

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

October 17, 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, Secretary Johnson, and 2nd Vice-President Schneller.

Board members absent: None

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve the Minutes of the September 19, 2018, Regular Public Meeting as presented. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE" and Trustee Schneller, "AYE. Motion carried.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve the monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$118,884.21 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$28,810.14. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE" and Trustee Schneller, "AYE. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: None

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Master Plan:

Paul Marien reported that the master plan consultant revised the action plan as per his request and was working on updating the ecological assessment and land exchange mitigation. The administrative staff will be participating in a conference call with the consultants in November. The plan is for a final plan in December and having the Board adopt the plan at the December meeting. Paul is happy with the progress and the work of the consultant.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Board Tour

Paul Marien reviewed the Board tour itinerary with the Board and reminded them to meet at the Rock Springs Nature Center. The tour will include the Forest Watch site at Sand Creek Conservation Area and hike to see the restoration work at Willow Branch II Conservation Area. From Willow Branch, the tour will include

the shooting range used by the Sheriff's department at Grove Branch. Paul said the Sheriff's Department had been using the range since the 1970s or 1980s and some improvements have been made such as a parking lot. When the Sheriff's Department is finished using the range, they will be responsible for cleaning up the area. The tour will also include the Walnut Plantation at Fort Daniel followed by looking at the Oglesby Mansion and the greenhouse. The last stop will be the Prairie Farm Homestead and then back to the Nature Center. The tour will happen rain or shine.

2. Summer Camp Report:

Richie Wolf gave an overview of the summer camp program with Earth Adventure meeting for nine weeks with the possibility of meeting from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. with before and aftercare. A mini-camp was held for preschool age children and an X-treme camp for older children. Pioneer camp was held once a week for age's five – twelve and adventure club held once a week on Tuesday mornings with the Earth Adventure Camp. The Decatur Public School system also used the District for their summer camp program but this year, no extra counselors were hired to run the camp. District staff ran the programming for four weeks. The good news to report is that there were no major accidents or incidences, the campers experienced a great outdoor experience and revenue was generated. Youth volunteers were a great addition to staff as many schools require community service. Trustee White questioned if a background check was performed on the volunteers. Richie reported that a State Police background check and sex offender list reviewed for all volunteers used at the District. The Summer Camp saw an overall profit of \$10,623.02 due to increased enrollment and reducing staff hours. The Pioneer camp will be retired after this year as attendance has been decreasing for the past several years. The History Intern will be more involved in nature programming, assisting with X-treme camp and with Earth Adventures and Adventure Club as needed.

3. Staff Reports:

Richie Wolf reported that the Decatur Power Squadron was donating \$15,000.00 to the Macon County Conservation Foundation for programming with no restrictions. A check presentation will be held at the Foundation's November Board Meeting. The Fall Harvest Festival, the 2nd largest event held by the District, will be on October 28, 2018, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. The new exhibit on "conservation/preservation" activities in Illinois is now on display including a spotted Gar.

Pam Smith reported the District had received their second tax levy distribution check. Most of the phone issues with Comcast had been resolved with the exception of the maintenance shop and restoring the Wi-Fi that had been disconnected until new wiring could be installed separately from the phone system to prevent the public from accessing the network. Prairie Pedal was successful with 240 participants with \$3,540.00 being deposited from on-site registration. The raffle drawing brought in the highest amount since beginning the raffle with an amount of \$1,350.00 sold in tickets. Budget files are to be emailed out to staff next week.

Shane Ravellette reported that the renovation on the Sand Creek residence house was nearing an end and had kept staff busy while trying to maintain normal

everyday activities. Christ Foltz has begun work on the foundation of the Trobaugh Good House. Several common artifacts have been found in sifting through the excavated dirt. The goal is to have this completed before the Fall Harvest Festival.

Paul Marien reported that the lettering for the Rodney B Washburn Classroom had been installed and Rod was thrilled with the results. He reported that all the beneficiaries of the Nearing Trust were in verbal agreement to search for a new trust manager. The beneficiaries are unhappy with the communication efforts of Regions Bank as well as the increasing fees that are being charged. Beneficiaries are unhappy with the bank selling off the farmland but Trustee White explained that it makes it difficult for trust managers when they must distribute at least 5% of the fair market value of the assets annually. Paul thanked Katherine Unruh for her exceptional organization skills in running Prairie Pedal. He reported that the Oglesby Board has a new president, Barb Hipple. Paul and a committee met with an architect to discuss the Oglesby Mansion Greenhouse, which will be shown on the Trustee Tour. Paul announced that the District had just received the news that they had been awarded the RTP Grant of \$180,800.00 for improvements to the bike trail. It has been over a year since applying for this grant. The entire project will cost approximately \$220,000.00. Unfortunately, the bike trail will have to be closed during work on the bridges. He commended Shane Ravellette for the work done on this grant as well as the OSLAD grant for the cattail ponds.

4. Other

Paul Marien announced that the Macon County's proposal for a new recycling center passed zoning with a thirteen to five vote at the County Board Meeting.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Jensen commended the staff on a good job.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Elliott MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. for the purpose of

1. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

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

Trustee White MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:28 p.m. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE" and Trustee Schneller, "AYE. Motion carried.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 17, 2018. Trustee Schneller 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 6:29 p.m. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.



President

ATTEST:



Secretary