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 7:00 p.m. by President Barrett on the evening of Thursday, January 18, 2018 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

2.0 ROLL CALL
2.1 Roll Call
Trustees Present: Steve Barrett, President
Dave Kranz, Vice President
Pete Merkel, Treasurer
Vern Scacci, Secretary
Dave Brandt, Trustee
Carolyn Campbell, Trustee

Trustee Absent: John Henning, Trustee (accessed remotely at 7:14 p.m.)

Counsel & Staff Present: Robert "Bob" Nowak, County Board Liaison
James D. Rock, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources
Wendy Kummerer, Marketing & Communications Manager
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant
Deb Chapman, Educational Services Manager
Sarah Denham, Wildlife Resource Center Manager
Jeff Diedrick, Police Chief
Jenny Heider, Human Resource Manager
Amy Peters, Planning Manager
Val Siler, Land Preservation Manager
Perry Weborg, Sites & Fleet Manager
Brad Woodson, Natural Resource Manager
Jean Gerstbrein, Accounting Supervisor

2.2 Remote Participation
A motion was made by Secretary Scacci, seconded by Treasurer Merkel, to approve Trustee Henning's request to participate remotely in the meeting through electronic participation due to a work-related commitment. A voice vote resulted in all ayes. Trustee Henning asked to be contacted prior to 10.0 Other Board Business on the agenda.
3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
President Barrett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 CONSERVATION ETHIC
Trustee Brandt read Goal #6 and Vice President Kranz read Goal #5 aloud.

5.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments at this time.

6.0 PRESENTATIONS
There were no presentations this evening.

7.0 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS & REPORT

7.1 Trustee Reports on Conferences & Meetings Attended
7.1a Fox River Ecosystem Partnership
Trustee Campbell reported that elections had been held at the most recent meeting and there was a program about grant opportunities titled “Show Me the Money”.

7.1b Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Director of Land Preservation and Natural Resources Collins reported that the group set meeting priorities for the year.

7.1c Chicago Wilderness
Executive Director Kessler as Vice Chair of the Chicago Wilderness Alliance reported that the Executive Council was set to meet the following week at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, IL where the new Steering Committee members will take office.

7.1d Agricultural Conservation Easement and Farmland Protection Commission
There was no report.

7.1e McHenry County Farm Bureau
There was no report.

7.1f IACFPD/IAPD/NRPA
Trustee Brandt reported that several Trustees are attending the IPRA/IAPD Soaring to New Heights Conference on Friday January 19, 2018 but the IACFPD meeting was held earlier this same date and due to the conflict with this board meeting the District did not attend.

7.1g McHenry County Conservation Foundation
Trustee Brandt reported that the new board members had taken their seats and two more potential foundation board members had attended. Officers were elected and Brad Semel was re-elected as
President, Kevin Ivers as Vice President, Kim Becker as Treasurer and Ray Eisbrener as Secretary. The Foundation authorized the funding of: a Boom Wick Applicator for Phragmites control; expansion of the disc golf course at Fel Pro RRR; and an ecosystem structure at Glacial Park in the bog which will use funds previously designated for the cabin which could not be built.

7.1h McHenry County Council of Governments
The Annual Legislative meeting to be hosted by the City of Crystal Lake was scheduled for the following week and will be attended by Secretary Scacci, Trustee Campbell and Executive Director Kessler.

7.1i Green Drinks Crystal Lake
Vice President Kranz reported that Representative Andersson, Representative Skillcorn and Senator Althoff had spoken to environmental issues in the second year of the 100th General Assembly in Springfield. They spoke to bills they had and will be sponsoring.

7.1j Conservation Congress 2018
President Barrett shared that plans were moving forward and that a walk through is scheduled for February 7 at the McHenry County College. The official agenda for the event had been distributed to all of the board members and was available at the back of the room. President Barrett reminded all Board of Trustees that this Conservation Congress is scheduled as a meeting and all should be in attendance for the full day.

7.2 Finance & Administrative Committee
There was nothing to report.

7.3 Outreach & Advocacy Committee
There was nothing to report.

8.0 COUNTY BOARD LIAISON REPORT
County Board Liaison Nowak passed on a Happy New Year to everyone and he is looking forward to the budget process.

9.0 BOARD BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA
9.1 Approval of Minutes
9.1a December 21, 2017 - Committee of the Whole
9.1b December 21, 2017
9.2 Executive Session Minutes to be Received and Placed on File
9.2a December 21, 2017
9.3 Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for December 31, 2017 as presented.
9.4 Motion to accept Quarterly Investment Report for Third Quarter of FY 2018 (October 2017 to December 2017) as presented.

9.5 Motion to authorize the destruction of listed verbatim recordings of Executive Session Meetings between January 2016 to June 2016 in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

9.6 Motion to authorize the release of listed Executive Session Minutes to the public domain in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

9.7 Motion to adopt Resolution #18-01, amending Resolution #17-41 establishing the regular meeting dates of the Board of Trustees and Committees of the McHenry County Conservation District, specifically rescheduling the meetings of March 22, 2018 to March 15, 2018.

9.8 Motion to authorize the preparation of bid specifications and letting of bids for the construction of an Equestrian Trailer Only Parking Lot within the Brookdale Conservation Area, Woodstock as part of the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Grant 16-23 (Bid #0118.09.01).

9.9 Motion to authorize the preparation of bid specifications and letting of bids for HMA improvements of the existing entrance drive to Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park Conservation Area, Richmond/Ringwood (Bid #0118.09.02).

9.10 Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute a twelve (12) month Professional Services Agreement beginning April 1, 2018 and ending March 31, 2019 with Concentric Integration, LLC of Crystal Lake, IL, for IT and computer support services at an estimated average monthly cost of $4,041.

9.11 Motion to appoint delegates and alternates representing the McHenry County Conservation District at the 2018 Conservation Congress for the following groups as proposed: Trustees and Trustees’ Emeritus.

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Treasurer Merkel, to approve the Board Business - Consent Agenda items as presented. A roll call gave the following results: Scacci-yes, Campbell-yes, Kranz-yes, Merkel-yes, Brandt-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

10.0 OTHER BOARD BUSINESS
Trustee Henning was called at this point in the meeting and was considered present for the remainder of the meeting.

10.1 Approval of Bills Payable for the Month of December 2017
A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Treasurer Merkel, to approve the payment of bills as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Report for the month ending December 31, 2017. A roll call vote gave the following results: Campbell-yes, Merkel-yes, Henning-Abstain, Kranz-yes, Brandt-yes, Scacci-yes, Barrett.

Motion passes 6 to 0 with 1 abstention by Trustee Henning.
10.2 Consideration of an Ordinance to Abate a Portion of Property Taxes for the year 2017 for Corporate and Special purposes to be Collected in 2018.

A motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Brandt, to adopt Resolution #18-942 Abating a portion of the tax heretofore levied for the year 2017 for corporate and special purposes of the McHenry County Conservation District and Resolution #18-942 Abating a portion of the tax heretofore levied for the year 2017 to pay debt service on General Obligation Bonds, Series 2014, of the McHenry County Conservation District for a total abatement of $341,092. A roll call vote gave the following results: Merkel-yes, Brandt-yes, Kranz-yes, Henning-yes, Scacci-no, Campbell-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed 6 to 1.

10.3 Consideration of a Letter of Agreement with Modcamp, LLC

A motion was made by Secretary Scacci, seconded by Vice President Kranz, to adopt Resolution #18-02 authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Letter of Agreement with Modcamp, LLC of Barrington, IL regarding the due diligence phase of evaluating the feasibility of leasing a portion of the Fox Bluff Conservation Area for a luxury camping experience operation. A roll call vote gave the following results: Scacci-yes, Kranz-yes, Brandt-yes, Merkel-yes, Campbell-yes, Henning-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

10.4 Consideration of Conservation Awards Program to Recognize Extraordinary Contributions of Individuals

Executive Director Kessler explained that with the recent passing of Kenneth Fiske additional discussion was had by the staff committee to remove the name of a specific person in the award title as this particular time. Trustee Merkel noted the Regional and National recognition of Mr. Fiske and recommended a significant recognition be made in the future. Executive Director Kessler provided an overview of the District’s site naming policy and stated that the Board of Trustees can make changes to this policy at a future date.

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Trustee Campbell, to adopt Resolution #18-03 authorizing the creation of a Conservation Awards Program to recognize the extraordinary contributions of individuals through the Conservation Champion Award and Conservation Legacy Award. A roll call vote gave the following results: Brandt-yes, Campbell-yes, Merkel-yes, Scacci-yes, Henning-yes, Kranz-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

11.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Barrett had nothing additional to report.
12.0 TRUSTEES’ REPORTS
There were no additional Trustee reports.

13.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS’ REPORT
13.1 Quarterly Dashboard - Third Quarter
13.2 Strategic Plan FY 2016-2020 Year 3 - Third Quarter
13.3 ADA Transition Plan: Year 6 - Third Quarter
13.4 News Highlights - October - December 2017

Executive Director Kessler reported that there were still volunteer openings for the Festival of the Sugar Maples program. A candlelight ski/hike was scheduled for the upcoming weekend. She thanked staff for their quick response to posting of new signage regarding ice safety.

Executive Director Kessler noted only a short pause at the holidays with all county committee work going on, Conservation Congress coming up, and the District budget going before the Finance and Audit Committee of the County prior to presentation to the full County Board for acceptance.

14.0 PUBLIC COMMENT II
There were no public comments at this time.

15.0 ADJOURN
A motion was made by Secretary Scacci, seconded by Treasurer Merkel, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote resulted in all ayes.

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. January 18, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Vern Scacci, Secretary

Date 2/15/18