

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

July 19, 2017

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

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

Board member absent: None

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Minutes of the June 21, 2017, Regular Public Meeting as presented. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$217,907.28 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$60,968.70. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: None

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Playground Project:

Paul Marien presented the Board with the concept drawing and informed them that he had received the specifications and project manual. It is 75% completed. He stated that he would like to go out to bid but probably would not be able to present bids at the August meeting but more than likely would be September before they had the bids to present to the Board. Once a bid is awarded, his plan is to begin the construction of the playground in fall. The concept drawing will be presented to the Foundation Board at their meeting tomorrow (July 20, 2017). Trustee Murphy asked if Paul knew a cost and he said he won't know anything for sure until the project goes out to bid. He informed the Board that some cost savings will be implemented by having the District staff perform the demolition of current equipment. The base part of the plan is estimated to be \$139,000.00 and with alternatives, the cost is estimated to be \$150,000.00. The Board encouraged Paul to keep moving forward.

2. Auer Property Right-of-Way Proposal

Paul Marien had the District's attorney review the right-of-way proposal for the Auer property. The attorney did not see anything outstanding in the proposal that would be a concern. Paul reminded the Board that President Parish had suggested that the Foundation agree that Prairie Power purchase the easement property outright instead of the five-year plan option presented, and he would encourage the Foundation Board to do so.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election of Officers:

Paul Marien stated that the typical slate of officers is being presented to the Board. Normally each of the Trustees progress through the ranks. The staff recommends the Board of Trustees approve the following slate of officers for the year beginning July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018:

Lucy Murphy, PRESIDENT
Norm Jensen, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Anne Elliott, SECRETARY
Doug Johnson, TREASURER
David White, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

Trustee Elliott MOVED to accept the slate of officers for the year as presented. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Illinois Association of Conservation Districts Liaison:

This is a volunteer position to serve as the Liaison to the Illinois Association of Conservation Districts (IACD) and Trustee Jensen has served as the liaison for the past two years. Trustee Jensen did state if no other Board member wanted to serve, he was more than willing to remain on as the liaison. All members of the Board were in agreement, so Trustee Jensen will remain as the IACD Liaison.

3. Set Trustee Tour Date:

Each year in July the District arranges a Trustee Tour of various areas owned by the Conservation District. Trustee White suggested that it needed to be scheduled after October 16, 2017, to accommodate his busy schedule. The Board members felt last year's meeting in October worked out well. After some discussion, they unanimously agreed to schedule the tour on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, meeting at 8:00 a.m. at Rock Springs Nature Center. Paul Marien asked the Board to think of areas of interest and to send him their thoughts. He and Shane Ravellette will organize an agenda.

4. Approve Contractor Payout

Shane Ravellette explained to the Board that an area at Friends Creek Conservation had some Black Locust, Osage Orange, and Honeysuckle removed by Eric Vieback Land Improvement. This area is part of the upland game hunting program. Removal of these invasive species will also benefit wildlife and make land management much easier. Eric Vieback has been used before and staff are happy with his work. This project is one of the natural resource projects that the Foundation approved funding this fiscal year. Staff recommends payout in the amount of \$20,160.00 to Eric Vieback for removal of invasive species at the Friends Creek Conservation Area.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the payout to Eric Vieback Land Improvement Inc., in the amount of \$20,160.00 for the removal of Black Locust, Osage Orange and Honeysuckle in the Friends Creek Conservation Area. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. IPARKS Insurance Renewal

Paul Marien reported that the District had received the annual general liability insurance renewal and that it had only increased approximately 1.0% over last year's premium. Staff recommends remaining at the same existing limits of \$8,000,000 per occurrence and payment of the new annual premium of \$71,375.00.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to approve payment of \$71,375.00 premium with \$8,000,000 limit. Trustee White SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Murphy, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Staff Reports

Richie Wolf reported that between 17-20 Library Programs had been conducted and that summer camp was in week seven. The Summer Concert Series has been a big hit with over 300 in attendance. Paul Marien commented that these series were reaching a crowd that had never heard about the District. Trustee Murphy asked Richie if this was his idea and he responded that he had held these concerts before at his previous employment but Trustee Murphy confirmed that he was the one who began the series here at the District. Richie also reported that the media had been doing an outstanding job promoting programs.

Shane Ravellette reported that the biggest project has been the roofing project. It has gone fairly well but there is a delay with the skylight. He is anticipating the payout will be on the August Board agenda. Good numbers have been seen at the Friends Creek Campgrounds. Sand Creek and Fort Daniel were still working on cleaning up after the May flooding. Natural Resources have been working on the prairies and utilizing the two interns hired to assist with land management. Natural Resources finished the tiered plant beds which is now in the watering stage.

Pam Smith reported that the District received their first installment of the tax levy as well as the grant funds from the Clean Energy grant for the purchase of the Rannebarger property. The District will be installing a new server and with that a change in the email process. The outsourcing will be moved from Kestrel Technologies to May, Cocagne, & King.

Paul Marien reported that the District had closed on the purchase of the Rannebarger property. The next phase will be the record keeping to be in compliance with the grant. He reported that the County had removed the bridge on the Rannebarger property but the abutments were still there. Paul also reported that he was currently working on a draft request for qualifications packet to send out to consultants to update the Conservation District's master plan.

7. Other: No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Jensen asked about the “graffiti” on the main street sewer lines off the bike trail. Paul Marien explained that the Sanitary District had done some clearing and exposed the pipes, making it an easy target. It made the news quickly. He informed the Board that it’s the District’s policy to cover up any “graffiti” as soon as possible. It had been there less than 24 hours.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Jensen MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:06 p.m. for the purpose of

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, “AYE”; Trustee Johnson, “AYE”; Trustee Jensen, “AYE”; Trustee Murphy, “AYE”; and Trustee Elliott, “AYE”. Motion carried.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:55 p.m. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, “AYE”; Trustee Johnson, “AYE”; Trustee Jensen, “AYE”; Trustee Murphy, “AYE”; and Trustee Elliott, “AYE”. Motion carried.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 19, 2017. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, “AYE”. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee White MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, “AYE”. Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary