

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
April 20, 2022**

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 Castor, Secretary Beckhart, and 2nd Vice-President Allen
Board Members absent: None

Trustee Beckhart MOVED to approve the Minutes of the March 23, 2022, Public Meeting and the March 23, 2022 Special Budget Hearing Session. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Beckhart, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$149,041.89 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$38,827.88 as presented. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: None

PRIOR BUSINESS

1. Grove Branch Shooting Range Improvements

Macon County Board Chairman, Kevin Greenfield, along with representatives from the Sheriff's Department gave an update on the Grove Branch Firing Range. Over a period of twenty-five years, small improvements have been made to the area but there are some draining issues on the property. They would like to bring in excavating material to create a path to provide water roll-off to help with the drainage issue. Millings from a road project will be used to pave the road and hope to start in two weeks. There will be no cost to the District for this work. It will require the removal of one tree (Hedge tree). President Schneller reminded the Board that there was no motion required as the Board had already approved an agreement with the Sheriff's Department earlier. This was just being considered an update to the Board. Kevin Greenfield told the Board they would be happy to answer any questions they may have at any time. The Board thanked them for the update.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set Annual Meeting Schedule:

MEETING DATES
MAY 2022 – APRIL 2023

All meetings will be held the third Wednesday of the month at the Rock Springs Nature Center at 5:30 p.m., unless otherwise specified or notified.

2022

May 18 Wednesday
June 15, Wednesday
July 20, Wednesday
August 17, Wednesday
September 21, Wednesday
October 19, Wednesday
November 16, Wednesday
December 21, Wednesday

2023

January 18, Wednesday
February 15, Wednesday
March 22, Wednesday
(4th Wednesday to accommodate budget on review for 30 days)
April 19, Wednesday

The Board discussed the possibility of moving the December 21st meeting to an earlier time since it was fairly close to the Christmas Holiday. Board members decided to hold off on making a decision until closer to December. A notice can be published at any time of a change in the schedule.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the FY2023 Schedule of Meetings as presented. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, “Aye”; Trustee Schneller, “AYE”; Trustee Beckhart, “AYE”; Trustee Allen, “AYE”; and Trustee Bendsen, “AYE”. Motion carried.

2. Authorize Depositories:

**MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DEPOSITORIES FOR APRIL 21, 2022 – April 21, 2023**

Hickory Point Bank
Gerber State Bank
Regions Bank
PNC Bank
Busey Bank
Scott State Bank
The Illinois Funds
Town & Country Bank
First Mid Bank
Prairie State Bank & Trust
Buena Vista National Bank
Peoples Bank of Macon

First National Bank of Pana
Commerce Bank
1st Mid America Credit Union
Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund

Pam Smith noted that the only change to the depository listing was the addition of Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund as an option. A representative from the organization had been in contact with Pam.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the depositories as presented. Trustee Allen SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "Aye"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Allen, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Signature Resolution:

**MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SIGNATORIES RESOLUTION
April 20, 2022– April 19, 2023**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Macon County Conservation District that Executive Director Gerald Culp, President Karen Schneller, 1st Vice-President Nina Bendsen, Secretary Dave Castor, and 2nd Vice President Mark Allen be authorized to endorse all checks and depositories for the Macon County Conservation District for all the District funds at all applicable banks, effective June 16, 2021.

Approved this 20th Day of April, 2022

Pam Smith suggested in the future that the Board change the length of the signatory resolution to the date of the following year's July Board meeting so that the correct titles will be used in the resolution. Assignment of the officers happen at the July Board meeting each year. Trustee Bendsen also noted the effective date in the resolution of June 16, 2021, be corrected. Board members were in agreement with changing the length of the resolution going forward so Pam will make those changes.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Signatory Resolution with the above changes made. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Castor "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart "AYE" and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Inquiry Resolution:

Pam Smith recommended that the Board approve a new Inquiry Resolution as the last one had been approved in 2019. She recommended it's better for the banks to periodically have a new one on file to avoid any issues. The Inquiry Resolution gives Pam authority to inquire concerning all District Bank accounts as well as to transfer funds from one account to another in any given applicable bank.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the inquiry resolution for Pam Smith as presented. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Approve Purchase of John Deere 333G Skid Loader:

Shane Ravellette explained that operations staff would like to purchase a John Deere 333G skid loader with forestry implements/package. A John Deere 5100E tractor and a BushHog 3810 batwing mower will be traded in for the skid loader. He explained that the mower is just not as flexible and that skid loaders and mulching heads have become the backbone of land management and natural resource equipment. The John Deere 333G with attachments is priced at \$124,558.28 minus a trade in total of \$60,000.00 for a net sale price of \$64,558.28. Staff recommends the purchase of this John Deere 333G skid loader. The amount is within our budgeted amount.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the purchase of the John Deere 333G Skid Loader in the net amount of \$64,558.28 as presented. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Richie Wolf Memorial Scholarship:

Jerry Culp announced that Katelynn Perez with the Geneva Park District applied for the Richie Wolf Educational Scholarship. She would like to use it in order to apply for the Kane County Certified Naturalist Program at a cost of \$300.00. She was the only applicant that applied. Jerry will work on networking and getting more information out on the scholarship to the public. Pam Smith will notify Richie's family of the applicant.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve awarding the Richie Wolf Educational Scholarship to Kate Perez to become a master naturalist through the Kane County Certified Naturalist Program. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

7. Staff Reports

Executive Director: Jerry Culp scheduled a meeting to review plans for the program space on the first floor of the Nature Center. Staff met with a landscape architect to review ideas for an outdoor classroom. He is waiting on proposals to review and will look for grant opportunities to fund the project. Jerry reported that the Rock Springs Ramble was very successful. He attended his first Regional Planning Commission meeting. This group is looking for possible funding for hazard mitigation including flooding. Jerry attended a presentation given by Alysia Callison to the United Way requesting funding for the summer camp to include 25 children from the Boys and Girls Club. The Xander property land acquisition was closed adding 16.99 acres to Rock Springs Conservation Area. Staff are reviewing the building conditions to determine future use and will present a report to the Board next month. Jerry

was appointed to the Firearm Violence Prevention Local Advisory Council. This council is working on ways to reduce firearm violence in Macon County.

Director of Program Services: Open House was held on April 10th, and Alysia Callison reported that approximately 30 individuals attended the open house and all had positive comments. Alysia will now be submitting for reimbursement of the project to IDNR. Alysia presented a program to the United Way requesting funding for the Boys and Girls Club summer camp program. A private donor has already funded most of the program with United Way hopefully funding the difference. Alysia and her staff attended the Environmental Education Association of Illinois annual conference. Staff learned some valuable information and it provided a good networking experience for all. Staff are preparing to change out the Exhibit Hall featuring the recent Youth Art Contest that was conducted with local school age children. She reminded the Board that the Festival of Spring will be held on September 23 from 12:00 – 4:00.

Director of Finance and Human Resources: Pam Smith reported that March was and is always a busy month with preparing for year end. In preparation of the audit, all banks have to be contacted to obtain fiscal year- end balances including certificates of deposits. At the end of the fiscal year, it looks like the District had a net loss of expenses over revenue of approximately \$10,000.00 for the general corporate fund but a final number will be determined after the audit. Only 87% of the total budgeted had been spent. The Foundation's FY2023 budget was approved at the Foundation's March Board Meeting. The Worker's Compensation audit was completed and the District was billed an additional \$206.00 in premium, due to the change in salaries originally reported. New hire paperwork was completed for several of the seasonal operations staff. Joy Potter continues learning the new camping reservation system and has done a good job learning the system in such a short time frame. Campers are busy making reservations through the new online system.

Director of Operations: The rainy weather put an end to the spring burn season but up to this point almost 700 acres have been burned. The heavy rain closed the bike trail, but water levels dropped enough to hold the Rock Springs Ramble on April 9th. Staff did clean about 300 yards of the trail with a pressure sprayer so it would be ready for the race. Shane Ravellette reported that the campground project was almost finished with just a little bit of work from the contractor to finish up breaker boxes but enough has been completed to open the campground April 29th. As the District moves into its new fiscal year, Shane's staff are reviewing quotes and making plans for purchases.

Marketing Specialist: Susie Ryan spent the end of March and early April finalizing preparations for the Rock Springs Ramble 5K fundraising event. It was well attended with 176 registrants. Susie was planning the summer 2022 Prairie Islander, in addition to working on material to submit to WXFMWDKR radio for late spring/early summer events. She reported that interactions on social media were picking up, Susie attended the Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner and took photos of the event.

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

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustees commented on how nice the new location for the library looked.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Castor MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:05 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)**

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

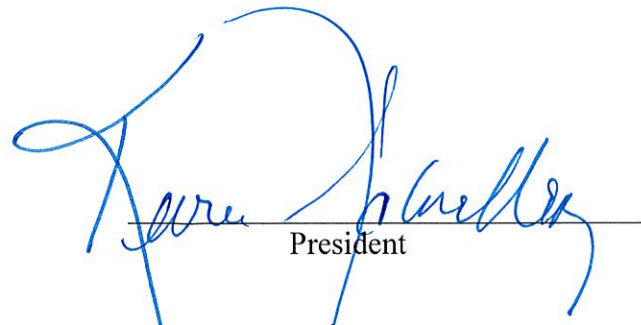
Trustee Bendsen MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:08 p.m. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 20, 2022. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Allen MOVED to adjourn the Public Meeting at 6:12 p.m. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor "AYE". Motion carried.


Treasurer


President