

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
December 18, 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, Secretary Johnson, Treasurer Schneller, and 2nd Vice-President Bendsen

Board members absent: 1st Vice-President White

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2019 Public Meeting. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Johnson, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$163,590.78, and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$30,190.25 as presented. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Parish, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No audience.

PRIOR BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Adopt Amended Budget and Appropriation Ordinance:

A public hearing was held amending the Macon County Conservation District's FY20 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the purchase of 180 acres of land abutting the Fort Daniel Conservation Area. No objections or comments were noted at the public hearing. The Board must formally approve the Amended Budget and Appropriation Ordinance to be filed with the County Clerk.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to adopt the Amended Budget and Appropriation Ordinance as presented. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Parish, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Christy-Foltz Payout:

Shane Ravellette briefly explained that the Greenway Fund account had been established from funds received from Archer Daniels Midland Company due to a dispute involving the Clean Water Act. These funds were to assist with improvements to the watershed. Two former Trustees asked the District to establish water crossings at the Sand Creek Conservation Area. Due to the expense of the crossing, there were only enough funds to fund one crossing at the Pawpaw Ford.

The Greenway Funds were used to fund this project. The contractor has finished their part of the bridge and have requested final payout. Once the area has dried out, staff will place riprap around the abutments. Staff recommends final payout to Christy-Foltz in the amount of \$41,297.00

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve the payout to Christy-Foltz in the amount of \$41, 297.00 for the Sand Creek foot bridge project. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; and Trustee Johnson, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Campground Report:

Shane Ravellette briefly reviewed the campground report included in the Board packet. He noted on page one of the report that pavilion fees had always been included in the report but may exclude them next year since they have no relevance to revenue for the campground. This year was one of the best year's the campground has seen in generating revenue with slightly over \$40,000.00 generated. He noted on page two that expenses were down slightly due to one of the seasonal employees taking a month off due to an injury. He reviewed the campground expenses on page 3 stating that expenses that are directly related to the campground are pulled out from the Friends Creek Conservation Area expenses. He noted on page 4 the total expenses graph that the year 2018 is an outlier due to the large capital project of oil/chipping the roads. The overall revenue verses expenses from 2014-2019 almost match. Shane gave credit to the camp host, Pete Dickson, for the increase in campers due to the great following that Pete has in the camping community. At this time, staff are not recommending any changes. Trustee Bendsen gave kudos to the staff for the outstanding job they do in maintaining the campground.

4. Staff Reports:

Richie Wolf reported that the closing on the Seay Property will be tomorrow (Thursday, December 19th at 10:00 a.m.). The Clean Energy Grant check was received and the amended Budget and Appropriation Ordinance was just passed. He attended the Chamber Community Thanksgiving luncheon and sat at the head table. He commented that it was a nice event. The Chinese chestnut tree at the Oglesby Mansion has been removed. The all-staff quarterly meeting held in November went well and the staff Christmas party was well attended. The Volunteer Holiday party had approximately 100 people and was nicely done. Trustee Parish recommended that all Trustees attend the annual event. Staff are currently working on the FY21 budget.

Alysia Callison reported for Program Services. She reported that the Holiday on the Prairie had become a very popular event and the Candlelight Tour at the Homestead was well attended with over 100 individuals. It was a perfect night for the event. She commended Jenny Garver for the nice Volunteer Holiday Party she organized. Brock Rowland was hired as the Senior Program Naturalist replacing her after becoming the Nature Center Manager. Alysia hopes to have a new custodian hired by the end of the week.

Shane Ravellette reported for the Operations Department. Winter came a bit early as the staff have already snow plowed twice. Staff have been busy with the bike trail bridge project which is not completely done at this time. Completion will depend on the weather. Natural Resources staff were able to remove some hazard trees near the Nature Center, river trail, and removed some ash trees along the bike trail. Sand Creek staff are waiting for dryer conditions to place riprap around the abutments at the Pawpaw Ford bridge crossing. Staff at Friends Creek winterized the campground and have been busy clearing litter from the area.

Pam Smith reported for the administrative office reporting that the State Unemployment Tax rate increased from .475 to .725 a 53% increase but still relatively low as compared to other years. The District's Worker's Compensation Premium renewal remained the same from last year so there was no increase. The District had two certificates pay out interest with one paying out \$2,936 for a six month rolling certificate and the endowment account paid out \$4,919.60. Pam did report that saving interest rates are falling.

5. Other: No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Everyone wished all a "Merry Christmas".

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Bendsen MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:06 p.m. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, AYE"; and Motion carried.



President

ATTEST:



Secretary