

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
September 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, Treasurer Schneller, and 2nd Vice-President Bendsen, Secretary Johnson, and 1st Vice-President White
Board members absent:

Trustee White MOVED to approve the Minutes of the August 21, 2019, Public Meeting as presented. Trustee Bendsen 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 \$163,394.52, and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$40,083.88 as presented. 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.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No comments

PRIOR BUSINESS: No prior business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Treasurer's Statement:

The Annual Treasurer's Statement is required to be approved and filed by the end of the sixth month following fiscal year end. The statement was presented to the Board with no questions asked.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Annual Treasurer's Statement for FY2019 as presented. 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 Payout for Volunteer and Bus Parking Lot Paving:

Dunn Company has submitted payment for the asphalt work done on the South Drive of the Nature Center in the amount of \$32,463.00. Staff are satisfied with the results and recommend payment.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve payment of \$32,463.00 to Dunn Company for the completion of the asphalt work done on the South Drive of the Rock Springs Nature Center. 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.

3. Bid Award for Bike Trail Improvement Project:

An invitation seeking bids for the Rock Springs Trail Project was published in the local newspaper. Three contractor's submitted bids with the lowest bid of \$213,352.98 submitted by Reyhan Bros., Inc., doing business as Sangamo Construction Company out of Springfield, Illinois. The bid is within the projected budget so staff recommends granting the award to Sangamo for both the riprap bid and alternate bid (bridge decks). Some discussion followed concerning how critical it was to have these bridges repaired and that the recreational trail grant would cover the expense. Trustee White inquired as to an estimated time frame for the work to begin and Shane Ravellette replied in the fall after the Foundation's Prairie Pedal fundraiser. Announcements will be made about the bike trail closures and safety fences will be used around the projects for safety purposes.

Trustee White MOVED to grant the bid award for the Rock Springs Trail Project to Reyhan Bros., Inc., dba Sangamo Construction Company for the total amount of \$213,352.98 for both riprap and bridge decking bids as presented. 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. Bid award for Cattail Pond Improvements Project:

An invitation seeking bids for the Rock Springs Conservation Area Cattail Pond Improvements was published in a local newspaper with four contractors submitting bids. Bids were just received yesterday, September 17, 2019 and results were handed out to the Board members. This project will be funded by the OSLAD (Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant). Bids came in much lower than expected and within the projected budgeted amount. Staff performed some preliminary work on the project. Staff recommends awarding the bid to Erik M. Vieback Land Improvement, Inc., with the lowest bid of \$41,132.00. Erik is a sole-proprietor and has done good work for the District in the past. It will take approximately two weeks for the project once Erik gets started on it. Erik will reshape the depth and contour of the ponds. Next summer the project will continue with installation of two fishing decks, handicap accessible.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to grant the bid award for the Rock Springs Conservation Area Cattail Pond Improvements to Erik M. Vieback Land Improvement, Inc., for \$41,132.00 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.

5. Resolution for Land Acquisition:

The District is far enough along in the grant process for the acquisition of the property at Fort Daniel where the Conservation District should pass a resolution to be ready to purchase the property. This is a requirement as per the Conservation District Act. Included in your packet is the Resolution along with the sales agreement (Exhibit A). Sales agreement states a closing date in November contingent upon the District being awarded the Clean Energy Grant, otherwise the agreement is void. The District's attorney reviewed the sales agreement extensively with very little changes being made. Paul Marien stated that additional information had been requested for the

grant which he feels is a good sign. The Board needs to adopt the resolution in order to proceed with the process.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve the land acquisition resolution for the purchase of property at the Fort Daniel Conservation Area as required by the Conservation District Act. 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.

6. Staff Reports:

Richie Wolf reported that August is a transition period for his staff. Two large events took place this past month. The Hummingbird Festival saw the capture of twenty-two humming birds with two recaptures, one being from this year and one from last year. The Astronomy Jam was once again very successful with clear skies for viewing. School field trips begin with fourteen buses filled thanks to the donation of the Audubon Society. The next temporary exhibit coming in October will be about NASA celebrating the 50th anniversary of the lunar landing.

Paul Marien updated the Board that the Clean Energy Grant had been submitted. The Oglesby Mansion has a vacancy for the residency and asked Board members if they knew of any individual who may be interested. Dave Leonnati with MMLP is looking at the elevator in the mansion to bring it up to code making it easier for second floor accessibility. Everything is in place for the Foundation's Prairie Pedal event.

Shane Ravellette reported that the biggest project for his staff has been work on the ponds. The south drive of the Nature Center was asphalted and restriped. The Wildlife Observation Deck at Friends Creek Conservation Area was completed. Progress is being made on the replacement of the conservatory at the Oglesby Mansion. The renovation is being conducted in house by operations staff. Shane gave a special thanks to the Sanitary District for use of a 6" pump for draining the Cattail Pond.

Pam Smith reported that all the final paperwork and filing had been completed for both the Conservation District and the Foundation's audit and Form 990. Six new Windows 10 computers were installed. And as usual, there is always a glitch in the process. There were problems installing the online registration software onto the new computers, but with some persistence the problem was resolved. Pam gave an update on a seminar sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce that dealt with personnel and legal issues facing organizations.

7. Other: No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: No comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Schneller MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:05 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. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)

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.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:40 p.m. 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.

Trustee White MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 18, 2019. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Schneller MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:41 p.m. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.



President

ATTEST:



Secretary