

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

May 16, 2018

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by 1st Vice-President Norm Jensen, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Board members absent: President Murphy

Trustee White MOVED to approve the Minutes of the April 25, 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 Budget and Appropriation Hearing Minutes of April 25, 2018, 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 \$94,908.64 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$24,145.69. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

No comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

No prior business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Archer Deer Herd Management Recommendations:

Ethan Snively reviewed the results of the Deer Herd Management program provided in the Board packet. The report showed an upward trend in the number of deer harvested with the exception of Friends Creek. Vehicle accidents increased greatly over last year while the percentage of plants browsed remained consistent. As previously reported to the Board, there were a few issues with hunters breaking the rules and being banned from the program. The program is being scheduled to run October 20, 2018 through December 13, 2018, if approved. Clearly there is a need to continue the program and staff recommends continuing the program with the same lottery parameter but with clarification of consequences for broken rules as follows:

Rule #1 consequence – Hunting outside of designated dates or pursuing other wildlife outside of deer will result in a lifetime ban from hunting on District property;

Rule #3 – Deer must now be documented on District trail cameras mounted near each mailbox;

Rule #5 – Failure to remove deer stand will result in a one-week ban from hunting and any stand found after December 16th will be disposed of immediately. Any individual found tampering with stands will receive a lifetime ban from the program;

Rule #6 – A \$50 fee will be charged to recover pulled stands and any stand found before or after the District’s season will be disposed of immediately;

Rule #8 – Failure to harvest an antlerless deer before an antlered deer, will result in a lifetime ban from the program;

Rule #11 – Harvesting a deer in a non-designated hunting area will result in a lifetime ban. Crossbows may be cocked while walking to stand but must be unloaded; Crossbows must be loaded and de-cocked from the stand. Walking with a loaded crossbow will result in revocation of hunting for the remainder of the season;

Rule #13 – Failure to park in designated areas will result in a one-week ban from hunting. The second violation will result in revocation of hunting for the remainder of the season. Prior arrangements can be made if a hunter does not have a vehicle;

Rule#16 - Trail markers may be used but must be removed at the end of the hunter’s period.

Definition of a ban was emphasized on the bottom of the regulations and rules to clarify that a ban consists of no participation in hunting on District properties, including participation in drawings, assisting a minor, retrieval of a deer, etc.

Paul Marien stated that in the past the consequences of breaking the rules were not clearly defined and by adding these clearly defined consequences will allow staff enforcement of the rules. Trustee White was concerned with communicating these rule enforcements to the hunters and Ethan assured him that he will cover all the rules and regulations including the consequences of breaking the rules at the pre-season lottery.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve Ethan’s recommendation to continue the program with the changes as presented. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, “AYE”. Motion carried.

Trustee White asked for clarification whether or not a hunter could still appeal the punishment with staff handling the appeal and staff confirmed yes.

2. Fuel Bid Awards:

Advertisement was placed in the Decatur Tribune for bids for fuel supply for the maintenance shops. Shane Ravellette reported that bids were received from Morgan Distributing and Evergreen FS. Staff recommends awarding the bid to Evergreen FS for a lower fixed differential price of 16.8 cents over Morgan Distributing’s bid of 19.7 cents.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to award the fuel bid to Evergreen FS, Inc., for the fixed price differential of 16.8 cents above the oil price information service rack at the Champaign terminal. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the motion.

Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Purchase of Compact Tractor:

Shane Ravellette purposed that the District purchase a John Deere 3033R tractor with H165 loader utilizing the Illinois Association of County Board members and Commissioners negotiated contract price. The Kubota L3430 that is being replaced has too many hours. The new compact tractors have changed the way that the District is doing things. This new tractor is compatible with all other current implements and will make the fleet uniform and cross compatible. Staff recommends purchasing the compact tractor for a base price of \$31,351.03 minus the anticipated trade in value for the Kubota of \$7,750.00 and an 18% discount for the joint purchase plan. The net price will be approximately \$18,818.00. The contract is with John Deere and they will tell the District which dealer to use in purchasing the tractor.

Trustee White MOVED to approve the purchase of a John Deere 3033 R tractor with H165 loader through the Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners negotiated purchase contract price of \$31,351.03 for a base price less the anticipated trade value for the older tractor of \$7,750.00 and the 18% discount for the joint purchase plan with the District price being approximately \$18,818.00. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the motion.

Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; and Trustee Elliott, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Master Plan Trustee's Workshops:

The Master Plan consultants are wanting to hold workshops for the Trustees for a status update and for their input into the plan. Paul Marien recommended holding the workshop prior to the regularly scheduled Board meeting in June or July and tentatively in August if another workshop is needed. Trustee White stated he will be unavailable in June. Paul recommended holding the workshop at 4:00 p.m. on July 18th prior to the regular meeting to include the newest Trustee. Lucy Murphy, though off the Board at that time, will also be invited to attend the workshop. The workshop will be considered a public meeting and will be posted on the website and in the local paper. A decision will be made in July whether or not another workshop is needed in August. All Trustees present were in agreement.

5. Staff Reports:

Richie Wolf reported that the Festival of Spring was a success being one of the best attended of all years. He reported that Illinois Stories came and aired a story on the Macon County exhibit. Summer camp begins June 4th. All the counselors have been hired and will begin May 25th. Staff has been keeping busy with the many school field trips that have been scheduled. The Summer Concert Series begins June 3rd. The corporate sponsor is on board and a banner will be displayed along with Herald and Review promoting the program.

Paul Marien spent much of the month working with the Master Plan Consultants. Recently a conference call was held to finalize the online survey that will go on the website May 18th. The consultants will be on site May 17th and 18th conducting an inventory survey of all the areas. The Trustees were invited to attend the Leadership meeting on Wednesday, May 23rd at 9:45 a.m. with the leadership team comprised of Paul Marien, Shane Ravellette, and Richie Wolf. Paul reported that eight individuals out of 28 invitations responded to attending one of the stakeholder meetings. The Community meeting will take place in the Civic Center at 6:00 p.m. in the south meeting room, which holds up to 50 individuals. Brian Byers read the press release Tuesday morning on his radio station. Paul reported that the Macon County Conservation Foundation received another Illinois Clean Energy Public Amenities Grant for the new property at Friends Creek. The grant will fund up to \$5,000.00 for the project and another \$500 for a program. Staff plan on building a platform on the new property that overlooks the creek and beautiful landscape. An event will be held open to the public that will include a hike on the new trail that leads up to the new platform.

Shane Ravellette's staff were kept busy getting ready for the Festival of Spring. The remainder of the flagstone was installed at the playground. Staff continued to work on the trail system making changes to the Big Oak Trail and the Prairie Path. Friends Creek campground opened the last weekend in April. The contractor was able to finish the flooring before the campground opening. Shane reported that Natural Resources is down a staff but staff from Sand Creek have been helping. A hedgerow was replanted by the Homestead with Osage Orange shrubs to represent the historic use of Osage Orange.

Pam Smith reported that the Auditor will be on site July 17th and 18th to perform the audit but may not present the audit to the Board until the September meeting. Much of Pam's time was spent on reconciling bank and investment accounts in preparation of the audit. The online registration software, RecTrac, was updated to accommodate the features being put in place for tighter security measures for use of credit cards. The District's certificate of deposit at First National Bank of Pana matured on May 4th. The current rate of the certificate is .40% but Pam Smith was able to negotiate a new rate of 1.5% for the next twelve months. The District received a corporate property replacement tax check in the amount of \$31,133.00 in the month of April. Summer camp revenue generated \$8,220.00 since the first day of registration of April 2nd.

6. Other:

No other business reported.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Jensen commented on the good reports from the staff.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee White MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:40 p.m.

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



President

ATTEST:



Secretary