

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
October 19, 2022**

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by 1st Vice-President Castor

Board members present: 1st Vice-President Castor, 2nd Vice-President Schneller (remotely); Treasurer Reed, and Secretary Allen

Board Members absent: President Bendsen

Trustee Allen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the September 21, 2022, Public Meeting. Trustee Reed SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Allen MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$192,830.99 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$34,672.56 as presented. Trustee Reed SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Reed, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. October 20, 2022, Trustee Tour

Jerry Culp reminded the Board of the "Trustee Tour" tomorrow (October 20, 2022) from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Board members were asked if there were any questions regarding the agenda and there were no questions asked. Two Foundation Board members were going to attend along with Trustee Castor, Trustee Reed and Trustee Bendsen.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Summer Camp Report:

Alysia Callison reviewed the Summer Camp report found in the Board packet. The first few pages of the report gave some background on the camp. Alysia reported that attendance overall was good but there was a decline in the X-treme Camp enrollment. Partnership with the Boys and Girls Club did change the structure of the camp with more expenditures. The District shared the cost of the Boys and Girls Club camp counselor and travel costs. There was a private donor who donated \$29,000.00 to help support the additional campers from the Boys and Girls Club for a two-year period. Alysia is hoping to increase the number of campers from the Boys and Girls Club to 25 bringing the total to 50 campers projected for next year. With the increase in campers, the District will have to look for different ways to transport the campers to events. Overall the Camp had a \$3,101.37 profit, slightly lower than previous years due to wages not being reported properly. Alysia presented four different recommendations to the Board for next year's Summer Camp. Due to a lack of communication between the Summer Camp Staff and administration, she recommends returning Program Services, Brock Rowland, to his previous role of Head Camp Counselor over the summer. Secondly, due to the decline in enrollment for X-treme camp, she recommends doing two in-

county and two out-of-county camps to see if there is a difference in enrollment. This year's enrollment decreased as compared to the previous year when all events were kept in county. She suggested charging \$35.00 for in-county and \$60.00 for out-of-county and to re-evaluate the camp at the end of next summer. Third, she recommended bringing back the History Camp that was discontinued due to low enrollment. The recommendation is to rename the camp, which was called Pioneer Adventure Camp. The Camp would be offered on a trial basis and if it doesn't work out, then do not offer in 2024. The Historic Intern would lead the camp. Trustee Reed suggested incorporating technology into the program to draw more young people to the program. Some discussion followed to look for funding to purchase tablets for the participants combining history and technology. Lastly due to the rising cost of supplies and wages, she recommended increasing the cost of Adventure Club and a possible History Camp to \$20.00 per camper, increasing Mini-Camp from \$6.00 to \$8.00 and increasing the cost of Earth Adventures from \$125.00 per week to \$140.00 per week with a \$20.00 sibling discount. After researching other area summer camps, the District is still offering a much lower price than other camps. Board approval is needed to make these changes.

Trustee Reed MOVED to approve the Summer Camp recommendations as presented. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Reed, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Approval of Purchase of Excavator:

The Natural Resource team identified the need for an excavator to assist with projects such as restoration, wetland construction, and other projects. An anonymous donor found the excavator on the Foundation's website and donated \$150,000.00 to purchase an excavator. The District posted an invitation for bids for a new or slightly used excavator in September. Bids were accepted until October 13, 2022, and a total of ten bids were received. A description of these ten bids were included in the Board packet. Operations staff reviewed the bids looking for the best value taking into consideration the price, specifications and what would best fit the District's needs. After reviewing the bids, Operations staff recommended the purchase of a 2019 Hyundai HX160 with 490 hours for \$140,500.00. This purchase price will also allow the remaining funds to cover the cost of shipping and possibly an additional accessory such as a bucket. Some discussion followed pertaining to various bids and the issue of maintenance of the excavator.

Trustee Reed MOVED to approve the purchase of the 2019 Hyundai HX160 with 490 hours for \$140,500.00 from Hardings Inc., of Lowell, Indiana. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Allen, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Appoint Delegates to the IAPD Annual Business Meeting

Every year the District selects a delegate and alternate/s to represent the District at the Illinois Association of Park District's Annual Meeting. Jerry Culp was willing to be the Delegate and asked Board Members if someone would like to serve as the alternate. Trustee Schneller agreed to serve as the alternate to the annual meeting.

Trustee Allen MOVED to designate Jerry Culp to serve as delegate and Trustee Schneller to serve as alternate to the Annual Business Meeting of the Illinois Association of Park Districts on January 28, 2023. Trustee Reed SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Staff Reports

Jerry Culp updated the Board on the recent remodeling. The old library space has been converted into an office and the contractor is finishing up the connecting hallway. The old tree in the basement has been removed along with a section of wall that created a larger meeting space. The next step is to keep opening up the lower basement. Staff had a meeting with Upland Design and will continue to work with the architect and landscape architect to connect the indoor and outdoor space design. The Open Space Land Acquisition Development Grant (OSLAD) application was completed for the purchase of another piece of property. Staff will attend the Maroa Fall Festival to continue to promote the District. Jerry met with the Community Foundation of Decatur to review projects and needs in the community and how the District can partner with the Community Foundation. The Prairie Pedal event was successful and staff met to discuss how to improve the event for next year. Jerry complimented the staff and volunteers on a great job. The 5K Rock Springs Ramble is scheduled for May 20, 2023. This year the Foundation will participate at the District's Fall Festival by having a food tent and selling hotdogs, chips, drinks, cookies and apple cider.

Pam Smith gave a brief summary on the Prairie Pedal with 158 riders participating. The day of the event brought in \$2,806 including rider fees, beer sales and some donations. The estimated profit at this time is \$17,000.00 with a final report pending all expenditures and revenue accounted for. We implemented a new Point-of-Sale for use in using credit cards at our outdoor functions. The program uses a Wi-Fi credit card reader. Joy Potter did a great job setting up the program on short notice for the event and outside a few glitches it seem to work well. It's that time of the year when the District begins to work on the budget. A budget schedule was created and shared with Administrative staff and work began on updating budget sheets to give to staff. A Certificate of deposit was renewed with First National Bank. The interest rate went from .50% to 2.62%. Rates are beginning to increase with the Districts investment in The Illinois Funds rate increasing to almost 3%.

Alysia Callison reported that September was a busy month with staff holding a booth at the Argenta Fall Festival and the first Yoga in the Pines Program, which had 15 guests in attendance. There were several schools and organization programs conducted by staff. The biggest focus was working on the Prairie Pedal with her department since this was the first year that Program Services had been involved with the fundraising event. Jenny Garver led a volunteer site tour for volunteers visiting Griswold, Bois du Sangamon and Friends Creek. Beth Lane worked on creating maps to collect iNaturalist data at our sites. Staff led our first Homeschool Program of a new series, which was fun and well-received. Looking forward into October, staff will be focused on preparation for the Fall Harvest Festival and planning winter programs, finishing out the Homestead Prairie Farm and Bethel School open houses for the season. Alysia announced a new NASA program that will be happening in the future.

Shane Ravellette gave an update on projects. At Sand Creek, the coverage storage structure completion was delayed due to high winds. Shane met with a

neighbor at Fort Daniel Conservation Area to address his concerns and possible solutions. The concern was the illegal use of the area by individuals using ATVs as well as dogs off leashes. The ATVs are very hard to control unless they are caught in the act by the sheriff's deputy. Friends Creek Campground is nearing the end of the season but the revenue collected far surpassed the budgeted goal. It seems that the new on-line system and price increase did not affect the registrations this summer. Natural Resources has continued our partnership with Millikin University. Dr. Horn's ecology class labs have been held here with staff explaining and demonstrating techniques such as tree felling and other forestry techniques.

5. Other Business: No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: No further comments from the Trustees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Reed **MOVED** to go into Executive Session at 6:29 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)**

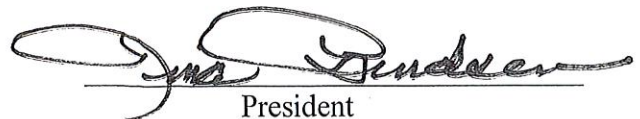
Trustee Allen **SECONDED** the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; and Trustee Reed, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Reed **MOVED** to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:32 p.m. Trustee Allen **SECONDED** the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Reed **MOVED** to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 19, 2022. Trustee Allen **SECONDED** the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Reed **MOVED** to adjourn the Public Meeting at 6:33 p.m. Trustee Allen **SECONDED** the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor "AYE". Motion carried.


President


Secretary