

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
March 27, 2024**

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Bendsen

Board members present: President Bendsen, 1st Vice President Castor, Treasurer Allen, and Secretary Reed

Board Members absent: 2nd Vice-President Sams

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve the Minutes of the February 21, 2024 Budget Study Session and February 21, 2024 Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Reed SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Reed MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$177,277.17 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$48,582.39 as presented. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

No comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

No prior business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FY2025 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance Approval:

There were no further comments or questions regarding the proposed FY2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve the FY 2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance as presented. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen "AYE"; and Trustee Reed, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Transfer of Funds to the Capital Fund and Resolution Approval:

Pam Smith explained that the Board previously approved a resolution authorizing the District to establish a capital fund so that certain funds on hand or to be received in the future would be pledged to pay for planned and unplanned capital projects. Yearly the Board must adopt a resolution recognizing the funds that will be transferred from the General Corporate Fund to the Capital Fund. This year the amount to be transferred to the Capital Fund totals \$808,289.18. Transferring these funds covers the expenditures leaving a fund balance of zero. Staff request Board approval to move these funds from the General Corporate Fund to the Capital Fund.

Trustee Allen MOVED to approve the Resolution to transfer funds from the Corporate Fund Account in the amount of \$808,289.18 to the Capital Fund. Trustee Reed SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Efficiency Committee Resolution Update Approval:

Jerry Culp explained that when the Board approved the resolution to form the Local Government Efficiency Committee, the Board members names were unintentionally left off the resolution. Staff is bringing this resolution back to the Board to correct and update the resolution to include the Board members' names. The committee will consist of the five Board members and two residents as required by the act. Staff recommends the Board approve the updated resolution as presented to form the Local Efficiency Act Committee to meet the requirement of the Local Government Efficiency Act 50 ILCS 70/1.

Trustee Allen MOVED to approve the updated Efficiency Committee Resolution as presented. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Allen, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Approval of New Foundation Board Member:

Jerry Culp presented Joey Martini's application to join the Macon County Conservation Foundation Board. The Board currently has ten members and continues to recruit new members to fill vacancies. Joey is an accountant working for Forvis in Decatur and is very involved in Community activities and would make a great addition to the Foundation Board. The Foundation Board has reviewed his application and are in agreement that he would be a good fit to the Board. The Macon County Conservation District Board must approve the application before he is accepted as a new Foundation Board Member. Staff recommend the Board approve Joey Martini's application to become a member of the Macon County Conservation Foundation Board.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve Joey Martini as a new Board Member on the Macon County Conservation Foundation Board. Trustee Reed SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Allen, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Staff Reports:

Jerry Culp, Executive Director Report: The District received notice that the IDNR Grant for the Fort Daniel Pothole Prairie/Season Wetland restoration was approved. The PARC Grant for the Rock Springs Nature Center Outdoor Classroom was also approved. Contracts have been signed with IDNR and consultants to complete the final design and construction drawings. Staff have been working with a Millikin Professor to set up an internship program through the Criminal Justice Program to review ordinances related to drone use and mobility devices in the Conservation areas. The Board asked Jerry to follow up with both the Federal and State laws applicable to drone usage. Staff attended the Great Lakes Park Training Institute in Angola, Indiana. This was a great opportunity for staff to attend sessions and network with professionals in the same field. Nicky Besser, Director of the Good Samaritan, was hired as the new Director of Finance and Human Resources and will be starting April 15th. Staff completed and submitted the grant to complete a trail connection between the Rock Springs bike trail and Scovill Park. The District will be working with the Decatur Public Schools Foundation on educational programs with a natural resource focus. This year the project will be on pond management.

Phil Julius, Director of Operations Report: Prescribed burning was a priority for Operations during the past month with approximately 900 acres burned for the District and 300 acres for the City of Decatur and Park District. At the Rock Springs Conservation Area staff removed flood damaged trees from the River Trail. Trail Cameras were installed at the Griswold Conservation Area after a report of ATV use on the trails. At Sand Creek Conservation Area, trail median improvement was made with tree removal, stump grinding and brush removal of the invasive and exotic plants. Wetland seeding was conducted at the Fort Daniel Property. Three new tent sites were set up at the Friends Creek Conservation Area. Natural Resources and other staff conducted prescribed burning at Friends Creek, Sand Creek, Rock Springs, Nelson Park and Red Tail Golf Course. Phil announced that Ethan Snively's last day at the District will be March 28th. He has resigned to take a position with the Fire Department in Bloomington.

Program Services Report: Jerry Culp gave a high overview of the report in the absence of Alysia Callison. February was a very busy month with scheduling school field trips, working on Summer Camp program, Eagle van trips, and much more. Program Services staff were involved with a conference held in Decatur presenting programs. There was one snow day where staff were able to rent skis but was a low turnout. Staff have been busy planning for the Festival of Spring as well.

Pam Smith, Director of Finance and Human Resources Report: February was a busy month with system upgrades including adding an HR module to the Sage Accounting software, and updated IMRF website with a change in processes as well as learning how to run a report in Arreva, the donor software, to determine the percentage of donors contributing extra to cover the cost of credit card fees. Approximately 87% of donors that contributed last year contributed 3% extra toward credit card fees. Administrative Assistant, Joy Potter, was able to update the registration software to include demographics such as ethnicity and various gender responses. Individuals do have the choice to select the option of not responding to the question. She was also busy updating the registration software with Summer Camp Programs for registration that begins April 1st. Staff met with the Foundation's Finance Committee to draft a budget for FY2025 for Board approval. The results of the Worker's Comp Audit was presented with staff challenging the audit. The audit showed the District owing approximately another \$5,000 in premium. After reviewing the audit and challenging the results and changes that they had made to the rate/classification structure, the revised audit ended with a refund of approximately \$3,000.00. With year-end

approaching, staff began working on reviewing the District's assets and updating the annual depreciation file for the auditors.

6. Other

No other business discussed.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

No comments from the Trustees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Allen MOVED to go into Executive Session at 5:56 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)**
- 2. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5)**

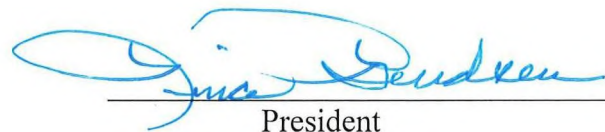
Trustee Reed SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; and Trustee Reed, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Castor MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:35 p.m. Trustee Reed SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

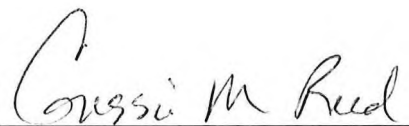
Trustee Reed MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 27, 2024. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Allen, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Allen MOVED to adjourn the Public Meeting at 6:36 p.m. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen "AYE"; and Trustee Allen, "AYE". Motion carried.



President



Secretary