

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

August 15, 2018

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, 1st Vice President Elliott, Treasurer White, and 2nd Vice-President Schneller.

Board members absent: Secretary Johnson

Trustee White MOVED to approve the Minutes of the July 18, 2018, Regular Public Meeting and the July 18, 2018, Special Meeting as presented. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$123,326.85 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$49,790.70. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: None

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Trustee Tour Itinerary

Paul Marien reviewed the tentative itinerary as presented below with the

Board:

8:00 - 8:15	Meet in the Nature Center Kitchen (we'll have coffee and juice)
8:15 - 9:15	Hike to see Big Oak Trail re-route
9:15 - 9:30	Drive to Sand Creek parking lot
9:30 - 10:30	Hike to see savanna restoration and forest watch sites
10:30- 10:45	Drive to Willow Branch Conservation Area II
10:45 – 11:45	Hike in to see restoration progress
11:45-12:00	Drive to Grove Branch to look at shooting range
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch (Mt. Zion?)
1:15 – 1:30	Drive to Fort Daniel to see walnut plantation
1:30 – 2:00	Drive to Oglesby Mansion to look at greenhouse
2:00 – 2:30	Return to Nature Center

All Board members present were in agreement with the itinerary. No action required.

2. Master Plan

Paul Marien reminded the Board that a joint meeting with the Foundation Directors and Hitchcock Design Group has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 28, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The meeting will be held at the same time as the Hummingbird Festival so parking may be an issue. Paul reviewed the summary Hitchcock had sent from the last Board workshop. Trustee Elliott reminded Paul to let Lucy Murphy know about the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Special Event Application Approval:

Decatur Christian School submitted a special event application to host a trail run at the Friends Creek Conservation Area. The school held this event last year and all paperwork has been submitted. The Staff recommends approving the application along with a \$200.00 application fee.

Trustee White MOVED to approve the special event application for Decatur Christian School's use of Friends Creek Conservation Area for a school running event on October 6th. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Payout Approval for Campground Roadwork:

Paul Marien corrected the amount of the payout to Dunn Company that had been included in the Board packet. The correct amount of the payout should have been \$31,030.00 for the oil and chip sealing of the campground. Staff is satisfied with the work and recommends paying Dunn Company the \$31,030.00.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the payout to Dunn Company for \$31,030.00 for the completion of the oil and chip sealing at Friends Creek Campground. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Oslad Grant Program:

Paul Marien reported that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) opened applications for the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development grant. The grant application process was opened up August 1, 2018, with the deadline being October 1, 2018. Shane Ravellette and Paul met to discuss ideas for the grant and decided to present to the Board Improvements to the Cattail Pond. The improvements would include better public access, more accessible fishing, a fishing dock, boat access improvement (for canoe programs), connect the two ponds together, deepen the entire pond area and have an ADA accessible dock. The grant will cover 50% of the project including concept drawings. Staff has asked Massie Massie Associates to develop a concept drawing with budget estimates for the improvements to the Cattail Ponds at Rock Springs Conservation Area. This project will actually complete phase three of the "campus area" of the Nature Center. The total grant funds available state-wide is twenty-nine million. No action required at this time.

4. Oslad Grant Resolution:

As part of the grant process, it is required that the Conservation District Board pass a resolution agreeing to meet the requirements of the grant program. The grants will be approved this year but probably not announced until January of 2019 and then the design process begins at which time the project will be included in the budget. Trustee White questioned if this would be a possible project for the Foundation to consider and Paul Marien stated that it is a subject up for discussion.

Trustee White MOVED to adopt the resolution to agree to meet the requirements of the grant program as presented. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Approve Proposal for Construction Administration Services at Sand Creek:

Staff asked Massie Massie and Associates to submit a proposal for the construction administration of installing the foot bridges at the Sand Creek Conservation Area across the Pawpaw and Butternut Fords. The staff asked that this work not be done in house and Trustee White asked what the concerns of the staff were. Shane Ravellette reported that their regular duties are demanding and already have projects to be completed.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve the proposal submitted by Massie Massie and Associates for their services in the construction administration portion of the foot bridges being installed at Sand Creek Conservation Area. Trustee White SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Staff Reports

Richie Wolf reported that the Summer Camp season as well as the Summer Concert Series were over. Trustee Jensen stated that he really enjoyed the concerts and thanked Richie for holding them. The same sponsor has agreed to sponsor again next year. Richie was happy to report that there were no major injuries during summer camp and counselors were wrapping everything up. Staff have been busy all over the county with library programs.

Shane Ravellette reported that the prairies were in full bloom and they were pleased with the outcome at Willow Branch II. Staff at the Friends Creek Conservation Area took advantage of the campground being closed for road resurfacing and painted the comfort station as well as making repairs and painting the Bethel School. The Site Supervisor at Sand Creek Conservation Area, Steve Drew, retired after almost 43 years with the District.

Paul Marien updated the Board on the "America in Bloom" project. Judges were happy with the Rock Springs area. There is a video on YouTube and the video with the most views will win the contest. Prairie Pedal planning continues. The route and rest stops have been determined. Riders are beginning to register for the event and sponsorship is about the same last year. Paul met with Katherine Unruh and Jenny Garver to discuss applying children's signage near the Nature Center. Jenny

holds her mini camps on the west lawn. Developing signage will enhance her programs.

Pam Smith reported that the auditor had been on-site for the audit and reported that the auditor commented on how our records are some of the best kept that he has seen. He submitted drafts of the Audit for both the District and Foundation within two weeks after the on-site visit. Pam is currently in the process of reviewing the drafts. The first tax levy installment check was received and was a little late this year but larger than previous years. The check was deposited in Gerber Bank but Pam and Paul Marien will review investing some funds with the Commerce Bank which the Board recently added to the list of depositories.

7. Other:
No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:
None.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

President

ATTEST:

Secretary