

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
August 21, 2019**

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

Board members present: President Parish, Treasurer Schneller, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Bendsen, Secretary Johnson, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President White  
Board members absent:

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the July 17, 2019, Public Meeting as presented. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$126,106.81, and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$64,973.24 as presented. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:** No comments.

**PRIOR BUSINESS:**

**1. Set Trustee Tour Date**

The Board discussed possible dates for the annual Trustee tour. Last year the tour was held on October 24<sup>th</sup>. After some discussion, the Trustees decided on October 29<sup>th</sup>. The tour would begin at 8:00 at the Rock Springs Nature Center and end approximately at 2:00 p.m. A tentative agenda includes the bike trail project and pond project at Rock Springs, visiting Ft. Daniel, and the observation deck and Bethel School at Friends Creek.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Audit Presentation:**

Jene Row with MCK CPAs & Advisors presented the Macon County Conservation District's FY2019 audit. The firm issued a clean opinion with no findings nor recommendations for changes. The change in net position was \$210,452.00, which she stated was good. She suggested that the Board review footnote 4 (assets and depreciation) and footnote 6 regarding the IMRF pension. She complimented the staff for having adequate controls in place considering the size of the organization. There were no questions raised.

Trustee White MOVED to approve the Macon County Conservation District's FY2019 Audit as presented by Jene Row with MCK CPAs & Advisors. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

**2. Approve Audit Payment:**

As per the three year contract signed with MCK CPAs & Advisors, the contract amount due to the firm for Fiscal 2019 audit is \$10,000.00. Trustee's approval is required to make the payment to MCK in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve payment of \$10,000.00 to MCK CPAs & Advisors for the completion of the Macon County Conservation District's FY2019 Audit. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

**3. Utility Contract:**

The District works with Seven Utility Management Co. to procure electric supplier rates for several of the District's buildings and facilities. Seven Utility Management seeks bids from suppliers and obtains quotes to lock in a rate. The current contract with Seven Utility ends December 2020 but they are suggesting that the District lock in rates now as they are currently low and are projected to increase over the next three years. Paul Marien handed out a new pricing schedule that was just received. There are a few areas that use Co-ops that cannot be included in the contract. The current rate with Homefield is .05819 and the new contract would lock in the rate at .05136 for a 36 month period with an estimated projected savings of \$1,581.00 annually. Staff recommend approving a 36 month contract beginning after December 2020 when the current contract ends.

Trustee White MOVED to approve a 36-month contract for electric rates with Homefield at a rate of .05136 beginning at the end of the current contract which ends December 2020. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

**4. Staff Reports:**

Richie Wolf reported that summer camp had ended with no major issues. Summer concerts were also over with a good turnout considering three of them had to be moved indoors. Stifel has once again volunteered to sponsor the concert series for a third year. He announced upcoming events: this Saturday is the Astronomy Jamboree at Friends Creek from 7:00 – 9:00 and Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> the annual Hummingbird Festival will be held from 4:00 – 7:00 at Rock Springs Nature Center. The new transit has arrived that was sponsored by the Decatur Power Squadron.

Shane Ravellette reported that the IDNR Natural Heritage Biologist visited Willow Branch II and was quite impressed. Staff finished the observation deck at Friends Creek. Staff has drawn down the Rodney Miller Wetland to encourage new growth and reduce problem species. Currently staff are getting ready for several projects and hopefully he will have an update on those projects at the next Board meeting.

Paul Marien reported that the District had received a \$10,000.00 anonymous donation toward the Oglesby Mansion greenhouse renovation. He informed the Board that the Mansion is looking for a new caretaker at the Oglesby Mansion. The caretaker lives rent free in living quarters upstairs but has responsibilities. Paul created a more descriptive list of duties to define the role of being caretaker. He has been making progress on the Clean Energy Acquisition Grant as well as completing a proposal for assistance with the Eco Center Exhibit Hall with the Ullrich Foundation. Paul and Shane Ravellette met with the



City of Decatur staff to discuss developing an ordinance allowing citizens to plant prairie grasses in their yards. Some brief discussion followed concerning the pros and cons of the ordinance.

Pam Smith reported that the audit had been completed and the District received a good report. The District received their first tax levy distribution check in the amount of \$993,830.48, which is approximately the same amount as last year's first distribution. A new benefit summary was completed along with collecting recruiting materials concerning the District's benefits being offered to full-time employees.

**5. Other:** No other business.

**COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:** No comments

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Trustee Schneller MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:10 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))

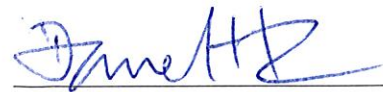
Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:27 p.m. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of August 21, 2019. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Trustee Bendsen MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:29 p.m. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.



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President

ATTEST:



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Secretary