

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
January 19, 2022**

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Bendsen (conferenced in by phone) Secretary Beckhart, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Allen, and Treasurer Castor

Board Members absent: None.

Trustee Allen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the December 15, 2021, Public Meeting. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Beckhart MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$315,905.59 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$30,083.88 as presented. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:** No audience.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Set Budget Study Session:**

Jerry Culp told the Board that a budget study session needed to be scheduled to review the proposed budget. Pam Smith informed them that in the past the study session has been held before the regular public meeting in February. The Board decided to conduct the budget study session on February 16, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at the Rock Springs Nature Center.

**2. Staff Reports:**

Jerry Culp spoke at the Golden K Kiwanis meeting in January to introduce himself and present the benefits of natural resources. He continued working on the budget during the month. He worked on several concepts for the "Wine in the Pines" fundraiser which will be presented at the next Foundation Meeting. The planning of the Rock Springs 5K Ramble is progressing with the event being held on April 9, 2022. It will consist of a 5K run, 1 mile guided natural hike and a ¼ to ½ mile kids run. The Oglesby Board is working on a project list for the year with several plays scheduled for February. Jerry met with the County Board Chairman Greenfield and Sheriff Root regarding proposed improvements at the Shooting Range. Staff will work with them on their concern over how long the range stays wet after rainfall.

Pam Smith reported that December was busy receiving and acknowledging the Foundation's annual year-end donations. We were able to use the new system in generating thank you letters directly from the system instead of individual creating them as done in the past. At the time of the Board meeting, \$40,911.00 had been received, the most received for several years. One year-end donation was earmarked for another foot-bridge at the Sand Creek Conservation Area as well as two marked

for the Richie Wolf Memorial and Rod Washburn Memorial. Pam reported that all tax levy payments had been received but noticed an error in reconciling the amount received against the County records. A tax levy check apparently had been lost in the mail in August. Pam contacted the office and they quickly re-issued a new check making the total amount received \$1,935,840.34, which is 98% of the requested tax levy. Year to date personal property replacement tax distributions received have far exceed the budgeted amount of \$150,000 with a total to date of \$253,827.33 received. With year-end approaching, Pam began to prepare the accounting software with the new tax tables as well as new rates for IMRF and the Unemployment tax. All quarterly payroll reports were filed. The W-2s and 1099s will be ready to print the next week following this meeting. Managers submitted budgets were compiled in a spreadsheet for review.

Jerry Culp presented the Operations Report in Shane Ravellette's absence. Thirty-seven acres at the new Fort Daniel Property was seeded by staff. The order for the electrical cable at the campground was ordered and picked up. Staff are waiting for good weather in order to trench and install the cable. The Illinois Department of Public Health has given their tentative approval pending some changes. The wetland at Sand Creek began to fill from the heavy rains received but ran into some problems as they suspected might happen. Water is seeping through the trench so they have pulled the control blocks to allow water to flow unobstructed through the pipe. Once the trench has settled, the blocks will be dropped so the wetland can fill again.

Alysia Callison reported that December is usually a quiet month for Program Services but were surprised to have a few school programs booked. Taylor Studios wrapped up the exhibit on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Carpeting still remains to be laid with the grand opening scheduled for Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Staff are currently working on an exhibit on the Milky Way and Outer space. Jenny Garver has been selling mini-camp kits, which have become quite popular. Alysia spent conservable time working on the Program Services budget.

Susie Ryan, Marketing Specialist, said that December was like a whirlwind for her stepping into her new position and learning all the responsibilities. She has been working with staff asking what she can do to help promote their initiatives. Not only has she been working with staff but also making connections with community members and third parties with whom the District works. Susie has been working with Jerry Culp working on the Foundation's fundraising events. She has been maintaining a regular presence on Facebook and created an Instagram account and invited the Board to follow both. She attended the Gold K Kiwanis meeting with Jerry and will speak at the Kiwanis Early Birds on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The District will sponsor a booth at the Argenta Ice Festival on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Susie joined NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) and will be attending a conference in Chicago in January.

## **COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Trustee Castor MOVED to go into Executive Session at 5:55 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)**

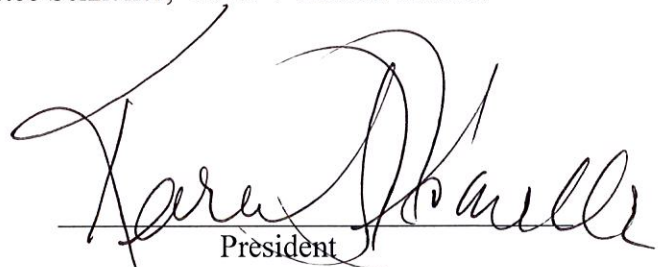
Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; and Trustee Beckhart, "AYE". Motion carried.

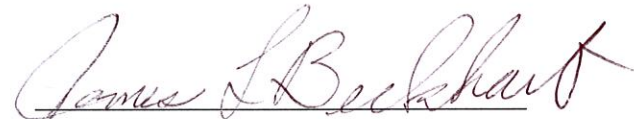
Trustee Beckhart MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:16 p.m. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 19, 2022. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Trustee Beckhart MOVED to adjourn the Public Meeting at 6:17 p.m. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Castor "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

  
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President

  
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Secretary