

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
October 21, 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 Schnelller.

Board members present: President Schnelller, 1st Vice-President Bendsen, Secretary Dave Castor, and 2nd Vice President Beckhart

Board Members absent: Treasurer Johnson

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 2020, Regular Public Meeting and the September 29, 2020 Special Meeting. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Schnelller, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$156,733.21 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$35,987.32 as presented. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Schnelller, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Health Insurance Renewal

The annual benefit year for health insurance begins each January 1st and Richie Wolf recommended to the Board that the District renew with United Healthcare for calendar year 2021 with a 4% increase. Last year's increase was around .1%, very minimal. Pam Smith stated that she had not received complaints from employees regarding United Healthcare and the District had been with them for quite a few years.

Trustee Bendsen asked if employees pay a portion of the premium and Pam Smith's response was that employees do not pay any portion of the premium for themselves but pay 10% of the premium on their dependent coverage. Health Insurance is only offered to full-time staff.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve renewing the employee health insurance with United Healthcare with a 4% increase for January 2021 – December 2021. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Schnelller, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Staff Reports:

Richie Wolf informed the District Board that the Conservation Foundation will be losing at least two directors in January and potentially two more. He encouraged the Board if they knew of any possible candidates to let him know. Preferably the Board would like to get another CPA on the Board. Richie complemented the staff on doing a great job of controlling expenses and acknowledged the campground revenue had exceeded budget. Richie displayed the award presented to the District from *America in Bloom*. He gave an update on COVID stating that two employees were currently quarantined due to positivity of family members in the household. The District will continue to follow the Health Department guidelines. He announced that the trout season had started.

Pam Smith reported that the District received the forth tax levy installment bringing the total to 94% of what had been requested with two small installments yet to be received. As of September 30, the campground revenue was at \$34,399.00 and Pam gave kudos to the staff for a great job. Trustee Bendsen inquired into the discipline guidelines that had been worked on with the attorney. Per the attorney's assistance and advice, guidelines were developed to share with the management team emphasizing that these were only guidelines and that every case presented would need to be handled differently. Shane Ravellette would share the guidelines with his supervisors. The District received a premium rebate for the calendar year 2019. The District pays 90% of the premium while employees pay 10% for dependent coverage, so 10% of the check needed to be shared in some form with those employees. The management team decided it would be best to issue a check to those eligible employees. Pam mentioned that she, Richie Wolf, Katherine Unruh, and Jenny Garver had a meeting to discuss ideas for better communication.

Alysia Callison reported that the weekend programs have been very popular including the canoe trips. Alysia and her team created fall harvest kits to offer to the public since the Fall Harvest Festival had to be canceled due to COVID. They made 50 of these kits and they were all spoken for in a matter of days after advertising. Alysia was happy to comment that she has an incredible team. She also reported having attended a Zoom meeting with peers from other organizations and was happy to report that they were doing more in offering programs than most of her peers. The Board gave a "kudos" to her and her staff! The Prairie Homestead made the news and has been drawing large crowds. Mini-camps have been continued with a good number participating.

Shane Ravellette reported that he and his staff are finishing up some projects. They finished pouring the basketball court in the picnic loop near the Friends Creek Campground. Trustee Bendsen gave Shane and his staff kudos on the placement of the court. The Bike Trail Grant Project is done and his staff completed the approaches on the Stevens Creek Bridge. Final reports will be submitted to IDNR. The Nature Center upper level renovation is underway with about 75% completed. Staff have finished their work for now while the contractor takes over and then staff will complete the final carpentry and build and install cabinets. Shane reported that he had hoped for an extension on the Cattail Pond Grant Project due to COVID but IDNR is not granting extensions due to COVID. He and his staff are busy working on the docks trying to get concrete work done before winter sets in. Staff did conduct a burn at the Fort Daniel Conservation Area.

8. **Other:** No other comments.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Bendsen prompted discussion concerning the meeting time and wondered if the meeting could be moved earlier in the day due to the fact that all Board members are now retired. After some discussion, it was tabled for now leaving the meetings at 5:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Castor MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:03 p.m. for the purpose of

1. **Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21)**
2. **The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5)**

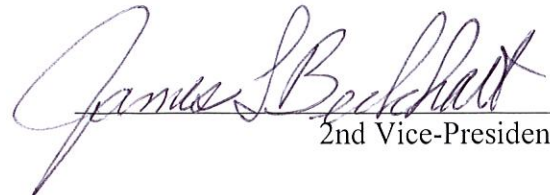
Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Beckhart, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:28 p.m. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 21, 2020. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Castor MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:31 p.m. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.


2nd Vice-President

ATTEST:


Secretary