

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

July 18, 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, 2nd Vice-President Schneller, Treasurer White, and Secretary Johnson.

Board members absent: 1st Vice President Elliott

Trustee White MOVED to approve the Minutes of the June 20, 2018, Regular Public Meeting as presented. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$165,375.21 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$52,283.59. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS: No prior business.

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, 2018, through June 30, 2019:

SLATE OF OFFICERS
JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019
Norm Jensen, PRESIDENT
Anne Elliott, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Doug Johnson, SECRETARY
David White, TREASURER
Karen Schneller, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

Trustees were in agreement with the recommended slate but discussed whether or not Karen Schneller should be the liaison to the Foundation Board as that would make three of the Trustees on the Foundation Board. Tradition has had the incoming

new Trustee serve as the liaison to the Foundation Board to learn more about the functioning of the Board. There are already two of the Trustees serving as Directors on the Foundation Board. If three Trustees are in one meeting then it becomes a public meeting as per the Open Meetings Act. The general consensus was not to have Karen attend Foundation meetings unless one of the other Trustees was going to be absent from the meeting. The Trustees will work toward a coordinated visit for Karen.

Trustee White MOVED to approve the slate of officers as presented. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Appointments – IL Association of Conservation Districts:

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 three years. The meetings usually fill up a day's schedule as the meetings are held at Starved Rock. Trustee Schneller volunteered to become the new District liaison to IACD. The next meeting is scheduled for July 26th. Karen will check her calendar for attending. Trustee Jensen offered to be a backup. No further action was needed.

3. Trustee Tour Date:

Paul Marien explained that a tour is scheduled annually after the new Trustee has joined the Board to tour different areas and see projects that have been completed. Paul suggested touring the southern half of the county but it is totally up to the Trustees. After some discussion they decided on a tentative date of October 24th and Paul will include the tour as prior business on the next Board agenda to finalize the tour. No further action was needed.

4. Decatur Running Club use of Sand Creek Trails:

Paul Marien explained that the Decatur Running Club was once again requesting the use of the Sand Creek Conservation Area for a trail run event. They have done this for the past several years and it has not been a problem. The site is closed to the public during this time and the public is given advance notice of the closure. They pay a use permit of \$200.00 for the event which needs Board approval. Trustee White suggested giving the Club materials about the Foundation.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to authorize the Decatur Running Club to hold a special event on October 13, 2018, at Sand Creek Conservation Area. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Room Name Proposal:

The District has a naming policy for all sites which includes a section for naming a Special Amenity/Facility. Paul Marien suggested that the District recognize Rodney Washburn, Founder of the Macon County Conservation Foundation. Rod is still very active in promoting both the District and Foundation. Paul's suggestion is to rename the "Orientation Room" to the "Rodney B. Washburn Classroom". There will be minimal cost to the District for this recognition. Formal Board approval is needed before speaking with Rod.

Trustee White MOVED to approve changing the name of the Orientation Room in the Rock Springs Nature Center to the "Rodney B. Washburn Classroom" pending Rod Washburn's approval. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Bid Award –Reseal Nearing Lane and Parking Lot

Shane Ravellette reported that the District only received one bid for the resealing of Nearing Lane and the parking lot. Staff recommends accepting Dunn Company's bid for the project for \$18,616.00, which is within the budgeted amount. The project will be done in two phases over a period of two to three days sometime during the month of August.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve awarding the bid for the resealing and restriping for Nearing Lane and the Nature Center parking lot at Rock Springs Nature Center to Dunn Company for \$18,616.00. Trustee White SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

7. Staff Reports

Shane Ravellette reported this his staff had been coordinating work schedules and projects to combat the high humidity and heat. Staff worked on getting ready for the America in Bloom visit. Staff kept busy with the restoration work on the new property at Friends Creek. Sand Creek staff were still dealing with the wet spring and troublesome wet areas. The new Natural Resource Technician, Cody Langan, is on board now as well as two summer interns.

Richie Wolf reported that staff were into week seven of the Earth Adventures Camp with the numbers looking good with only three weeks left to go. He reported that the Walleye Trip on Lake Erie was a success. Three of the six concert series have been held with the next one scheduled for Sunday, July 22nd. The Volunteer Quarterly meeting will be held Friday (July 20th) at 8:30 a.m.

Paul Marien reported on the America in Bloom with judges set to visit Oglesby Mansion, Rock Springs Nature Center, and the Homestead Prairie Farm's Heritage Garden. He stated that this program is good for the community. Paul spoke to a group of students for the Community Foundation for a program inspiring youth to be philanthropists. Prairie Pedal sponsorships are going well and the raffle prize has been purchased which is a yeti cooler along with two gift certificates from Dick's Sporting Goods. Paul attended a meeting with the Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District regarding a segment in Friends Creek Conservation Area that has been identified as having a high erosion rate. Paul and Shane will look at the site in the fall.

The tax accessor's office has offered the District the use of two interns from their office to GPS hiking trails

8. Other:

Paul Marien announced that the Illinois Association of Park Districts opened up the application process for the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant Program beginning August 1st until October 15th. Paul and Shane Ravellette will brainstorm on some possible projects and report back to the Board.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

All the Trustees gave a welcome to the newest Trustee, Karen Schneller. She said she was glad to be on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Johnson MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:21 p.m.

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

President

ATTEST:

Secretary