

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
March 24, 2021**

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, 1st Vice-President Bendsen, Treasurer Johnson, Secretary Castor and 2nd Vice President Beckhart
Board Members absent: None

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the February 17, 2021, Regular Public Meeting and the February 17, 2021 Budget Study Session. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$184,968.65 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$21,818.18 as presented. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No audience.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the FY2022 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance

Richie Wolf stated that the process was one month ahead of past years but this process allows the budget to be approved before the fiscal year begins. There were no further comments made.

Trustee Beckhart MOVED to approve the FY2022 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance as presented. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Approval to Order Vehicles:

Staff requested approval to order two vehicles for Fiscal Year 2022 early as the lead time is usually long. These vehicles were included in the budget that was just approved. Staff would like to order a 2021 Ford F-250 to replace a 2011 Ford F-250 to be used at Rock Springs and to order a 2021 mini-van to replace the 2008 Honda Odyssey currently being used by Program Services. Board approval is needed to order the vehicles.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve ordering two vehicles for FY2022 through the governmental purchasing program to include a 2021 Ford F-250 and a 2021 mini-van for Program Services. Trustee Castor SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "Aye"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Staff Reports

Richie Wolf reported that the Oglesby Mansion Board decided to re-open for tours beginning in March. He reported that there was a good turnout for the virtual legislative breakfast. Richie thanked the Program Services staff for the work they had done on virtual programs and thanked the Operations Staff for their carpentry skills on the upper level remodel. At the time of this report, there were 81 registrants for the 5K Foundation Run which was moved to a virtual run and will not be timed.

Shane Ravellette reported that staff were able to remove growth around the Cattail Ponds and Osage orange trees between the Nature Center Parking Lot and the Homestead Prairie Farm. Most of the operations staff's time was spent on the Nature Center remodel. Fabrication has been completed for the OSLAD pond docks. Shane explained how to create a border of fire when burning the Prairie after Trustee Schneller asked how they create such a clean border.

Alysia Callison was excited to report that in-person programs had started and several weekend-programs had full-attendance. Staff were planning the Festival of Spring but it will be scaled back as compared to previous years due to the pandemic. The Festival of Spring will be held on April 24th. She was also happy to report that the District had finally received the final agreement from IDNR for the ECO Center remodel grant so they could move forward to solicit bids. Planning is also in progress for summer camp but staff are hoping that guidelines will be eased soon.

Pam Smith reported that the Foundation Finance Committee had met and proposed a budget for FY2022. In the budget, they had decided to transfer the \$110,000.00 donated for the Friends Creek electrical work to FY22, though it was donated in the current fiscal year. They decided to wait until the work had been completed. They also agreed to approve a credit card for the Foundation's use with a limit of \$2000.00. A total of \$75,700.00 would be transferred to the District at the end of the fiscal year for various projects. Most of the month was spent on preparing for the move upstairs. Pam commended Operations for their multi-talented staff who worked hard on the Nature Center remodel.

4. Other

No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

No further comments from the Trustees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Castor MOVED to go into Executive Session at 5:52 p.m. for the purpose of

- 1. The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (3)**

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

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 5:58 p.m. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 24, 2021. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Beckhart MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 5:59 p.m. Trustee Johnson SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Johnson, "AYE". Motion carried.



1st Vice-President

ATTEST:


Secretary