

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

January 17, 2018

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. by 1st Vice-President Norm Jensen, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: Treasurer Johnson, 2nd Vice-President White and 1st Vice-President Jensen

Board member absent: President Murphy and Secretary Elliott

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Minutes of the December 20, 2017, Regular Public Meeting as presented. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee White MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$136,646.67 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$34,205.11. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Jensen, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: None

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. None:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Master Plan Consultants Review:

Paul Marien had received three notices of intent for making a proposal for the District's Master Plan but only two companies actually sent in proposals. Vandewalle & Associates and Hitchcock Design Group sent in proposals which were included in the Board's packet. Paul contacted Hitchcock's references with the only negative comment being that they were too lofty for budget. He also contacted the references for Vanderwalle with positive results. Vanderwalle had previously completed the District's original Master Plan back in 2004 and was in need of updating. Paul was leaning toward Vanderwalle assuming they would be more cost effective and he knew their strengths and weaknesses from working with them in the past. At this point in time, no cost had been included in the proposal. Trustee Johnson and Trustee White deferred to the staff with whom they felt would know best. Paul asked for the Board members to call or email him any comments they

may have by the end of the week and a decision would be made internally after conferring with the staff.

2. Archery Hunting Rules:

Paul Marien discussed with the Board that the District had two hunters that had violated the rule of harvesting a buck before a doe in the Deer Herd Management Program. Paul contacted the attorney and had them draft a disciplinary letter that Paul would like Board's feedback as to what disciplinary action should be taken. Staff felt that short of poaching this action was just as much against the program as anything. A lengthy discussion followed concerning the actions of the two violators with one of them having been ticketed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The other violator happened to run into a staff member shortly after shooting the buck and confessed. The overall consensus of the Board was that the punishment should make an impact and these hunters should feel it is a privilege to be able to hunt on District property. They were all in agreement that the punishment should be that violators would be permanently banned from the program. As per the attorney, if the violators are banned from the program, they have the right to request a hearing before the Board at one of the regularly scheduled Board meetings.

Trustee Johnson MOVED that any hunter that violates the rule as stated in the rules and regulations of harvesting a buck before a doe should be permanently banned from the program.

Rule #8 "An antlerless deer must be harvested on District lands and reported on the sign in/out form before pursuing a buck. Each hunter is limited to one antlered deer on District lands per year. An antlered deer is considered a deer with antlers 3 inches in length or greater."

Trustee White SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Staff Reports:

Shane Ravellette reported that Natural Resources had wrapped up the deer herd management program for the year with a slightly higher harvest than the prior year. Temperatures and wind prohibited the prairie restoration volunteer seeding at the newly acquired property at Friends Creek. All the operations staff joined together for a joint project at Fort Daniel working on timber stand improvement and burning over 40 acres. Plans are to use a team effort to tackle more projects in the future.

Richie Wolf reported that the Volunteer Holiday Party had over 100 in attendance. The first eagle trip this season to Starved Rock reported seeing 22 eagles. Another eagle trip is planned for this Saturday and one is scheduled for Pere Marquette in February. The summer concert series has been scheduled and staff are still waiting to rent those first snow skis.

Pam Smith reported that the District had received one its largest Nearing Trust disbursements of \$110,344.00 and had received the final tax levy disbursement in the approximate amount of \$96,700.00. The total amount received is 91% of the amount levied. The investment in The Illinois Funds is going well with the interest rate over

1.30%. Much of the month had been spent putting the corporate budget together which is now in the review stage.

Paul Marien updated the Board on The Beautify Decatur group which has been putting together a 25-page document to be presented to the judges. Rock Springs and the Oglesby Mansion will be part of the judge's tour. Thank-you letters were sent out to year-end donors. The total year-end donations were approximately \$19,000.00 while the playground fundraising totaled \$59,150.00.

4. Other:

Trustee Jensen inquired into the reason for the "2017 Year in Review" article included in the Board packet. Paul Marien explained that this lengthy document was put together by a volunteer, and he wanted the Board to know that the Conservation District had been included in the article for its acquisition at Friends Creek through the Clean Energy Grant.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Dave White gave an update to the Board on the Foundation's Fidelity Investment which is a balanced fund account. To date, the Foundation has seen a \$65,000.00 unrealized gain and earned dividends which are reinvested. The Board is following the investment policy which is a long-term approach to investing.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee White MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:48 p.m.

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

President

ATTEST:

Secretary