

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

November 14, 2012

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

Board members present: President Elliott, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Horn, Secretary Leonard, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Darrel Parish.

Board Members absent: Treasurer Stahl

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting of October 17, 2012. Trustee Horn SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$125,427.01 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$21,121.93. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Elliott, "AYE", Trustee Horn, "AYE"; and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: No comments.

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Insurance:

Director Merner asked the Board for any questions they had regarding the analysis done on the insurance premium showing employees paying 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25% or 30% of dependent coverage (as per the Board's request). Pam Smith pointed out that the first column was all dependent coverage and the second column was just for spousal coverage. The two columns were not to be combined but were a separate analysis. After some discussion Trustee Parish suggested the District require the employees to pay 10% of the premium on their dependents beginning October 1, 2013. Trustee Parish did suggest that the District research ways in giving something back to the employees. Director Merner informed the Board that more research was needed regarding any wellness programs that the District initiated. She would report back to the Board at a later date on any recommendations.

Trustee Parish MOVED to change insurance coverage requiring the employee to pay 10% of the health insurance premium on their dependent coverage beginning October 1, 2013. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE", Trustee Elliott, "AYE", Trustee Horn, "Opposed", and Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Grant Announcements:

Director Merner announced that the Foundation has been awarded the \$283,000 grant for the purchase of the parcel in South Macon Township with \$10,000 of that grant to be applied to restoration in the first year following acquisition. The Foundation was also awarded a \$20,000 programming grant from ADMCares to conduct “Into the Wild” family nature club activities and start a pilot ecology club at Dennis School.

2. Bid Award-Mowing Equipment:

Invitations to receive bids were sent to area equipment dealers. Two dealers submitted bids for the purchase of a mower with cab and rotary brush. Jennings Implement Company and German Bliss Equipment both submitted bids. Staff recommends purchasing the mower from Jennings Implement, which was the lower bid in the amount of \$19,999.06. Both bids did meet specifications. The mower will be used at Griswold during turf mowing season and will be located at Rock Springs Conservation Area in the winter to assist with light snow duty. Staff reported that they did their best to get more interest in the bidding.

Trustee Parish MOVED to accept the Jennings Implement bid for the Kubota F3080 mower in the amount of \$19,999.06 including a trade-in value of \$5,100. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, “AYE”. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, “AYE”; Trustee Elliott, “AYE”, Trustee Horn, “AYE; and Trustee Leonard, “AYE”. Motion carried.

3. Summer Camp Report:

Jeff Tish, Program Services Director, summarized the Summer Camp activities for the 2012 summer program. Mini-camps remain the most popular among the camps. Jeff reported that he is looking at creating new camps and new marketing to attract more campers as well as streamlining the registration process. He reported that he received good feedback and the program works for those that come. Jeff did praise the good staff that he had this year. As always, the staff is open to any suggestions. The Board discussed the Kindergarten Camp and requested that staff gather more information from the Education Coalition on the testing done before and after, such as their improvement score.

- 4: By-Laws Change Macon County Conservation Foundation:

The Macon County Conservation Foundation Board voted at their September Board Meeting to change the By-laws regarding the number of members required to constitute a quorum. The Board was having attendance problems and voted to change their quorum from requiring a majority (eight) to six. This change requires the Conservation Board’s approval.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve changing the Macon County Conservation Foundation's By-Laws from "a simple majority of the sitting Board Members...." to "six sitting Board Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business". Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Project Update: Fort Daniel Bridges Replacement:

Staff summarized the proposed new foot bridges at Fort Daniel. These prefabricated bridges are manufactured by Contech Engineering and do not require a lot of construction space. Paul Marien has been working with engineers to get the concrete footing and bridge specifications done so we can go to bid on the project. The engineer will have specs by the end of November. Paul reported that this will probably be a spring project, partially funded by a grant.

6. Final Payout-Griswold Water Line Project

This project is complete and the staff recommends authorizing final payment to Burdick Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$1,198.45. Staff reported that the contractor finished seeding and mulching and did a great job.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to authorize final payment to Burdick Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$1,198.45. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Parish, "AYE", Trustee Elliott "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE; Trustee Leonard, "AYE". Motion carried.

7. Department Reports:

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

8. Other:

Director Merner shared with the Board that the District has received several tax assessment complaints. She would also call Jay Dunn and follow up on the Tate and Lyle tax assessment.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Elliott commented that she ran into a hunter and that he was very complimentary of our hunting program.

Trustee Elliott also reminded the Board Members that the Volunteer Christmas Luncheon was December 6<sup>th</sup> and encouraged all Members to attend.

Trustee Horn shared a research article with the Board pertaining to decision to continue to farm 28 tillable acres at Grove Branch for the next three years instead of examining other alternatives, including conversion to perennial grassland.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Leonard MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 8:21 p.m. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

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PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

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SECRETARY