1.0 CALL TO ORDER
The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice President Barrett on the evening of Thursday, May 31, 2017 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

2.0 ROLL CALL
2.1 Roll Call
Trustees Present: Stephen Barrett, Vice President
Brandon Thomas, Treasurer
David Kranz, Secretary
Pete Merkel, Trustee
Vern Scacci, Trustee
David Brandt, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: James D. Rock, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
John Kremer, Director of Operations & Public Safety
Andy Dylak, Director of Administration & Finance
Wendy Kummerer, Marketing & Communications Manager
Anne Basted, Executive Assistant
Deb Chapman, Educational Services Manager
Sara Denham, Wildlife Resource Center Manager
Jeff Diedrick, Police Chief
Jenny Heider, Human Resource Manager
Amy Peters, Planning Manager
Val Silber, Land Preservation Manager
Perry Weborg, Sites & Fleet Manager
Ty Culver, Police Sergeant
Ryan Stewart, Police Sergeant
Ben Wolfe, Police Sergeant
Gabe Powers, Natural Resources Project Coordinator
Charlie Montgomery, Police Officer
Chris Murison, Police Officer

Others Present: Family of Officer Montgomery
Kelley, Bob & Holt Kepes, Ringwood
Lance Crawley, Genoa City, WI
Jeff & Avis Fisher, McHenry
Marti Swanson, Ringwood
Dominick Winiecki

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2.2 **Election of Steve Barrett as President Pro Tempore**
A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Treasurer Thomas, to appoint Steve Barrett as President Pro Tempore in the absence of President Bona Heinsohn. A roll call vote gave the following results: Scacci-yes, Kranz-yes, Brandt-yes, Merkel-yes, Thomas-yes, Barrett-yes.
Motion passed unanimously.

2.3 **Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Trustee**
A motion was made by Treasurer Thomas, seconded by Trustee Brandt, to adopt Resolution #17-17 regretfully accepting the formal resignation of President Bona Heinsohn effective May 23, 2017. A roll call vote gave the following results: Brandt-yes, Barrett-yes, Merkel-yes, Scacci-yes, Thomas-yes, Kranz-yes.
Motion passed unanimously.

President Pro Tempore Barrett recognized the passing of volunteer Barb Wilson for her over 30 years of volunteer work to the open spaces of McHenry County. There was a moment of silence.

3.0 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
President Pro Tempore Barrett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 **CONSERVATION ETHIC**
Secretary Kranz read the Conservation Ethic aloud and Trustee Brandt read Goal Number 2.

5.0 **RECESS TO PUBLIC HEARING - TENTATIVE ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FY 2018 COMBINED ANNUAL BUDGET & APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE**

5.1 **Motion to Recess**
A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Trustee Merkel, to recess for the purposes of a Public Hearing on Amending the FY 2018 Combined Budget & Appropriation Ordinance.

5.2 **Roll Call**
Trustees Present: Stephen Barrett, President Pro-Tempore/Vice President
Brandon Thomas, Treasurer
David Kranz, Secretary
Pete Merkel, Trustee
Vern Scacci, Trustee
David Brandt, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: James D. Rock, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
John Kremer, Director of Operations & Public Safety
Andy Dylak, Director of Administration & Finance
Wendy Kummerer, Marketing & Communications Manager
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant
Deb Chapman, Educational Services Manager
Sara Denham, Wildlife Resource Center Manager
Jeff Diedrick, Police Chief
Jenny Heider, Human Resource Manager
Amy Peters, Planning Manager
Val Siler, Land Preservation Manager
Ty Culver, Police Sergeant
Ryan Stewart, Police Sergeant
Ben Wolfe, Police Sergeant
Perry Weborg, Sites & Fleet Manager
Gabe Powers, Natural Resources Project Coordinator
Charlie Montgomery, Police Officer
Chris Murison, Police Officer

Others Present: Family of Officer Montgomery
Kelley, Bob & Holt Kepes, Ringwood
Lance Crawley, Genoa City, WI
Jeff & Avis Fisher, McHenry
Marti Swanson, Ringwood
Dominick Winiecki
Scott Offord, Woodstock
Peg & James Bolm, McHenry, McHenry County Bicycle Club
James Price, Wonder Lake
Todd Nelson, Woodstock, McHenry County Bicycle Advocates

5.3 Public Comment on proposed Ordinance Amending the FY 2018 Combined Annual Budget & Appropriation Ordinance

There were no public comments on this subject.

5.4 Close Public Hearing and Reconvene Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Secretary Kranz, to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. A roll call vote gave the following results: Scacci-yes, Thomas-yes, Kranz-yes, Merkel-yes, Brandt-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.
6.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS
Kelley Kepes from Ringwood, referred the board members to an email that she had previously sent that included recommendations for changes to the hours of the Prairie Trail noting that when it is dark out, the trail is safer than the roadway. She also requested that the item be removed from the consent agenda so individual comments and votes could be recorded separately.

Holt Kepes of Ringwood stated the poor road conditions on his alternative commuting routes including no shoulders, lighting and other driver hazards compared to using the trail where vehicular traffic is removed from the mix.

Scott Offord of Woodstock stated that he owns Country Donuts and that when he starts work around 5 a.m. that he finds the Ridgefield Trace along Route 14 to be his safest route by bicycle and would like to see the hours extended so as not to be a scofflaw.

Todd Nelson of Woodstock, speaking as a resident of Woodstock, stated that he would like to see the hours extended.

Lance Crawley of Genoa City, Wisconsin, stated he uses the trail daily on his commute to McHenry and has no other alternative means for transportation besides his bicycle and would like the hours extended.

Avis Fisher of McHenry stated that as a driver in the area, that she would prefer that bicycles use the trail rather than Route 31 or other major arterial roads.

James Price of Wonder Lake stated that he is most concerned about safety and that road deaths involving bicyclists have increased and he expects the trend to continue. He is also terrified to ride on the roadways especially after dark.

Pat Bolm of the McHenry County Bike Club stated that the group promotes biking as an alternative and supports riders using the safest routes.

7.0 PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
7.1 Law Enforcement Recognition & Service Awards
Chief Diedrick and President Pro Tempore Barrett presented the following awards:

- Sergeant Ben Wolfe was recognized for ten (10) years of service.
- Police Administrative Coordinator Randi Baker was cited for Innovation.
- Sergeant Ben Wolfe received the Chief’s Commendation Award for averted a suicide using his observational skills after noting an apparently abandoned vehicle and pursuing it to a favorable outcome.
- Officer Charlie Montgomery received the Meritorious Police Service Award and Officer of the Year Award for his work saving the life of a car accident victim found in the frigid water of a pond well off the roadway. His work with the S.W.E.E.P. program and coordinating the District gates was also a factor in his Officer of the Year Award.
- Chief Diedrick recognized all the officers and sergeants for the work they do every day.
7.2 **2017 Women of Distinction-Northwest Herald/Shaw Media/McHenry County Magazine**

Executive Director Kessler was recognized as a 2017 Woman of Distinction by Shaw Media, McHenry County Magazine and Northwest Herald along with eleven (11) other “courageous, compassionate and committed” individuals.

7.3 **Consideration of Resolution #17-12 in Support of McHenry County Proclaiming June 16-23 as McHenry County Bicycle Week 2017**

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Secretary Kranz, to adopt Resolution #17-12 in support of McHenry County proclaiming June 16-23 as McHenry County Bicycle Week 2017 as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Thomas-yes, Merkel-yes, Kranz-yes, Brandt-yes, Scacci-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

8.0 **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS & REPORT**

8.1 **Trustee Reports on Conferences & Meetings Attended**

8.1a **Fox River Ecosystem Partnership**

Trustee Scacci reported that he was not able to attend due to a family graduation but that the next meeting was on ground cover.

8.1b **Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)**

Director of Land Preservation and Natural Resources Collins was not present to report.

8.1c **Chicago Wilderness**

Executive Director Kessler reported that plants and fungal species are being prioritized for conservation work across the region similar to the fauna species identified last year. Nominations are due by end of business day on June 23, 2017. The Force of Nature and Excellence in Ecological Restoration Awards Celebration will take place at the end of July at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

8.1d **Agricultural Conservation Easement and Farmland Protection Commission**

There was no report.

8.1e **IACFPD/IAPD/NRPA**

Trustee Brandt reported on the recent IAPD Parks Day/Legislative Conference in Springfield where the keynote speaker spoke about the budget status and what his expectations were. Executive Director Kessler noted that the panel of legislators who addressed the group had all been involved in park, recreation and conservation programs as kids and some worked in the parks as young adults.
8.1f McHenry County Conservation Foundation
Trustee Brandt reported that there had been no recent meetings but the group was holding their annual Pedal, Paddle, Saddle Friendraiser on Sunday June 4, 2017 at Glacial Park.

8.1g McHenry County Council of Governments
Vice President Barrett reported that there had been two meetings since the last meeting. The programs included sustainability tracking of municipalities and the Green Region Compact II. They also talked about the funds available through the VW settlement of $110 billion for green fleets. He noted that he had a conversation with Island Lake Mayor Amrich regarding Cotton Creek Marsh and Jaki Berggren from Visit McHenry County about co-hosting an event.

8.1h Green Drinks Crystal Lake
Secretary Kranz reported that the program by Natural Resources Manager Woodson on the District’s agricultural lease program was very well received and Brad had done a great job.

8.1i Conservation Congress 2018
Executive Director Kessler reported that there will be a resolution put forth in July calling for the next congress to convene in 2018.

8.1j Other
There were no other reports.

8.2 Finance & Administrative Committee
8.2a Summary of items discussed at the meeting held on May 31, 2017
Treasurer Thomas reported that the committee recommended acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report, bills payable and the minutes. The committee also recommended moving forward on the budget and the first reading of Chapters 1-5 of the Comprehensive Policy and Procedures Manual.

8.3 Outreach & Advocacy Committee - Scheduled Meeting Cancelled
8.3a Summary of items discussed at the meeting held on May 31, 2017
Secretary Kranz reported that the committee recommended that the board move forward on all of the documents related to the Oak Street trail crossing to close the gap. The Committee also heard comments from the public on extending the hours of bike trails.

9.0 COUNTY BOARD LIAISON REPORT
There was no report at this time as County Board Liaison Nowak was not able to attend this meeting.
10.0 BOARD BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Approval of Minutes
10.1a April 13, 2017 Special Call
10.1b April 20, 2017
10.1c May 1, 2017 Special Call

10.2 Board Committee Minutes to be Received and Placed on File
10.2a Finance & Administrative Committee Minutes for April 20, 2017
10.2b Outreach & Advocacy Committee Minutes for April 20, 2017

10.3 Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for April 30, 2017 as presented.

10.4 Motion to adopt Resolution #17-14 authorizing the execution of an IGA with the County of McHenry for the Design and Construction of a Bike Path Crossing the Union Pacific Railroad at Oak Street.

10.5 Motion to affirm the Executive Director’s execution of the contract to Dynegy of Collinsville, IL, the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, for electric service at fifteen (15) District locations for one year beginning June 2017 at a fixed price of $0.05954 per kilowatt hour.

10.6 Motion to adopt Resolution #17-15 authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Non-Disclosure Agreement with the Illinois Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC).

10.7 Motion to adopt Resolution #17-16 authorizing the execution of a Local Public Agency Agreement for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program Grant (CMAQ) with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Construction Engineering Agreement with Baxter & Woodman, Inc. of Crystal Lake, IL for Engineering Services necessary for the Ridgefield Trace Union Pacific Railroad Crossing at Oak Street in unincorporated Nunda Township for an amount not to exceed $60,000.

10.8 Motion authorize the Executive Director to execute a Professional Services Agreement for the Brookdale Equestrian Parking Lot & Amenities Project with HR Green, Inc. of McHenry, IL for a cost not to exceed $19,900.

10.9 Motion to hold to the current approach of sunrise to sunset use on the District’s trails at this time as identified in McHenry County Conservation District’s General Use Rules and Regulations Ordinance #14-889.

10.10 Motion to reschedule the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees to Thursday, June 22, 2017 from Thursday, June 15, 2017.

10.11 Motion to adopt Resolution #17-13 authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Land Preservation and Natural Resource Division Joint Grassland Venture lease agreements on FXB1 (8.2 Acres/$5.55) and HIC1 (17.0 Acres/$5.55) with Tom Berning of McHenry, IL; BAW2 (7.4 Acres/$10.00), GLP1 (24.0 Acres/$25.00), GLP2 (15.0 Acres/$25.00), PLV1 (27.5 Acres/$5.00), RUC1 (18.7 Acres/$5.00) and RUC3 (26.0 Acres/$5.00) with Tyke Nichols of Hebron, IL; and GLP5 and GLP7 with Travis Holian of Richmond, IL; ASM3 (10.0 Acres/$17.40) with Craig Spiniiolas as presented. No bids received on KLP1 and MAR1 and will be rebid in the 2018 crop year.
10.12 Motion to adopt Ordinance #17-932 authorizing the execution of an Extension of Easement Agreement with Edge Ax, LLC pertaining to easements for ingress/egress and signage at Coral Woods Conservation Area.

Item 10.9 was pulled from the consent agenda by Secretary Kranz.

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Treasurer Thomas, to approve items 10.1 through 10.8 and 10.10 through 10.12 of the Board Business - Consent Agenda as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Merkel-yes, Brandt-yes, Kranz-yes, Scacci-yes, Thomas-yes, Barrett-yes.
Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Kranz stated that he pulled the consent agenda item 10.9 to make it clear that he is proposing that any action on the item be tabled for now as the District has many miles of regional trails to consider before taking action on a single portion of a trail.

A motion was made by Secretary Kranz, seconded by Treasure Thomas to table item 10.9 regarding changing the hours of trails as identified in McHenry County Conservation District’s General Use Rules and Regulations Ordinance #14-889. A roll call vote gave the following results: Scacci-yes, Kranz-yes, Brandt-yes, Merkel-yes, Thomas-yes, Barrett-yes.
Motion passed unanimously.

Further discussion was about next steps including possible voluntary fundraising for safety improvements, additional in-depth look at regulations at municipal, state and federal level, more time to explore alternatives as well as reach out to other users, neighbors and landowners. The consensus was that the Board would like the staff to do thorough research and make sure it is done right.

11.0 OTHER BOARD BUSINESS
11.1 Approval of Bills Payable for the Month of April 2017
A motion was made by Treasurer Thomas, seconded by Trustee Brandt, to approve the payment of bills as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Report for the month ending April 30, 2017 as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Brandt-yes, Merkel-yes, Scacci-yes, Thomas-yes, Kranz-recused, Barrett-yes.
Motion passed unanimously with one recusal by Secretary Kranz as his business was the payee of one of the invoices.

11.2 Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the FY 2018 Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance
A motion was made by Treasurer Thomas, seconded by Trustee Brandt, to pass Ordinance #17-931 amending the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #17-928 for the McHenry County Conservation
District, McHenry County, IL, for Fiscal Year 2018, beginning April 1, 2017 and Ending March 31, 2018 as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Kranz-yes, Thomas-yes, Scacci-yes, Brandt-yes, Merkel-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

11.3 Consideration of an IGA with the City of Crystal Lake on Rt. 14 and Main Street Underpass & Prairie Trail Monument Signage

President Pro Tempore Barrett stated that the Board needs to respond to the most recent agreement proposed by the City of Crystal Lake. It was agreed by this Board that the District cannot afford the proposal put forth by the City for complete maintenance responsibilities by the District. There is still some confusion as to the real condition of all of the parts of the tunnel and wing walls as well as the actual land ownership lines.

It was noted that this Board is expected to have two new members next month and that they should be included in the discussion.

It was also noted that the District has no written record of any agreements at the time the tunnel was constructed and no documents have been provided by the City that would establish the relationship of the District to the ownership or long-term maintenance of the tunnel.

It was clarified that IDOT has conducted two inspections of the pre-cast tunnel and has found no structural issues. Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick (HLR) and conducted the first inspection of the wing walls and Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD (CBBEL) conducted a follow up inspection on the wing walls and made a recommendation to replace the fill material. The weep holes and a few other changes were made; however, the underlying issue still remains but it is no longer critical at this point in time.

The consensus was that we need to meet at the table and concentrate on the wing wall issues first and that the District cannot sign an agreement without having funding to support that agreement.

A motion was made to authorize the Executive Director to contact the City of Crystal Lake to establish a meeting date to discuss the wing walls of the underpass at Main Street and Route 14 in Crystal Lake. A roll call vote gave the following results: Scacci-yes, Thomas-yes, Kranz-yes, Merkel-yes, Brandt-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Kranz and Trustee Merkel will serve as the representatives of the Board with the Executive Director for these meetings.

11.4 First Reading: Comprehensive Review of Administrative Policy & Procedural Manual: Chapters 1-5

Executive Director Kessler explained that most of this revised manual was from the existing manual but showed up as changes when they got moved around. Some things were new such as the Fundamental Conservation
Principles produced through the Conservation Congress and additional defining of current practices and procedures and other items were tweaked. No action was requested for First Reading but that any recommended changes to the policy should be discussed at this time before the document is sent onward to legal counsel for review. Policies will be brought back for Second Reading and adoption at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees Meeting in June.

11.5 Consideration of a payment to Featherstone, Inc. for contracted demolition work at Fox Bluff Conservation Area

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Secretary Kranz, to authorize the payment to Featherstone, Inc. for the total of $16,717.01 as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Thomas-yes, Merkel-yes, Kranz-yes, Brandt-yes, Scacci-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

12.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Pro Tempore Barrett had no report at this time.

13.0 TRUSTEES’ REPORTS

Trustee Scacci reported that the Saddle portion of the McHenry County Conservation Foundation Pedal, Paddle, Saddle event may be cancelled if the trails did not dry up and the forecast was for rain but all of the registrants will be invited to come for the lunch and pick up their T-shirts.

14.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS’ REPORT

Executive Director Kessler reported that there was some misinformation out in the public about us not cooperating related to the Marengo area water contamination that is false. Counsel is putting the District’s position in writing for clarification and it will be sent to the official parties involved. The conditions of the agreement have not yet been met by the contractor and the Attorney General’s Office and IEPA has been notified of this as well as the City of Marengo and Marengo Township.

The Tree Initiative workshop is scheduled for June 23, 2017 in cooperation with the County and Morton Arboretum.

The District is working with the Algonquin Township Highway Department on a special request for public access for recycling drives through the Hollows Conservation Area entrance drive.

The PDRMA loss control review is moving forward.

15.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:45 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Secretary Kranz, to go into Executive Session pursuant to Exemption 2C1 (Personnel) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote gave the following results: Scacci-yes, Kranz-yes, Brandt-yes, Thomas-yes, Merkel-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.
16.0 ADJOURN
There being no action on Executive Session matters, a motion was made by Trustee Merkel, seconded by Secretary Kranz, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote resulted in all ayes.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m. May 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kranz, Secretary

Date