

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
July 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, 1st Vice-President Bendsen, Secretary Castor and 2nd Vice President Beckhart

Board Members absent: None

Trustee Beckhart MOVED to approve the Minutes of the June 16, 2021, Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$166,563.50 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$31,231.44 as presented. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS: No prior business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Announcement of New Trustee:

President Schneller announced that the appointment of Mark Allen to the Macon County Conservation District Board was passed by the County Board. Unfortunately, Mark had a prior commitment and could not attend this meeting but will be at the next meeting.

2. Election of officers:

There was a brief discussion over the slate of officers and the order. It was recommended that Trustee Schneller continue as the President and Trustee Bendsen continue as 1st Vice-President. Pam Smith informed them that the normal progression then would be for the Secretary to move to the Treasurer position and the current 2nd Vice-President move to the Secretary position. The incoming Trustee becomes the new 2nd Vice-President. Board members present agreed with the slate as follows:

Trustee Schneller -	President
Trustee Bendsen -	1 st Vice President
Trustee Castor -	Treasurer
Trustee Beckhart -	Secretary
Trustee Allen-	2 nd Vice President

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the slate of officers for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 as presented above. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Appointment of Foundation Liaison:

Due to the absence of the new Trustee, Mark Allen, the Board decided to table this agenda item until Mark is present at the next Board meeting.

4. Appoint IACD Liaison

Currently Trustee Beckhart is liaison to the Illinois Association of Conservation Districts (IACD). Due to COVID, Trustee Beckhart was never able to attend a meeting and truly serve as the liaison. After a brief discussion, Trustee Beckhart agreed to continue on another year as the IACD Liaison.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the appointment of Trustee Beckhart as the IACD Liaison. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Liability Insurance Renewal:

Pam Smith stated that Board approval was needed for the annual liability insurance renewal through IPARKS. The District has been with IPARKs for a very long time but the annual increases have been a minimal amount with an approximate 2% increase this year. The District has in the past looked at other insurance such as PDRMA but found IPARKs to be competitive and better suited to the District needs.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve the Liability Insurance Renewal for a \$67,340.00 premium for 2021-2022. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Beckhart, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Trustee Tour:

Shane Ravellette announced that normally every year in October a Trustee Tour is scheduled. The tour is considered an open meeting but with no decisions being made. Normally the transit van is taken and an area is covered that the Trustees are wanting to see. The tour usually begins about 8:30 a.m. and ends between 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. The agenda for today is to set a date. After some brief discussion, the Board decided on October 13, 2021. Areas mentioned were the new property at Fort Daniel and the Friends Creek Conservation Area. It was also suggested to invite the Foundation Board. Trustee Bendsen also suggested that it would be nice to have a staff person from Program Services showcase the ECO Center or attend the tour for their insights.

7. Staff Reports:

Jerry Culp commented that the staff have been very helpful with his transition to the District. The executed agreement with the Kaufman property has been filed. He has been learning a lot about Prairie Pedal with sponsorships coming in, Richland

Community College Chef agreed to do the chili again, and the route has been selected but still needs to be driven. The Prairie Pedal date is September 26th. The Izaak Walton League presented a \$1000.00 donation to the District and Jerry was present at their campground to receive the donation and spent two-three hours with the group. He is busy trying to get acquainted with the Community. He has met with the Macon County Sheriff and the Park District Director. The Park District is planning a tour for him and his hopes are that the two organizations can work together. Jerry also learned that he serves on the Regional Planning Committee.

Pam Smith reported that the month of June was spent with the auditors and pulling documents for their review. They will be presenting the audit at the August meeting. To date, the audit has gone well. Also, much time was spent on updating records for the new director and completing signature cards at each of the banks. June seemed to be a trouble shooting month for technology issues and the phones kept staff busy with camping reservations. The District received their first tax levy installment out of seven that are planned in the amount of \$1, 129,339.88 as well as receiving a rather large personal property replacement tax in the amount of \$45, 519.60 so a good revenue month.

June kept Alysia Callison and her staff busy with summer camp. She reported that the enrollment numbers in the camp were good with many weeks being at full capacity. It was good to be doing more public programs and the requests keep coming in. The Volunteer Recognition Dinner is scheduled for August 3rd at the Hickory Point Banquet Center. Approximately 116 have signed up to attend the dinner. Alysia provided an analysis of revenue for this year as compared to pre-COVID. Summer camp revenue is about the same as pre-COVID. She explained that there was no revenue this year for van trips as this involved visiting museums, zoo, etc., and that has been put on hold until COVID is better. School programs are behind but only because the Nature Center was not opened up until after school was done for the year. As far as other programs, those are picking up with more and more requests and is not far off track from 2019. Trustee Bendsen commended Alysia on a nicely done report.

Shane Ravellette reported that June was a very routine month and he was on vacation for part of the month. He gave a brief timeline on projects coming up: the electrical work on the picnic loop at Friends Creek should begin in August, the Friends Creek office addition is scheduled to begin in September and in October the plan is to construct two or three small prairie wetlands with one at Rock Springs, Sand Creek, and Friends Creek. Restoration plantings at Sand Creek and Fort Daniel will be early winter.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

President Schneller attended the Foundation meeting to discuss Richie Wolf's memorial. Richie's wife, Jolanta, wanted a memorial bench placed under a tree near the deck at the Cattail Pond and asked that rest of the money go toward scholarships for individuals who wanted to pursue the field of conservation or related field. President of the Foundation Board, Dave Rathje, met with Karen and Jerry Culp. Dave Rathje has offered to donate a fabricated bench for the memorial to make it something more special than just a normal bench. Also at Jerry's recommendation, Jolanta has agreed to open up the scholarships to individuals pursuing certification to enhance their career. Jerry will compile a list and Karen will work with the District attorney in developing a process for the scholarship. Karen also presented the idea of

a fundraising event for the Foundation Board “Wine in the Pines” suggested to her by Ethan Snively. The Board is taking that suggestion into consideration.

Trustee Bendsen asked if any of the agenda items presented by the audience at the last Board meeting had been reviewed. She didn’t want to lose sight of their recommendations and felt they should be addressed. The Board agreed to make this topic an agenda item for the next Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. for the purpose of

- 1). The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5)

- 2). Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11)

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

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:44 p.m. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, “AYE”; Trustee Bendsen, “AYE”; Trustee Beckhart, “AYE”; and Trustee Castor, “AYE”. Motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Bendsen MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:45 p.m. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, “AYE”; Trustee Bendsen, “AYE”; Trustee Castor, “AYE”; and Trustee Schneller, “AYE”. Motion carried.



1st Vice- President



Secretary