

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

February 19, 2014

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

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

Trustee Stahl MOVED to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2014, Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$209,873.73 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$13,280.34. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

President Horn called for comments from the audience. There were no comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Ameren Transmission Line:

Ameren's response was included in the Board packet and Director Merner stated that the case should be over and that Ameren (ATXI) had no legal standing in reference to the District. She will continue to monitor the website. Ameren is back to the original plan.

2. Farm Management Willow Branch:

Director Merner reviewed the farm management agreement found in the Board packet. She informed the Board that on page two of the agreement that the letter "c" would be removed from the agreement. In answer to questioning from the Board, Director Merner informed the Board that the 5% fee was an average rate, a distribution is paid out annually at the end of the season, the same tenant that the District has had will farm the acreage, and the farm manager will deal with the tenant and monitor the farmland. She also informed the Board that the Grantor has approved the District waiting until fall of 2015 to seed, giving the District one more year of cash rent.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to accept the farm management agreement from Busey Bank as presented with the change. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "ABSTAIN"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Concealed Carry Policy:

Director Merner advised the Board that the attorney advised the District that there was nothing in the new regulations that would conflict with the proposed concealed carry policy that was presented in January. She advised the Board that it would be fine to adopt the policy.

Trustee Parish MOVED to adopt the proposed policy. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE", Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Other: No other business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Insurance Report:

In response to the Board's request that the District study and research cost savings for the employee health insurance policy, an insurance committee was formed consisting of eight employees. Director Merner informed the Board that the results of the committee's research were included in memo to the Board found in the Board packet. She stated that with the state of insurance being in such a turmoil the committee ran into a dead end. The only option at this time, besides having our broker check rates on a quarterly basis, would be to implement a spousal surcharge. Any employee's spouse who could obtain insurance through their employer would encounter a surcharge. The attorney advised the District that this surcharge would have to be implemented at the time of renewal or upon change in insurance plan. She advised the Board that the committee will continue to review the situation. Trustee Murphy asked staff to continue to research the Medicare situation. Trustee Stahl commended the committee on the research that was conducted and for the employee involvement. The Board decided at this time there was no need to make any decisions concerning the surcharge but was good to know that this was a possibility in the future if the District changes insurance.

2. Energy Report:

Paul Marien has been tracking energy consumption since an energy audit was performed in 2008. The District has reduced its energy use by 21%. Some of the strategies that the District implemented were air sealing, removing unnecessary exterior doors, insulating, exchanging incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescent, upgrading furnaces, installing ventilation damper controls on some furnaces and installing occupancy control sensors on light switches. Paul mentioned that the District had locked in a contract for propane for \$1.49 per gallon.

3. Contingency Transfer

Director Merner informed the Board that the Ameren transmission line case caused unexpected legal expenditures leading to a request to transfer funds from the contingency account to legal fees account in the amount of \$3,300.

Trustee Parish MOVED to authorize transfer of \$3,300 from the contingency account to the legal fees account. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Logo:

Director Merner presented two designs to the Board as discussed in January. She informed the Board that pantone colors would be assigned and that a style standard will be developed so there will be uniformity. The new logo will be changed in stages, as signs are replaced. After a brief discussion of the two designs, the Board agreed upon the linear design verses the circular.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve the new linear logo design. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Set Budget Study Session:

Director Merner informed the Board that a budget study session needed to be scheduled prior to the March 19th Board meeting. Normally the Board would meet before the regularly scheduled meeting but with the meeting time changed to 5:30, the Board decided to schedule the study session for another day. The Board agreed on Wednesday, March 12th at 5:30 p.m.

6. Surplus Property:

Paul Marien presented a list of surplus items in the Board packet requesting that the Board declare the items surplus equipment to be sold at an auction or be recycled for scrap.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to declare the items presented as surplus equipment to be sold at an auction or recycled as scrap. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

7. Change Order – Oglesby Mansion East Porch

As per last Board meeting, Paul Marien presented a change order for the Oglesby Mansion porch for Christy Foltz in the amount of \$3039.00. The change was unforeseen until the decking had been removed. It was not presented last month for payment due to lack of paperwork. Some discussion followed concerning Christy Foltz's lack of presenting paperwork in a timely manner.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to authorize the change order in the amount of \$3,039 to Christy Foltz for the east porch of the Oglesby Mansion. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "NAY" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

8. Departmental Reports:

President Horn asked staff to comment on highlights from their reports submitted in the Board packet. Paul Marien, Richie Wolf, Pam Smith and Director Merner summarized the highlights of their reports.

9. Other:

Director Merner announced that she had just received notice from the Macon County Regional Zoning Board that a neighbor alongside Friends Creek property line is asking for variance to build on five acres verses ten acres as per zoning ordinance. After some discussion, the Board asked for Director Merner to get more information to send to them.

Director Merner also received notice from the McHenry Conservation District asking for support concerning special legislation pertaining to them regarding bonds. Director Merner will provide more information to the Board, as it is available.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Stahl had taken his family cross country skiing and informed the Board and staff that he heard some very good positive comments from others. He reported his family had a good time.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Stahl MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 7:19 p.m. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary