

MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES -- REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

July 18, 2012 7:00 p.m.

ROCK SPRINGS NATURE CENTER – DECATUR, ILLINOIS

I. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

II. SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. Approval of the Minutes of the June 20th Regular Public Meeting and Public Hearing.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

1. Approval of Treasurer's Report for July, 2012
2. Approval of July disbursements including additions

IV. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

The Board will receive public comments concerning items on the agenda, as well as communications, petitions, reports from citizens or representatives of other agencies. Such comments should not include discussion of personnel matters, which should be brought directly to the attention of the administration. Each speaker shall be allowed three minutes to address the board.

V. PRIOR BUSINESS

1. Fence-Rock Springs Conservation Area
2. Other

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Erosion Control Project-Friends Creek Conservation Area
2. Utility Contract
3. Policy Regulating the Use of Other Power Driven Mobility Devices
4. Bid Award-Oglesby Mansion
5. Grant Application
6. Election of Officers
7. Set Date for Trustee Tour
8. Sanitary District Proposal
9. Department Reports
10. Other

VII. COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

July 18, 2012

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Elliott, at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: 1st Vice-President Elliott, Secretary Horn, and 2nd Vice-President Stahl, Treasurer Leonard, and Trustee Darrel Parish

Board members absent: None

Trustee Horn MOVED to approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting of June 20, 2012, as corrected. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Corrections made to the minutes included replacing Trustee Elliott as making the motion to approve the May minutes with Trustee Horn as well as a minor grammatical error in comments from the audience.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$106,901.71 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$17,250.52.

Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Dean Padgett, 3245 Susan Drive, Decatur, Illinois, informed the Board that his brother would like to camp for twenty days from September 5 to September 24th at Friends Creek and wondered if the District would accommodate him. Kathy Merner informed Dean that we would work with him and Paul Marien would work out the arrangements.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Fence Rock Springs Conservation Area

Director Merner informed the Board that she had spoken to John Massey and informed him that the only signed agreement in our files is the sales contract (as included in the Board packet).

2. Other: No other prior business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Erosion Control project – Friends Creek Conservation Area:

Paul Marien briefly explained that the neighbor along the north boundary of Friends Creek contacted the District regarding an erosion problem. The neighbor is willing to be part of a joint project with the District in building an earthen berm straddling the boundary line. The neighbor will be providing the soil from his property so that soil will not have to be imported for the project. This project would also solve access issues created by the erosion; otherwise, the District would lose access if something is not done. All the details have not been completed but staff recommends Board approval to proceed with this joint solution with the neighbor. A memorandum of understanding will be brought back to the Board for approval. Paul also noted that there is potential for funding assistance.

Trustee Leonard MOVED that the District pursue the Friend Creek's erosion issue as it deems necessary. Trustee Horn SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Utility Contract:

Director Merner informed the Board that the District had switched to Direct Energy five years ago and a utility manager has been monitoring rates for the District. This broker has suggested that the District may want to lock in another contract now because the surplus of natural gas is driving down the cost of electricity. The staff recommends to follow the broker's advice and lock prices in now. The current contract expires in April 2013.

Trustee Parish MOVED to accept the staff's recommendation to lock in prices now with a new 24 month contract with Direct Energy. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Policy Regulating the Use of Other Power Driven Mobility Devices:

Staff recommended adopting the policy regulating the use of other power driven mobility devices as previously discussed. Trustee Elliott expressed a concern for the horses used on the trails at Sand Creek and the impact the mobility devices would have on them. The decision to adopt this written policy was tabled until Director Merner had the opportunity to discuss this issue with John McGovern.

Trustee Horn also mentioned changing the name of the policy to include both "other power driven mobility devices (OPDMD)" and "electronic personal assistive mobility devices (EPAMD)".

4: Bid-award Oglesby Mansion:

Staff recommended rejecting the bid from Jones and Sullivan for the base bid in the amount of \$156,740 and alternate bid in the amount of \$48,000 and re-bidding the project. The bid excessively exceeds the budgeted funds for the project. Paul Marien is currently in the process of calling other contractors to determine why others did not bid on the project. He is also to call other historic sites to determine what contractors completed recent work for them. Paul explained that he worked closely with the architect on the budget and that this is not a big project. Based on the work completed by Jones and Sullivan in the past, this bid is out of line with work they have previously done for the District.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to reject the bid submitted by Jones and Sullivan on the Oglesby Mansion. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Grant Application

Director Merner wanted to keep the Board informed as to the grant application process for the land acquisition in South Macon Township. She will be submitting an electronic grant application to the Clean Energy Community Foundation after the Board meeting, noting that the application is due July 19, 2012. The grant amount being requested is \$273,000 in addition to a \$50,000 donation coming from the Macon County Conservation Foundation and \$132,000 from the District's budget. The total land acquisition cost is \$455,000, which has been 100% budgeted in the District's current year budget. Director Merner stated that the District has received a grant from this organization in the past for the development of the master plan.

6. Election of Officers:

The Board of Trustees reviewed the following tentative slate of officers for the year beginning July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

President: Anne Elliott
1st Vice-President: David Horn
Secretary: Ed Leonard
Treasurer: Mark Stahl
2nd Vice-President: Darrel Parish

Trustee Horn MOVED to approve the slate of officers for the year, as presented.

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

7. Set date for Trustee Tour

Trustees concurred that Thursday, August 9th at 8:00 a.m. would work for all of them for the Trustee's Annual Tour.

8. Sanitary District Proposal

Director Merner and Paul Marien updated the Board on their recent meeting with the Sanitary District. They briefly explained that the EPA will likely regulate phosphates and nitrates in the near future, according to the Sanitary District. As a result, the Sanitary District is proposing a process for filtering the phosphates and nitrates out of their effluent before dumping it in the river. Their proposal involves creating an outlet from the plant to a wetland on conservation district property and then releasing the water into the river. There may be regulatory issues for the District that still need to be researched. Kathy and Paul shared a map of the area around the two lagoons and will obtain pictures for the Board. More information will be forthcoming. Questions raised by the Board are: amount of wetland area needed to handle the volume of effluent, what plants will grow in that nutrient rich environment. Trustee Horn commented that he has seen only cattail ponds in other areas used to filter phosphates and nitrates. There was also a question as to water quality such as what is in the water that would be piped to the wetland.

9. 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.

10. Other:

Director Merner shared with the Board that State Parks have banned fires and that she and Paul Marien are monitoring the drought. They will convey campfire safety with the Camp Host at Friends Creek.

Director Merner also shared with the Board a special event in August. The Argenta/Oreana School District submitted a special event for holding a track meet in August on the Sun Trail at Friends Creek.

The IACD (Illinois Association of Conservation Districts) Annual Meeting will be held on August 24th and August 25th at McHenry County. Director Merner will obtain the agenda and forward to the Board. If anyone is interested in attending, they are to let her know.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Anne announced that she will be gone for the September meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Leonard MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 8:15 p.m. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

SECRETARY