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 6:02 p.m. by President Barrett on the evening of Thursday, April 19, 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
John Henning, Trustee
Carolyn Campbell, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: Robert “Bob” Nowak,
James D. Rock, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
John Kremer, Director of Operations & Public Safety
Andy Dylak, Director of Administration & Finance
Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources
Wendy Kummerer, Director of Marketing & Communications
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant
Deb Chapman, Educational Services Manager
Sarah Denham, Wildlife Resource Center Manager
Jenny Heider, Human Resource Manager
Amy Peters, Planning Manager
Val Siler, Land Preservation Manager
Perry Weberg, Sites & Fleet Manager
Brad Woodson, Natural Resource Manager

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

4.0 CONSERVATION ETHIC
Treasurer Merkel read Goal #6 and Trustee Henning read Goal #3 aloud.

5.0 RECESS TO PUBLIC HEARING - FY 2019 TENATIVE BUDGET & APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE
5.1 Motion to recess for the purposes of a Public Hearing of the FY 2019 Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #18-946
A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Treasurer Merkel, to recess for the purposes of a Public Hearing of the FY 2019 Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #18-946. 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.

5.2 Roll Call

Trustees Present: Steve Barrett, President
Dave Kranz, Vice President
Pete Merkel, Treasurer
Vern Scacci, Secretary
Dave Brandt, Trustee
John Henning, Trustee
Carolyn Campbell, Trustee

5.3 Public Comment on the FY 2019 Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance

There were no comments made.

5.4 Close Public Hearing and Reconvene Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Trustee Henning, to close the public hearing. 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.

6.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.

7.0 PRESENTATIONS
There were no presentations.

8.0 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS & REPORT

8.1 Trustee Reports on Conferences & Meetings Attended

8.1a Fox River Ecosystem Partnership

Trustee Campbell reported that the most recent presentation had been by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County on urban coyotes. They are currently dealing with mange in the urban coyote population. She encouraged the District to host another public program on this issue as it has been a few years.

8.1b Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Director of Land Preservation and Natural Resources Collins reported that the group had been busy reviewing the Environmental and
Transportation chapters of the plan. He is serving as the staff liaison to the Tri-County Access Committee reviewing FAP 420.

Director of Land Preservation and Natural Resources Collins also shared an explanation of the Gartner Hype Cycle graph such as technology was expected to solve all problems however it was proven that the expectations did not meet the reality and the difference is a trough of disillusionment.

8.1c Chicago Wilderness
Executive Director Kessler stated there had been an Executive Committee meeting the previous day. The group is focusing on plans for 2019, visioning to determine the next big project after the Biodiversity Plan and Green Infrastructure Vision and contracting with an individual to serve as a Coordinator of the Alliance.

8.1d Agricultural Conservation Easement and Farmland Protection Commission
Trustee Henning reported that the group had not met and recommended this item be removed from future agendas until a meeting is called.

8.1e McHenry County Farm Bureau
Trustee Henning reported that the most recent meeting included a discussion of drainage districts with a lawyer presenting legal rights. Several drainage districts drain onto District property and they may be seeking input. Some inactive drainage districts may become active again.

8.1f IACFPD/IAPD/NRPA
Trustee Brandt reported on the activity in Springfield surrounding Parks Day at the capitol which Trustee Campbell, Executive Director Kessler, Executive Administrative Assistant Basten, and he had attended. It was very busy in Springfield.

8.1g McHenry County Conservation Foundation
Trustee Brandt reported that there had been no recent meeting but the members had been out seeking sponsors for the Pedal, Paddle, Saddle event. He thanked the Vern and Judy Scacci for acquiring sponsorship from the riding community. Attorney Rock reported that he will be attending the event.

8.1h McHenry County Council of Governments
President Barrett and Secretary Scacci attended the April meeting at Biaggi’s. The topic was IDOT and Secretary Scacci spoke with the representatives of PACE. The District is sponsoring the group on May 23, 2018 at Lost Valley Visitor Center.
8.1i Green Drinks Crystal Lake
Vice President Kranz reported that County Water Resource Specialist Scott Kuykendall had given a compressed water resources of the County presentation. He noted that salts were the biggest threat to the aquifers from road salt to water softeners.

8.1j Conservation Congress 2018
Trustee Brandt reported that the summarized conversations were being sent to all of the delegates and will be included in the summer Landscapes magazine.
Secretary Scacci shared that he had attended a recent equestrian meeting and a delegate of the Conservation Congress had stated that it was the best program she had ever attended.
Executive Director Kessler reminded those who had attended that presenter Liz Ogilvie had shared with the delegates during the event that the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) would be including the outdoor recreation industry within the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) calculations as it was found to exceed that of legal, construction, and oil and gas.

8.1k MAPP/MCCG Shared Services
Executive Director Kessler reported that it would be a while before any reports would be forthcoming from the group and should be expected about eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) months into the process. The group is currently working on a draft resolution of support to be executed by the participating groups/agencies.

8.1l Other
There were no other reports.

8.2 Finance & Administrative Committee
8.2a Summary of items discussed at the meeting held on April 19, 2018
Treasurer Merkel reported that several items moved on through consensus to approval through the consent agenda. The committee recommended approval of the amendment to the USFWS lease agreement as the District has been notified that the funding for the refuge manager has been come through and they are expecting someone to move into the space in September 2018 and they will also be a resource to the District.
There were no changes to the FY 2019 budget which is up for approval this same evening.

8.3 Outreach & Advocacy Committee
8.3a Summary of items discussed at the meeting held on April 19, 2018
Trustee Brandt reported that the group had discussed the 2018 hunting program and recommended approval. They had also reviewed pending
legislation. Trustee Brandt reported that Trustee Campbell would be attending the Education Volunteer event on May 9th as is Secretary Scacci, on behalf of the board.

9.0 COUNTY BOARD LIAISON REPORT

County Board Liaison Nowak reported that the Liquor License Commission has tentatively amended the Class F license to include Governmental and Civic organizations for 24-hour licenses and the proposal is currently out for 30-day public review. Approval of the amendment is expected at the May meeting. The District’s license application is up for review at the Commission meeting on May 28th for the August Great Outdoors Beer Trail event. Dr. Brian Sager was approved to represent the county with the Regional Transportation Authority and a staff County Auditor was approved.

10.0 BOARD BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Approval of Minutes
10.1a March 15, 2018 - Committee of the Whole
10.1b March 15, 2018 - Board of Trustees
10.1c March 15, 2018 - Executive Session

Executive Session Minutes to be received and placed in Confidential File until released.

10.2 Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for March 31, 2018 as presented.

10.3 Motion to accept the 2017 Hunting Program Report and to pass Ordinance #18-948 authorizing the 2018 Deer and Waterfowl Hunting Directive.

10.4 Motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Hey and Associates of Volo, IL, at a cost not to exceed $15,250 for the Alden Sedge Meadow West mitigation bank and a cost not to exceed $31,900 for ecological based civil engineering for School Springs Mitigation Bank (RFP #0318.08.01).

10.5 Motion to approve the FY 2019 Salary Schedules as presented.

10.6 Motion to award a contract for construction of an Equestrian Trailer Only Parking Lot, Brookdale Conservation Area, Woodstock, from Maneval Construction Company, Inc. of Ingleside, IL, the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, for a cost not to exceed $190,846.80 (Bid #0118.09.01).

10.7 Motion to adopt Resolution #18-10 authorizing the Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

10.8 Motion to authorize the preparation of specifications and letting of bids to secure multiple Joint Grassland Venture grassland management leases on ten (10) separate parcels containing approximately 299 acres (Bid #0418.08.02).
10.9 Motion to authorize the preparation of specifications and letting of bids for the purchase of two 6x6 ATV's with a rear box for natural areas management work countywide (Bid #0418.08.01).

10.10 Motion to approve the lowest qualified bidder, Red Buffalo Nursery of Richmond, IL at an hourly rate of $43.75 per hour, for a total cost not to exceed $35,000 for herbicide labor for invasive weed management on Conservation District sites (Bid #: 0218.08.03).

10.11 Motion to adopt Resolution #18-11 accepting the completed Historical American Buildings Survey (HABS) Record-Level III of Fox Bluff Conservation Area (Formerly Camp Algonquin) by Midwest Archaeological Research Services of Crystal Lake, IL. **Staff requested the board table this item until the final report received.**

10.12 Motion to authorize the preparation of bid specifications and letting of bids for abatement and removal of the remaining buildings on Fox Bluff Conservation Area, Cary/Algonquin, IL (Bid #0418.09.01).

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Secretary Scacci, to approve Board Business-Consent Agenda items 10.1 through 10.10 and 10.12 as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Kranz-yes, Henning-yes, Scacci-yes, Brandt-yes, Campbell-yes, Merkel-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Secretary Scacci, to table item 10.11 until a final report is received. A roll call vote gave the following results: Henning-yes, Scacci-yes, Campbell-yes, Kranz-yes, Merkel-yes, Brandt-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

11.0 OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

11.1 Approval of Bills Payable for the Month of March 2018

A motion was made by Treasurer Merkel, seconded by Vice President Kranz, to approve the payment of bills as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Report for the month ending March 31, 2018. A roll call vote gave the following results: Campbell-yes, Merkel-yes, Henning-abstain, Kranz-yes, Brandt-yes, Scacci-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0 with 1 abstention by Trustee Henning due to a payment to Conserve FS.

11.2 Adoption of FY 2019 Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #18-947

A motion was made by Secretary Scacci, seconded by Trustee Campbell, to pass Ordinance #18-947 adopting the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriations for the McHenry County Conservation District, McHenry County, IL, for Fiscal Year 2019, beginning April 1, 2018 and Ending March 31, 2019.
The Board discussed the staff positions being removed and added. Executive Director Kessler explained the process of positions being frozen due to attrition and the prior direction to work towards funding the Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP). The maintenance position was clarified in that it was changed from full time electrician to part time. She also supported the two new positions as they are critical investments to moving the District forward in acquiring alternative revenue and remaining resilient in an ever-changing environment.

Trustee Brandt shared his experience of being on a burn with and the safety issues they faced when the equipment broke down in the field and the stress on the field staff with the work load.

The discussion was sidetracked when a couple of trustees requested that the current board committee structure be abandoned in favor of combining the committees to accommodate the opinions of all of the Trustees and so all Trustees could hear all of the comments made by others. It was noted that due to the committees currently consisting of three members that a Trustee could not discuss an item with another Trustee who was on the same committee due it being a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Executive Director Kessler explained that the rationale at the time the committees were established was to allow for the committees to examine the items in more detail and reduce the time spent in the board meeting discussing items on the details.

The consensus was to add a discussion of committee structure to the Committee of the Whole agenda for May 2018.

The discussion then returned to the proposed budget and Trustee Scacci noted that the District currently does not have the staff to complete CAMP projects.

Trustee Brandt called the question.

A roll call vote gave the following results: Merkel-yes, Brandt-yes, Kranz-yes, Henning-yes, Scacci-yes, Campbell-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

11.3 Mountain Bike Follow-Up with Chicago Area Mountain Bikers (CAMBr)

Trustee Brandt explained the long process from the request by CAMBr to today which took several years but established criteria on which to evaluate future acquisitions during the master planning process. The agreed upon criteria did not match conditions existing on current District holdings. He believed that process was fair and shed a good light on the District board and staff with the CAMBr leadership.

11.4 Consideration of a Bid Award for an Energy Services Contract

Director of Operations and Public Safety Kremer explained the history of our using an energy consultant and the evaluative process. It was noted that this time of year generates the lowest rates and that the consultant had put a soft lock on pricing earlier this same week before locking the price in with only a slight increase over last year on this same day.
The board requested that more lead time be given to the board in the future on similar issues.

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Trustee Campbell, to affirm the awarding of the contract to Constellation New Energy of Chicago, IL, the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, for electric service at Fifteen (15) District locations for one year beginning June 2018 at a fixed price of $0.06269 per kilowatt hour. 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.

11.5 Consideration of a Resolution #18-12 authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with McHenry County for the FEMA-DR-1991-IL Hazard Mitigation Buyout Project

Land Preservation Manager Siler explained the history of this issue beginning in 2010 when McHenry County sought out the Hazard Mitigation funding to prevent future claims however, the funding did not materialize in 2010. In 2014, agreements were drafted to cover a supervisor to oversee the demolition of existing structures and again the funding did not materialize. At this time, the County has confidence that the IEMA and IDNR funding will come through and there are owners of twelve (12) parcels are currently seeking to be included. The total property could reach almost 12-acres eventually being turned over to the District.

Land Preservation Manager Siler explained that the process will include the hiring of a consultant and demolition contractors which will then be reimbursed through the program and for which estimated costs have been included in the FY 2019 budget. Each of the contracts would be brought to the Board for approval at the appropriate time. The program also requires that the parcels be monitored for a period of time after the District accepts responsibility. He noted that the current owners can withdraw from the program at any time. The grant deadline is June 2018 but a one-year extension for completion of the work and land transfers is expected from the state agencies.

Land Preservation Manager Siler also stated that there may be some incidental expenses related to the transaction that have been included in the estimated expenses such as survey costs related to demolition permitting.

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Treasurer Merkel, to adopt Resolution #18-12 authorizing the execution of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the County of McHenry for the FEMA-DR-1991-IL Hazard Mitigation Buyout Project upon receipt of the required prior approval by IDNR and IEMA without any substantive changes as presented. 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.
12.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT
President Barrett had no report.

13.0 TRUSTEES' REPORTS
There were no Trustee reports.

14.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT
14.1 2016-2020 Strategic Plan 4th Quarter Update
14.2 ADA Transition Plan - 4th Quarter Update
14.3 In the News - 4th Quarter
14.4 Dashboard - 4th Quarter Update

Executive Director Kessler asked if there were any questions on items 14.1 through 14.4. Trustee Brandt commented positively on the numbers in the Dashboard.

Executive Director Kessler reminded everyone about the Earth Day event at Prairiewood the coming weekend.

15.0 PUBLIC COMMENT 2
There were no public comments at this time.

16.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION
At 7:53 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Trustee Campbell, to go into Executive Session pursuant to Exception 2C6 (Lease of Real Estate) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote gave the following results: Kranz-yes, Henning-yes, Scacci-yes, Brandt-yes, Campbell-yes, Merkel-yes, Barrett-yes. Motion passed unanimously.

17.0 RECONVENE
The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was reconvened to order at 8:39 p.m. by President Barrett on the evening of Thursday, April 19, 2018 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

17.1 Roll Call
Trustees Present: Steve Barrett, President
Dave Kranz, Vice President
Pete Merkel, Treasurer
Vern Scacci, Secretary
Dave Brandt, Trustee
John Henning, Trustee
Carolyn Campbell, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: Robert “Bob” Nowak,
James D. Rock, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
John Kremer, Director of Operations & Public Safety
18.0 ADJOURN

A motion was made by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Trustee Henning, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote resulted in all ayes.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. April 19, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Vern Scacci, Secretary  

Date