

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

MARCH 20, 2019

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

Board members present: President Jensen, Secretary Johnson, 2nd Vice-President Schneller, and 1st Vice-President Parish

Board members absent: Treasurer White

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Minutes of the February 20, 2019, Public Meeting as presented. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve the monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$133,790.37 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$23,002.57. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: None.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. ECO Center Upgrades

Taylor Studios met with Paul Marien, Alysia Callison and Richie Wolf for three days in February to work on developing the design/concept of the new center. The overarching theme is the environment and how individuals can help restore and improve habitat. Subthemes include the Nature Center experience, how man has impacted the land within Macon County, prominent resources throughout the Conservation District and areas of conservation success. Paul asked the Trustees if there was anything different they wanted to see or go in a different direction as now was the time to make changes. The Center section will see very little change, the outer edge will have drastic changes made and the Bluestem Theater will be removed. There is no formal action that needs to be taken at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance

Paul Marien stated that the Board needed to formally approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance which was reviewed in the budget study session prior to the meeting. 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 Schneller MOVED to approve the FY2020 Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance as presented. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Set time for Public Hearing for FY2020 Budget:

Staff recommends setting the Budget Hearing at 5:25 p.m. on April 24, 2019 before the regularly scheduled meeting. All Trustees were in agreement.

3. Oglesby Mansion Conservatory Bid:

Only one bid was received for the Oglesby Mansion Conservatory for \$114,006.00, which is much higher than anticipated. Staff recommends rejecting the bid which Paul Marien said was astronomically high. Trustee Parish asked Paul what he thought the project was going to cost and his response was approximately \$40,000.00. Paul will apprise the Oglesby Board of the District Board's decision. The District may have to piece it together and use some of the District's labor. The question is how much time should be spent on the project. Board approval is needed to reject the bid.

Trustee Parish MOVED to reject the Christy-Foltz submitted bid of \$114,006.00 for the Oglesby Mansion conservatory project. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Sand Creek Bridge Crossings Bid:

Shane Ravellette received three bids for the Sand Creek Bridge Crossings with the base bid being for the Paw Paw Ford and the alternate bid for the Butternut Ford. The bids were higher than expected and funding won't allow for both to be completed. Staff recommends awarding the base bid to Christy Foltz in the amount of \$41,297.00.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve accepting the base bid for the Sand Creek bridge crossings from Christy Foltz in the amount of \$41,297.00. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Approval to Order Vehicles

Shane Ravellette requested approval to purchase vehicles for Fiscal Year 2020 early as the lead time is three to four months. He explained that he was hoping to receive the vehicles before the busy season started and to have the transit van in time to shuttle campers for summer camp. Shane will be ordering 2 Ford 150s and 1 Ford Transit and trading in a total of 5 vehicles. No money will be involved at this time. Board approval is needed for placing the order before the budget is officially approved.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to grant District Staff permission to order the vehicles planned for purchase in FY2020 before budget approval. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Volunteer Recognition Dinner:

Paul Marien reminded the Trustees of the upcoming Volunteer Recognition Dinner on April 9, 2019. It is a very nice evening and the Trustees assist in handing out the rewards. He encouraged all to attend.

7. State of Illinois Surplus Property Purchasing Program

The District has been participating in the State of Illinois surplus program for a long time and every few years renewal is required. A resolution for participation must be approved and signed by the Board.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Resolution for Participation in State of Illinois Federal Surplus Property Program. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

8. Staff Reports:

Shane Ravellette reported that February was a month of training with three members attending the management school in Virginia and some staff attending the pipeline/excavation safety training. A handful attended the annual Illinois Association of Conservation District's (IACD) conference at Starved Rock. Some ash trees posing a hazard were removed at Rock Springs. Also, some trees were removed at the Friends Creek Campground. The bobcat was put to use at Sand Creek cleaning up debris along fence line removal and then returned to Rock Springs where it was used to extend fire lines and became stuck but there was no damage to the unit.

Pam Smith reported that most of the month was spent finalizing the budget and compiling the budget book used in the Budget Study Session. The Foundation Finance Committee met and finalized the FY2020 Foundation Budget to be presented at their March meeting. The certificate of deposit at the Prairie State Bank was redeemed after they could not offer a competitive interest rate. The Funds were reinvested with Commerce Bank at a 2.4% rate for nine months. Pam reviewed with the Board that the District had received their annual IMRF reserve statement. IMRF estimated investment return was -4.13%, failing to achieve their 7.5% investment

return rate. The District was hit hard with this loss and will be reflected on the employer's contribution rate for calendar year 2020.

Richie Wolf reported that the Maple Syrup program is very popular and continues to be successful. Summer Camp registration opens up April 1st. Summer Camp Counselor Applications close the end of March. The Audubon Society once again donated 20 free buses for schools to use for field trips.

Paul Marien reported that the IACD held their best conference yet. He will remain as president of the organization. Paul reported that he is working on documentation with the Oglesby Mansion Board detailing the respective responsibilities for both organizations. There has never been anything in writing as to which organization is responsible for what. Paul and Shane Ravellette met with the newly elected Sheriff Brown. Paul and Katherine Unruh attended a legislative breakfast in Springfield. No local representatives attended.

9. **Other:** No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: No comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Schneller MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:15 p.m. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.



President

ATTEST:



Secretary