

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
February 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 Parish with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2020, Public Meeting. Trustee White SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; and Trustee Johnson, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$151,325.97 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$31,476.98 as presented. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee White, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No audience

PRIOR BUSINESS: No prior business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set FY2021 Budget Study Session:

Richie Wolf recommended that the Board schedule the Budget Study Session the same night as the regular meeting as has been done in the past but changing the time from 4:00 p.m., to 4:30 p.m. The general consensus of the Board was to hold the Budget Study session at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, before the 5:30 p.m. regularly scheduled meeting. The Budget study session will be posted in the local newspaper and on the website for Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.

2. Board Recruitment (Informational):

Richie Wolf included the board recruitment process in the Board packet and reminded the Board that President Parish had appointed 1st Vice President White and 2nd Vice President Bendsen to the nominating committee. President Parish suggested it would be better not to post the nomination process on the website and recommended only speaking to one candidate at a time. All Board members seemed to be in agreement. Richie reported that he had an individual interested and would give the name to the nominating committee.

3. Special Event – Trail Run:

Shane Ravellette reported that this is the fourth year for Decatur Christian School to host a trail run at the Friends Creek Conservation Area. Before they are allowed to promote the event, final approval must be given by the Board to hold the special event. The park will not be closed as this is a small event but the public will be notified that the 5k trail run will be happening on October 3, 2020 from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Friends Creek.

Trustee White MOVED to approve Decatur Christian School's Annual 5K Trail Race on October 3, 2020, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Friends Creek Conservation Area. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; and Trustee Johnson, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Staff Reports:

Richie Wolf reported that the Foundation meeting was held in January and a Finance Committee met in January to discuss and approve a draft budget to present to the Board in March. He reported that he and Shane Ravellette met to discuss ideas presented to the Board from Bill Faber and two other horseback riders at last month's meeting. They have designed some etiquette tips to be posted at the site with the back side of the signs thanking patrons for their cooperation. The District purchased a sofa for sitting at the bird window from memorial funds given in honor of Larry Oseland. He reported that the District had received a FOIA request and worked with the attorneys to draft a response. Richie is still waiting on a response concerning the gun range being used by the Sheriff's department. Trustee Bendsen told Richie she appreciated the response and effort that was made to address the situation at Sand Creek with the horseback riders and runners.

Pam Smith briefly reported that all year-end tasks had been completed. One certificate of deposit with First Mid Bank & Trust had been renewed at 1.75% for 18 months, a decrease from 2.47%. Another certificate of deposit for the Kaufman Endowment held at Hickory Point Bank was renewed for 1.3% for eleven months. The current interest rate of the Illinois funds is 1.67%. Pam reported that IMRF had a good investment year in 2019 with a return of 19%, adding approximately \$800,000.00 to the employer reserve account. This should help reduce the employer rate for 2021.

Shane Ravellette reported that a majority of the month was spent on flood control at the bike trail and Sand Creek. A Savannah project began south of Nearing Lane at Rock Springs with another restoration project of the riparian wetland on the south side of the Sangamon River. Staff were busy cutting down white pines (which are not native to the area) to be used for future projects. Shane reported the Bobcat was back in service costing the District \$1000.00 for the repair with insurance covering the remainder of the cost for a total cost of \$8,000.00.

Alysia Callison reported that several geology programs were held with Cerro Gordo fourth and fifth graders. Herald and Review covered a story on the Native American program with about twenty in attendance. She reported that the District has had good press coverage over the past month with WANDTV, WCIA and Herald and Review. Several eagle viewing trips were scheduled with one trip to Pere Marquette having 15 participants. She did report that eagles were seen. Approximately twenty

volunteers attended the Volunteer Quarterly Meeting. The musicians have been scheduled for the summer concert series and planning has been underway for the Festival of Spring on April 25th. Alysia is currently interviewing candidates for the Part-time Naturalist position with hopes of having it filled by the end of the month.

5. Other:

Richie Wolf reminded the Board of the Legislative Breakfast being held in Springfield next Tuesday (February 25, 2020) if anyone wanted to attend.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: No comments from the Trustees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee White 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)**
- 2. 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. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)**

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

Trustee White MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:54 p.m. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; and Trustee Johnson, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 19, 2020. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee White MOVED to approve the compensation of the Executive Director as discussed in the Executive Session. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Parish, "AYE".

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Bendsen MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:58 p.m. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee White, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, AYE"; and Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Motion carried.



President

ATTEST:



Secretary