

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
April 21, 2021**

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

Board members present: President Schneller (remotely), 1st Vice-President Bendsen, Treasurer Johnson, Secretary Castor and 2nd Vice President Beckhart
Board Members absent: None

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Richie Wolf.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Minutes of the March 24, 2021, Budget Hearing, March 24, 2021, Regular Public Meeting and the April 5, 2021 Special Meeting. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$33,617.24 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$27,220.44 as presented. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No audience.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the Meeting Schedule

MEETING DATES

MAY 2021 – APRIL 2022

All meetings will be held the third Wednesday of the month
at the Rock Springs Nature Center at 5:30 p.m.
unless otherwise specified or notified.

2021

May 19 Wednesday
June 16, Wednesday
July 21, Wednesday
August 18, Wednesday
September 15, Wednesday
October 20, Wednesday
November 17, Wednesday
December 15, Wednesday

2022

January 19, Wednesday

February 16, Wednesday

March 23, Wednesday

(4th Wednesday to accommodate budget on review for 30 days)

April 20, Wednesday

Pam Smith reported that the schedule was based on the last year's schedule in that the Budget Study Session would be held in February so the March Board meeting would need to be held later to accommodate the 30 day budget review window for the public. There were no objections.

Trustee Beckhart MOVED to approve the Meeting Schedule for May 2021 – April 2022 as presented. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Authorize Depositories:

**MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DEPOSITORIES FOR APRIL 21, 2021 – April 21, 2022**

Hickory Point Bank

Gerber State Bank

Regions Bank

PNC Bank

Busey Bank

Scott State Bank

The Illinois Funds

Town & Country Bank

First Mid Bank and Trust

Prairie State Bank & Trust

Buena Vista National Bank

Peoples Bank of Macon

First National Bank of Pana

Commerce Bank

1st Mid America Credit Union

Pam Smith informed the Board that this was the same list approved in the prior year and Commerce Bank was not a local bank but based out of the Bloomington area.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the authorization of the annual depositories as presented. Trustee Castor SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "Aye"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Signature Resolution:

**MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SIGNATORIES RESOLUTION
April 24, 2021– April 21, 2022**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Macon County Conservation District that Karen Schneller, Nina Bendsen, Dave Castor, and Jim Beckhart be authorized to endorse all checks and depositories for the Macon County Conservation District for all the District funds at all applicable banks, effective April 21, 2021.

Approved this 21st Day of April, 2021

Pam Smith recommended that the Board may want to delay approving the Signatories Resolution until the new Director is on Board. If the signature cards are changed at all the banks at this time, they would all have to be updated to include the new director which involves a lot of paperwork. All Board members were in agreement to table the approval until a new Director is hired.

4. Interim Executive Director Contract:

The Board members gave Paul Marien a great big thank you for his willingness to come back and serve as Interim Director. The contract drawn up by the District's Attorney was included in the Board packet for Board approval. There were no further comments.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve the contract for the Interim Executive Director as presented. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. ECO Center Remodel Bid Approval:

Shane Ravellette shared with the Board the results of the bid opening held on April 20, 2021. Five bid packets were requested but only one bid was submitted. Taylor Studios submitted a bid of \$299,263.00, which was well within the budget leaving room for other work to be done. Staff will handle some of the remodeling. The project is 100% funded through a grant with Illinois Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$400,000.00 Alysia Callison handed out the most recent design and answered questions from the Board. The current nature display in the center of the room, will remain. The Bluestem Theater will be eliminated and replaced with the successes of the District in the "Hall of Fame". The current exhibit was built in 2001 so it's twenty years old and due for an upgrade. Staff recommend

awarding the bid to Taylor Studios, Inc., in the amount of \$299,263.00 for the ECO Center remodel project.

Trustee Castor MOVED to award the ECO Center remodel bid to Taylor Studios, Inc., in the amount of \$299,263.00. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "Aye"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Museum Grant for Rock Springs Lower Level Remodel:

With the lower level offices moved up to the newly remodeled upper level of the nature Center, the downstairs was left vacant. Richie Wolf had planned to remodel the lower level in a year. Shane Ravellette informed the Board that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is opening up another round of museum grants. Since Shane and Richie had previously discussed the remodel and in light of the opening of grant applications, Shane proposed to the Board that the District submit an application and apply for the grant without a commitment. Melotte, Morse & Leonatti (MMLP) have already been on site for consultation. Board approval is needed to move forward with the grant application in order to meet the grant application deadline. Similar to the grant that was just awarded, this will be 100% funded. Board approval is needed to move forward.

Trustee Beckhart MOVED to approve applying for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Museum Grant to remodel the lower level of Rock Springs Nature Center. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

7. Access to Kaufman Property:

Paul Marien informed the Board that a neighbor of the Kaufman Lakeside property was asking the District to approve easement access across the property from his lot to Lake Decatur. Paul provided a drawing showing that the easement will impact .033 acres of the property. The neighbor has concern about shoreline erosion and never mentioned building a boat dock. The easement was discussed with the District's attorney. Paul did not see how this would be a benefit to the District nor the public. A suggestion was made to bring the neighbor to a Board meeting to discuss the easement but the general consensus was for Paul to get more details from the neighbor and table a decision for now.

8. Employee Assistance Program

Pam Smith proposed to the Board that an Employee Assistance Program be offered once again to employees, especially in light of the most recent circumstances at the District. She felt that this would be very beneficial to the employees. Pam tried reaching out to the District's previous EAP vendor but with no response. Shannon Garrett, the District's insurance broker, did some research and arrived at several choices. Pam shared a chart with the Board and recommended option #3 which was closest to what the District had in the past. This option with *Support Linc* would provide 8 in person-counseling visits annually, on-site crisis counseling, financial and

legal consultations and would also include at no extra cost on-site training for such topics as harassment training. The cost would be \$8.00 per employee per month for a total of \$176 per employee annually. After some brief discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to support obtaining an Employee Assistance Program.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve purchase of the Employee Assistance Program with *Support Line* at a cost of \$176.00 annually per employee. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor. "AYE". Motion carried.

9. Richie Wolf's Memorial

Paul Marien suggested that the pooling of memorial funds for Richie would make a bigger impact and was soliciting the Trustees for memorial ideas. Jolanta had shared that she would like a memorial bench to be placed somewhere around the Cattail Ponds since Richie enjoyed walking around the pond on a daily basis. After some discussion, the Board decided it would be best to get Jolanta's (Richie's Wife) input as to what else she would like to be done for Richie. Paul will get in contact with her and report back to the Board. Paul informed the Board that IAPD (District's liability insurance) provided a plaque in honor of Richie Wolf as well as the planting of 50 trees in honor of Richie.

10. Other

No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

No other comments from the Trustees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Beckhart MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:17 p.m. for the purpose of

- 1. The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (3)**
- 2. 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. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21)**

Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Beckhart, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:35 p.m. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

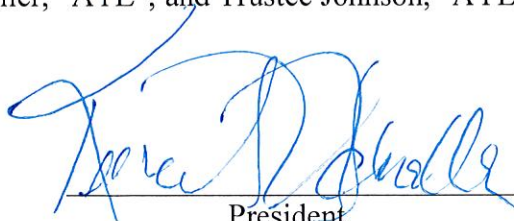
Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 21, 2021. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

APPROVE NOMINATION TO FILL BOARD VACANCY:

Trustee Beckhart MOVED to approve the nomination of Mark Allen to submit to the Macon County Board for approval for the incoming Trustee position effective July 1, 2021. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Johnson MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:36 p.m. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Johnson, "AYE". Motion carried.



President



Secretary