Levy Ordinance as presented with the correction of a small typo. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**3. Nomination Process-Board Members:**

Trustee Parish asked for the nomination process to be put on the agenda for discussion in modifying the process. He recommends identifying and interviewing a single individual and if this individual is not appropriate, then the committee will select another candidate. There was some discussion with various opinions on how the process should be handled. Trustee Murphy agreed that it's rather difficult to accept rejection after being nominated and invited to be interviewed. A suggestion was made to include the application process on the website which eliminates candidates from being asked personally. The Committee could then review all of the candidates that applied and make a recommendation. Trustees could encourage individuals to apply online, thus giving the Committee a pool of candidates. There was some concern expressed that the right individual may be excluded if they did not have knowledge of applying for the position on the website and that some good candidates could be left out of the process. Director Merner is to review the comments made and send back to the Board for further discussion.

**4. Transfer of Property:**

Director Merner drafted a letter for President Horn's signature notifying the Foundation Board that the District is ready to accept title of the 80 acres of land in South Macon Township. This letter can be presented to the Foundation Board at their meeting on Thursday.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve signing the letter and informing the Foundation Board that the District was ready to accept title of the said property. Trustee Parish SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**5. 2014 Holiday Schedule:**

Director Merner proposed that the District sacrifice the Columbus Day Holiday in exchange for observing Christmas Eve as a Holiday. The District has in the past been open Christmas Eve but with very little activity. She proposes that the District close at noon this Christmas Eve and adopt the new holiday schedule for next year as proposed:

**MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

**2014**

WEDNESDAY	NEW YEAR'S DAY	JANUARY 1
MONDAY	MLK JR. DAY	JANUARY 20
MONDAY	PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEBRUARY 17
FRIDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	APRIL 18
MONDAY	MEMORIAL DAY	MAY 26
FRIDAY	INDEPENDENCE DAY	JULY 4
MONDAY	LABOR DAY	SEPTEMBER 1
TUESDAY	VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 11
THURSDAY	THANKSGIVING DAY	NOVEMBER 27
FRIDAY	THANKSGIVING	NOVEMBER 28
WEDNESDAY	CHRISTMAS EVE	DECEMBER 24
THURSDAY	CHRISTMAS DAY	DECEMBER 25

Trustee Stahl MOVED to accept the Holiday Schedule and closing at noon on this Christmas Eve as proposed. Trustee LEONARD seconded the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**6. 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.

**7. Other: NONE.**

**COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:**

Trustee Parish questioned if Leiby Hall was open and accessible to the public. Paul Marien informed the Board that he was working on resubmitting the grant to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for funding this project. In the meantime, staff encourage inquisitive callers to use the District's other facilities since there are no amenities such as off-street parking. Director Merner and Trustee Murphy will meet with Harold (Leiby Hall Foundation) and conduct some research on the will. Trustee Parish stated he could get copies of the will.

Trustee Murphy suggested that the Board look at holding the Board Meetings at an earlier time during the day. Meeting at 4:00 was a suggested time. Board Members are to check their calendars and report back at the January meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Trustee Stahl MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

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President

ATTEST:

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Secretary