

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
September 21, 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 Bendsen

Board members present: President Bendsen, 1st Vice-President Castor, 2nd Vice-President Schneller; Treasurer Reed, and Secretary Allen
Board Members absent: None

Trustee Allen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2022, Public Meeting. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$199,506.70 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$36,357.13 as presented. Trustee Reed SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Reed, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: No comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS: No Prior Business

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Treasurer's Statement:

President Bendsen asked Board if there were any questions or comments concerning the Treasurer's Statement that was in the packet. There were no comments from the Board. No discussion followed.

Trustee Reed MOVED to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Treasurer's Statement as presented. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Approve the Purchase of Ford Transit Connect Wagon:

Shane Ravellette reported that the Program Services 2008 Honda Odyssey mini-van has been on the replacement schedule for two years but due to tight vehicle supply the District has been unable to order a replacement until now. The actual price of the vehicle is a little higher than what was budgeted due to the increases in the auto market. The trade-in value of the Odyssey will help make up the difference between the budgeted amount and actual cost. Staff asks Board approval to purchase the 2023 Ford Transit Connect Wagon through National Auto Fleet.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve the purchase of the 2023 Ford Transit Connect Wagon in the amount of \$38,425.20 through National Auto Fleet Group. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Allen, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Staff Reports

Jerry Culp gave an update on the Nature Center Office space remodeling. The old library construction has begun with drywall and sound proofing. The tree in the multi-purpose room has been removed. A kick off meeting was held with Upland Design and staff to discuss the indoor and outdoor classroom space. A final concept plan will be presented to the Board and then staff will pursue funding opportunities. Jerry appeared, along with Trustee Reed, on the "Morris Code" radio station to promote the District and highlight its programs and amenities. The "Chat with the Director" was held at Friends Creek Campground with ten individuals in attendance. Staff represented the District at the Argenta Fall Festival. Jerry asked for Board members to volunteer to work the Foundation's Prairie Pedal fundraising event and to keep in the back of their mind the next Rock Springs 5K Ramble being held on May 20, 2023.

Pam Smith reported that all audit paperwork had been completed and filed for the District. Once the Foundation Treasurer signed the ILAG990, that return would be filed by September 30th. The Foundation Prairie Pedal had raised \$17,270.00 thus far in sponsorships meeting their budgeted goal of \$17,000.00. Pam and staff had worked on getting the new "point-of-sale" software and installed and troubleshooting the WiFi connection for use at the Prairie Pedal event. It will be the first year to accept credit card payments at the event. The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) portal had been updated with all necessary documents prior to deadline of September 30th. Pam attended a free webinar on the new GASB 96 standard on subscription based information technology arrangements that will be required as part of the financials for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2022.

Alysia Callison reported that Summer Camp had finished and it was fairly quiet around the Nature Center. August is usually quieter with camps ending, school beginning, and a break in school field trips. Despite the Astronomy Jamboree getting rained out, there were still 50 individuals that came out to enjoy the band, learn about the night sky and roast hotdogs. Approximately 150 individuals attended the Hummingbird Festival with 21 birds being banded this year. Alysia announced that a new virtual newsletter option had been introduced to the public. The public could now opt to getting the quarterly Prairie Islander electronically verses receiving a paper copy that is mailed out. According to Kestrel Technologies, our website servicer, the District's website traffic nearly quadrupled. Alysia and her staff are also developing homeschool programs, a wellness series that features Yoga in the Pine Forest and scheduling more canoe trips. The Yoga in the Pines had good attendance with fifteen in attendance. Program Services staff continued to work on the final preparations for the Prairie Pedal Event. Alysia also announced the new exhibit in the Exhibit Hall, Birds of Illinois.

Operations Staff have been busy addressing a drainage problem along the service lane and a neighboring property. Staff installed some new drainage that will hopefully provide a new path for the ground water to move through. Shane Ravellette and his staff has even putting the new bandmill to work. They have milled about 10-15 trees thus far, with most of them being pine that would have normally been burned as waste. This lumber will become the flooring and the siding of the future Homestead Prairie Farm barn. Natural Resources completed a growing season burn targeting Lespedeza and other invasive species. Staff were able to burn five large brush piles created from the hedge row removal earlier in the year.

4. Other Business: No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: No further comments from the Trustees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Schneller MOVED to go into Executive Session at 5:57 p.m. for the purpose of

- 1) Section 2(1)(c) ((5) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired).**

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

Trustee Schneller MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:12 p.m. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR LAND ACQUISITION GRANT:

Trustee Schneller MOVED to approve the Resolution to apply for a land acquisition as per discussion in the executive session. Trustee Castor SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; and Trustee Reed, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Reed MOVED to adjourn the Public Meeting at 6:15 p.m. Trustee Allen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Allen, "AYE"; Trustee Reed, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor "AYE". Motion carried.



President



Secretary