

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
August 19, 2020**

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, Treasurer Johnson, Secretary Dave Castor, and 2nd Vice President Beckhart
Board Members absent: None

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Minutes of the July 15, 2020, Regular Public Meeting with changes correcting the Trustees' titles and changing the word "very" to "vary" on page three. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$217,864.17 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$ \$52,675.05 as presented. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Johnson, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

The Macon County Board Chairman and representative from the Sheriff's Department were in attendance in support of the agreement and improvements for the shooting range at Grove Branch.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Grove Branch Proposal

Richie Wolf presented the revised lease agreement between the District and the County of Macon stating that the agreement had not been revised since 2004. Richie worked with the State's Attorney and the District's attorney in the revision process. Minor changes made included #7 increasing the required certificate of insurance from three million to five million dollars and in #8 adding to the verbiage "that no alterations to the premises unless the same is approved in advance in writing by the Licensor". Richie reviewed the nine improvements which coincided with the map included in the Board packet. Richie emphasized again that District staff wanted to be involved in the construction meetings and selection of any trees removed or planted. Richie will scan the signed agreement and improvements and send over to the Sheriff's Department and the County Board Chairman for signatures.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the lease agreement and improvements between the Macon County Conservation District and the County of Macon, Illinois, for use of District Property exclusively for the purpose of training, using the same as

a range for the use and firing of revolvers, pistols, shotguns and rifles. Trustee Castor SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE" and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. IACD Liaison

At the last meeting, the Board had decided to table the selection of an IACD liaison until there was a full board. Richie explained this is a good opportunity to learn more about the association and currently they are only holding ZOOM meetings so there would be no travel for now. The annual conference in February has been canceled due to COVID-19. After some discussion, Trustee Beckhart said he would be interested in serving as the liaison.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Audit Report by MCK CPAs & Advisors

Jene Row with MCK CPAs & Advisors presented the audit to the Board and thanked them for letting them serve the District a second year. She said that the audit went well in spite of the pandemic since there was no onsite visit. Jene worked with Pam Smith in getting documents emailed or shipped over to their office. There were no findings with everything being properly documented that was reviewed. The financials are pretty much the same from year to year. Jene explained briefly that the government wide financials included all assets such as land and buildings whereas fund account financials do not. She noted the net position on page 4 at the end of the year was \$14,812,612.00 with a net deficit of \$125,436.00 for all funds. No questions were asked by the Board.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Macon County Conservation District FY2020 Audit as presented by Jene Row, MCK CPAs & Advisors. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Audit Payment Approval:

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve payment to MCK CPAs & Advisors in the amount of \$10,750.00 for completion of the Macon County Conservation District audit for FY2020. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Upstairs remodel bid:

Shane Ravellette reviewed the bid process. A pre-bid meeting was held a week ago with one contractor present and he worked with another contractor. Both contractors submitted bids after a walk-thru. Christy Foltz submitted a bid for \$66,324.00 and Jones and Sullivan submitted a bid for \$95,000.00. Staff recommends accepting the Christy Foltz bid, which is well under the budgeted amount of \$90,000.00. This will leave enough funds for staff to do other detailed work so ultimately the \$90,000.00 will be spent on the project. The District Staff will perform the demolition and rough framing before contractor takes over. The Board questioned the difference between the bids but Shane didn't really have an answer except each contractor interprets the components differently.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve accepting the bid from Christy Foltz in the amount of \$66,324.00 for the Rock Springs Center upper level remodeling. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE" and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Bike Trial Bridge Project Payment Approval

Shane Ravellette said staff enjoyed working with Sangamo Construction. They re-decked all three bridges and worked on erosion control. Staff, as time permits, will work on the approaches in October so they are ADA compliant. Staff is happy with the work completed by Sangamo and recommends final payment in the amount of \$213,352.98. This project is 80% funded through a recreational trail grant.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve payment in the amount of \$213,352.98 to Sangamo Construction Company for work completed on the Rock Springs Conservation trail bridges. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Beckhart, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. COVID-19 Update (informational):

Richie Wolf updated the Board on COVID-19 and that he was following the Phase 4 plan issued by the Governor. The Rock Springs Nature Center opened but restricting gatherings to 50 people or less. Richie reviewed the steps that will be taken if there is exposure to COVID at the August all-staff meeting. Richie reiterated that he will work with staff the best that he can. To date there have been no reported cases or exposure by employees. He will carefully follow the progress of the pandemic and continue to follow the Governor's guidelines.

6. Trustee Tour Date

Every year at this time, the Executive Director plans a tour with the Trustees to show the different conservation areas and the work that has been done. Normally the tour is from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided. After some discussion, the Trustees were in agreement to hold the tour the same day as the regular Board meeting beginning the tour at noon and ending approximately at 5:00 p.m. Masks will be

required during the ride in the transit van. The agenda will be addressed at next month's meeting.

7. Staff Reports:

Richie Wolf gave an update on the Foundation's annual Prairie Pedal event, which has now become a virtual ride. Registration has been opened up and all current sponsors that had sent in sponsorships are on board with the virtual ride with no refunds being requested. A sports towel with the Foundation logo will be given out to all participants. There should be very little expenses incurred this year. He reported that the Oglesby Mansion Board decided to keep the Mansion closed for the rest of the year due to the COVID pandemic. Just today (Wednesday, August 19th), the Foundation received notification that they had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$6,500.00 from the Community Foundation. One hundred fifty thousand dollars had been given out to fifteen different organizations with the Foundation receiving the 4th highest amount. Richie met with the Regions Bank to discuss the Nearing Trust. They announced that the District would be receiving a distribution of \$104,000.00 this year which surpasses the \$70,000.00 budgeted for the Fiscal year.

Pam Smith updated the Board on the tax levy distribution. The District did receive the second half of the 1st distribution in the amount of \$524,242.41 making the total \$1,076,245.69 which is comparable to last year's first distribution. The County Collector sent out a distribution schedule. This year's distribution will be in seven payments instead of the usually three-four payments. A payment will be sent out each month ending with a seventh payment in January 2021. The campground has done very well despite opening up a month late. Despite the delay, revenue is still on track this year at the same time last year. Staff received the annual state required harassment training at the August all-staff meeting. All but two of the Windows 7 computers have been replaced with new Windows 10 computers.

Shane Ravellette gave an update on operations stating that his crew was now back up to full staff with the hiring of Darryl Coats as the Friends Creek Site Technician, and Mitch Ward as the Natural Resource Technician. Staff were still busy playing catch up. The biggest project was the restoration of the oak/hickory savanna at the entrance to Rock Springs. The Natural Resource crew spent many days clearing their portion, leaving the more dangerous portion to the contractor. At Rock Springs, the staff spent time replacing the foot bridge on the Lookout/River Trail. Shane thanked the office staff, camp host and seasonal employees for the hard work put into making the campground successful.

Alysia Callison reported that the biggest news is that programs have begun to happen with the opening of the building. The Summer Concert Series finished up another successful season with only the last three performances having a small live audience. The concept design phase for the Eco Center remodel project was completed moving into the next phase of detail design, which will get more specific. Alysia announced that the Perseid Meteor Shower viewing will be held at Friends Creek Conservation Area on August 12th, the Astronomy Jamboree will be held at the Griswold Conservation Area on August 22nd, and the Hummingbird Festival on August 27th.

8. Other:

No other business discussed

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

No comments from the Trustees

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Castor MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:14 p.m. for the purpose of

- 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity.**

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

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:50 p.m. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of August 19, 2020. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "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 6:51 p.m. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.



President

ATTEST:



Secretary