

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

April 25, 2011

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Washburn, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: President Washburn, 1st Vice-President Elliott, Secretary Horn, Treasurer Leonard and 2nd Vice-President Stahl.

Board members absent: None.

Trustee Horn MOVED to approve the Minutes of the March 26th Budget Study Session and Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to approve the Treasurers Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$133,515.29 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$7,128.12. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Washburn "AYE"; Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

President Washburn called for comments from the audience. No comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. ADA Assessment

John McGovern attended meeting and summarized the ADA Assessment that Recreation Accessibility Consultants (RCA) had performed. A few highlights from the summary follow:

Trustee Horn asked for clarification as to which standards should be followed. John emphasized that it is safest to follow the most stringent standards. He stated that the 2010 Code is applicable for Recreation areas and playgrounds, and for other areas the 1991 Standards apply. John stressed that "route" is the key for accessibility and knowing the trails is critical. Trustee Elliott raised the question of the right of way concerning power driven motor vehicles. John emphasized that you can't ban the use of the vehicles. He did provide some guidance on questioning the need for the use of the vehicles and suggested that you can ask the question "Are you using this vehicle because you have a disability?" and discouraged asking for proof. Director Merner raised the question of training for the ADA Coordinator. John suggested three sources for the training: (1) Recreation Accessibility Consultants, (2) Indiana University National Center, and (3) Association of ADA Coordinators. As far as implementing the needed

changes, the consultants suggest modifications be done as soon as possible beginning with what is easy, clear and old, then progressing toward the recreational elements and amenities, and finally addressing the more complex and costly, and areas where regulations are still pending. John reminded the board that the District is to conduct a mandated citizen meeting making the public aware of their intentions and inviting feedback from the public. He reminded the board that RAC will assist with this.

2. Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Accommodation Policies:

Director Merner briefly reviewed the accommodation policies included in the board packet. Trustee Horn handed Kathy some feedback on the policies.

2. Award Bid: Electric Gate for Fort Daniel Conservation Area

Staff recommended awarding the bid for automating the Fort Daniel gate to General Fence Company for \$13,565.00. Trustee Leonard MOVED to accept the bid from General Fence Company for \$13,565.00 and Trustee Horn SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Washburn, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Approve 2012-2013 Meeting Schedule:

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the following meeting schedule, as amended.

MEETING DATES MAY 2012 – APRIL 2013

All meetings will be held the third Wednesday of the month at the Rock Springs Nature Center at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise specified or notified.

2012

May 16, Wednesday

June 20, Wednesday

July 18, Wednesday

August 15, Wednesday

September 19, Wednesday

October 17, Wednesday

November 14, Wednesday

December 19, Wednesday

2013

January 16, Wednesday

February 20, Wednesday

March 20, Wednesday

April 17, Wednesday

Trustee Leonard **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Approve Depository Designation and Signatories

Trustee Stahl **MOVED** to approve the following list of depositories and the signatories resolution as amended.

DEPOSITORIES FOR FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2012 – MARCH 31, 2013

Hickory Point Bank
Central Illinois Bank
Gerber State Bank
Regions Financial Company
PNC Bank
Busey Bank
State Bank of Niantic
Soy Capital Bank
The Illinois Funds
Town & Country Bank
First Mid-Illinois Bank and Trust
Prairie State Bank & Trust
Buena Vista National Bank
Scott State Bank
Peoples Bank of Macon
State Bank of Blue Mound
State Bank of Cerro Gordo

SIGNATORIES RESOLUTION
Fiscal Year April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Macon County Conservation District that Kathleen Merner, Executive Director; Anne Elliot, Board 1st Vice-President; David Horn, Board Secretary; and Ed Leonard, Board Treasurer; and Mark Stahl, Board 2nd Vice-President be authorized to endorse all checks for the Macon County Conservation District for all the District funds at all applicable banks, effective April 26, 2012.

Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Washburn, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Program Services Quarterly Report:

Jeff Tish presented the quarterly report and board members commented how busy the Program Services Department appeared. Trustee Elliott inquired as to how they perform a physical count. Director Merner informed the board that they only can count individuals who walk into the building so any count will not include individuals outside of the nature center.

6. Approve Special Event Request:

The Decatur Running Club has requested permission to hold a trail run at Sand Creek Conservation Area. Staff reported that this is the third year for this event. They are highly organized and notice is posted weeks in advance that the area will be closed during event. This year, under our special events policy, there will be a charge for the event to recover staff time. Staff recommends approving the special event. Paul Marien will inform the Running Club of the special event fee.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the Decatur Running Club special event to be held on October 13, 2012. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

7. Approve purchase of two utility vehicles:

Staff recommended purchasing the utility trail vehicle for Friends Creek from Hogan Grain and Equipment Company for the net price of \$9,732.90. Trustee Horn MOVED to accept the bid to purchase the utility trail vehicle from Hogan Grain and Equipment in the amount of \$9,732.90. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Washburn, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

Staff also recommended accepting the proposal from Health's Inc., for purchasing a utility vehicle for Sand Creek in the amount of \$12,000. Trustee Horn MOVED to accept the bid to purchase the utility trail vehicle from Heath's Inc., in the amount of \$12,000. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Washburn, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

8. Approve Contract for Summer School

Director Merner recommended to the board that the Conservation District enter into a contract with Decatur School District as an excursion site for Camp Connections which is a summer camp opportunity for 1st through 6th grade students being offered by the Decatur School District. This was a new program last year and was very successful. The Conservation District will hire two camp counselors to provide the environmental education activities and will supply equipment and supplies needed for the activities. The District will receive \$11,000 (in two payments of \$6000 June 1, 2012 and \$5,000 on July 13, 2012) for participating which will be used as reimbursement for the salary expenses and the costs of equipment and supplies.

Trustee Elliott MOVED to approve the contract with the Decatur School District as presented. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

9. Approve contract for purchase of Land:

Staff recommended purchasing 65 acres in South Macon Township adjacent to Foundation property at \$7,000 an acre. Director Merner noted that the name of the farmer leasing the land has been corrected on the contract to be signed. Trustee Leonard questioned if Berneil Burns was interested in renting and the reply was "yes". Trustee Elliott asked if the funds were available and if District would be applying for grants. Staff is researching a Forestry Grant from IDNR and two private foundations in regard to grant opportunities.

Trustee Horn MOVED to approve the contract to purchase "The W ½ of the SE ¼ and thirty feet of even width off the sound end of the W ½ of the W ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 4, T 14 N, Range 2 E, of the 3rd P.M. in Macon County Illinois, except the N 574 feet of even width" in the amount of \$7,000 per acre. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Washburn, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

10. Approve Natural Resource Technician Position

Staff recommended approval of the Natural Resource Technician position. Director Merner reminded the board that the natural resource technician position had been discussed during the budget study session and a thorough job description was included in the board packet.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve the Natural Resources Specialist Position. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Washburn, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

11. Elevator Service Contract:

Staff recommends accepting the elevator contract with Kone for quarterly inspections instead of the current monthly inspections. This change would save the district \$1000 a year. Trustee Horn questioned if this quarterly inspection would meet state requirements and the response was "yes".

Trustee Stahl MOVED to approve the contract with Kone for quarterly inspections for a fee of \$240.00 quarterly. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Washburn, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

12. Departmental Reports:

The Board heard reports from Director Merner, Administration Department; Jeff Tish, Program Services Department; Paul Marien, Operations Department, and Pam Smith, Administration Department.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

President Washburn expressed how impressed he was with our volunteers and the debt of gratitude for their hard work. He also praised the success of the Festival of Spring and the great crowd and media coverage of the event. Trustee Leonard shared comments he heard on the successful Easter Egg Hunt held at Griswold Conservation Area on Easter weekend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Stahl MOVED to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. for the purpose of the 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. Trustee Elliott SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 8:59 p.m. Trustee Horn SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 25, 2012. Trustee Horn SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Trustee Stahl reported that they had two nominees they were considering presenting to the county board: Susan Vermette from Mt. Zion, a State Farm Agent and Darrell Parish, Attorney, currently on the Foundation Board. The Committee recommended submitting Darrell Parish's name to the Macon County Board due to his wealth of knowledge and experience with the District. If approved,

Darrell will resign from the Foundation Board to serve on the District Board. The committee would like for Susan to gain more experience with the conservation district and will recommend her to fill the vacancy on the foundation board created by Darrell's resignation if he is appointed. Trustee Leonard MOVED to submit Darrell Parrish's name to the County Board as nominee to serve on the District's Board. Trustee Horn SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

There being no further business, Trustee Horn MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 9:00 p.m. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary