

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
September 16, 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Bendsen, Treasurer Johnson, Secretary Dave Castor, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Beckhart  
Board Members absent: None

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2020, Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Johnson 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 \$153,487.86 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$39,426.71 as presented. Trustee Beckhart 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:** No audience

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Trustee Tour**

Richie Wolf briefly reviewed the agenda for the Board of Trustees tour beginning at Rock Springs Nature Center at noon for some snacks and then touring the Nature Center renovation progress, shelter location in the Pine Forest, bike trail bridge and cattail pond projects before traveling to Sand Creek to see the pollinator patch and trail re-routes. After touring Sand Creek, the Board will travel to Grove Branch where the firing range is located and after that return to the Nature Center for a light dinner before the regular public meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Approval of Annual Treasurer's Report**

Richie Wolf explained that the Treasurer's Report must be filed with the County Clerk annually. Pam Smith explained that the report is similar to the audit with the exception of breaking down expenditures by vendors and breaking down employee salaries into categories. All figures are tied back to the audit that was just completed. There were no questions from the Board.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Annual Treasurer's Statement as presented. Trustee Castor SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

**2. Staff Reports:**

Richie Wolf reported on the staff canoe outing and that all that participated had a good time. October is always the month for employee recognition and Richie reported he had been working on the awards and there will be two employees receiving their 20 year award. Next year there will be one employee receiving their 40 year award. Prairie Pedal has opened for virtual registration at a cost of \$25.00 per rider with a sports towel being given out for participation. Participants that take a selfie and post it will be entered in a drawing for a \$100.00 Spin City gift certificate donated by Spin City. The Deer Herd Management Program begins in October. This year trout will be delivered by IDNR for stocking the Cattail Pond. Richie reported that he and Shane toured three properties that are potential donations, one approximately 13 acres, another approximately 55 acres and the last one potentially up to 240 acres. Richie asked the donors to speak with their estate planner and get back with the District.

Pam Smith reported that August was a busy month with Bill Weiss, part-time Administrative Assistant, retiring. Upon his retiring, Joy Potter was offered a full-time position as Administrative Assistant, making two part-time positions into one full-time. The camp ground is still doing very well and generating a lot of revenue almost surpassing the budgeted amount at the end of August. The audit was completed and filed with the County Clerk.

Alysia Callison reported that Program Services was finally able to conduct some programs and special events. During the Hummingbird Festival a total of 19 birds were banded, two of which were recaptures and one was banded back in 2017. Homestead Prairie Farm was open every weekend in August with very good attendance. With the possibility of very few school trips this fall, Alysia conducted a Zoom program with Dennis School and is going to work with more teachers to hopefully conduct more of these Zoom programs.

Shane Ravellette reported that three projects consumed most of operations staff time including the Nature Center renovation, removal of dead Ash trees on the Lookout Trail at Rock Springs, and demolishing one pit toilet at Friends Creek at the Bethel School House and combining it with the other pit toilet. Staff were able to conduct a burn at the Bluestem Prairie west of the Pine Forest focusing on *Sericea lespedeza*.

**8. Other:** No other business.

**COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:** No comments from the Trustees.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to go into Executive Session at 5:50 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 Johnson 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 Beckhart MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 7:10 p.m. Trustee Johnson 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 Castor MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of August 19, 2020. Trustee Bendsen 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 7:11 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.

  
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President

ATTEST:

  
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Secretary