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 6:39 p.m. by President Barrett on the evening of Thursday, June 21, 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 (remote by phone 6:41 p.m.)
Pete Merkel, Treasurer
Vern Scacci, Secretary
John Henning, Trustee
Carolyn Campbell, Trustee

Trustee Absent: Dave Brandt, 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
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
Brad Woodson, Natural Resource Manager
Perry Weborg, Sites & Fleet Manager
Sarah Rummel, Landscape Architect
Denice Beck, Volunteer Coordinator
Linda Bryant, Accounting Assistant

Guests Present: Ingrid Schulze
Al & Michelle Anderson

2.2 Remote Participation
A motion was made by Secretary Scacci, seconded by Treasurer Merkel, to approve Vice President Kranz’s request to participate remotely in the meeting through electronic participation due to a work-related commitment. A roll call vote gave the following results: Campbell-yes, Merkel-yes, Henning-yes, Scacci-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.
Vice President Kranz was contacted by speaker phone and joined the meeting.

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

4.0 CONSERVATION ETHIC
Trustee Henning read Goal #6 and Trustee Campbell read Goal #5 aloud.

5.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE - RUSSELL D. ROGERS
President Barrett asked for a minute of silence to reflect on the loss of employee Russell D. Rogers.

6.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.

7.0 PRESENTATIONS
7.1 Resolution #18-16 Retirement of Denice Beck
A motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Secretary Scacci, to adopt Resolution #18-16 A Resolution of Appreciation for Dedicated Service by Denice Beck upon her retirement. A voice vote resulted in all ayes.

Motion passed unanimously.

President Barrett then read the Resolution aloud and congratulated Volunteer Coordinator Denice Beck. Everyone in attendance gave a standing ovation in recognition of Volunteer Coordinator Beck’s service to McHenry County Conservation District.

Volunteer Coordinator Beck thanked everyone she worked with and the District for the mission that is supported by all.

Volunteer and Trustee Emeritus Bonnie Leahy presented a gift of a “Goat Volunteer Training Manual” that was based on the work of Simba and Joy.

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 meeting had been held in Aurora and there was to be a presentation by Wild Goose Chase, Inc. who use dogs to keep geese from staying in certain areas of parks, etc. Wild Goose Chase was not able to make it and Jeff Palmquist, Senior Director for Planning at Fox Valley Park District spoke about their nuisance goose problems and their own experiences with using goose chasing dogs. The next meeting will be at Fabian Forest Preserve.

8.1b Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Director of Land Preservation and Natural Resources Collins reported that the discussion had been about flooding of roadways and bus routes in urban areas. They also discussed greenhouse gas emissions and climate goals.

8.1c Chicago Wilderness
Executive Director Kessler reported that the next meeting will be July 18, 2018 and a subcommittee of the Steering Committee has been
interviewing applicants for a new organizational coordinator who will be introduced at the July 18, 2018 meeting. The working groups have been continuing to meet.

8.1d McHenry County Farm Bureau
Trustee Henning reported that there had been no recent meetings.

8.1e IACFPD/IAPD/NRPA
Executive Director Kessler reported that the next IACFPD meeting will be in August. The NRPA conference is coming up in Indianapolis and the Trustees were asked to let the Executive Director know if they wanted to attend as soon as possible for the discounted rates.

Executive Director Kessler then shared information from a new research study report from Kevin Roth from the National Recreation and Park Association on ecosystem services and economic impacts specific to the District including approximately a $1.7M increase to the local economy and $23.4M in services to the County residents as a whole.

8.1f McHenry County Conservation Foundation
Executive Director Kessler reported that the Pedal Paddle Saddle fundraising event was successful event even with the rain.

8.1g McHenry County Council of Governments
President Barrett stated that all of the Trustees had attended the most recent meeting that was hosted at the Lost Valley Visitor Center and the next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2018 and that no Trustees were going to be able to attend the late June meeting.

8.1h Green Drinks Crystal Lake
Vice President Kranz reported that he was not able to attend the program that was on investing opportunities related to social causes. There will be no meeting in July due to the date falling on the Fourth of July holiday.

8.1i Conservation Congress 2018
President Barrett and Executive Director Kessler reported that the next event will be the State of the District in February of 2019.

8.1j MAPP Shared Services & Algonquin/Cary Subarea Plan Steering Committee
Executive Director Kessler reported that Steering Committee is working to create an inventory matrix of fleet and services offered by each group. The Algonquin/Cary Subarea Steering Committee is discussing the future of four gravel mine restoration projects in the area one of which is in proximity to the Fox Bluff Conservation Area.

8.1k MAPP
Director of Operations & Public Safety Kremer is now our representative replacing Executive Director Kessler and shared that the annual meeting had
been held the previous day and had been sponsored by the McHenry County Health Department. The Active Communities group met this same day.

8.1 Legislative Update
The Illinois Environmental Council had an Illinois Green Caucus Nippersink trip planned for Sunday June 24th and several legislators were planning to attend. Thank you to Executive Administrative Assistant Anne Basten who was coordinating the event on the ground with Education and Visitor Services Coordinator Kim Compton.

8.1m Other
There were no other reports.

9.0 COUNTY BOARD LIAISON REPORT
County Board Liaison Nowak reported that Chairman Franks had asked him to pass on Chairman Franks’ best to outgoing Board President Barrett. County Board Liaison Nowak then introduced Ben Washow as the newest District Trustee who had been approved by the County Board earlier in the week and will be sworn onto this board at the July 19th, 2018 meeting.

10.0 BOARD BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA
10.1 Approval of Minutes
10.1a May 17, 2018 - Regular Meeting
10.1b May 17, 2018 - Committee of the Whole
10.1c May 17, 2018 - Executive Session
10.1d May 23, 2018 - Special Call Meeting
10.1e May 23, 2018 - Executive Session
10.1f May 29, 2018 - Special Call Meeting
10.1g May 29, 2018 - Executive Session

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

10.3 Motion to affirm Change Order #1 in the amount of $4,032 from Maneval Construction Company, Inc. of Ingleside, IL, for undercuts of unsuitable soils at the Brookdale Equestrian Parking Lot and Trailhead RTP 16-123 Grant Project (Bid#: 0118.09.01).

10.4 Motion to authorize the preparation of specifications and letting of bids for the purchase of a PTO driven, tractor mounted brush mulcher (Bid#: 0618.08.01).

10.5 Motion to authorize travel expenditures for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2018 Conference for the Executive Director at a cost not to exceed $1,500 and for the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) 2018 Summit for Education Services Manager at a cost not to exceed $1,500 for a total cost not to exceed $3,000.

10.6 Motion to adopt Resolution #18-19 approving a Second Amendment to the Project Agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the Local Government Snowmobile Grant.

10.7 Second Reading. Motion to adopt Ordinance #18-949 amending the Comprehensive Administrative & Policy Manual - Amendment to Governance Policy #2.03 Standing Committees.
10.8  Motion to adopt Resolution #18-18, amending Resolution #17-41 and #18-01 establishing the regular meeting dates of the Board of Trustees and Committees of the McHenry County Conservation District from July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

10.9  Motion to pass Ordinance #18-948 adopting the Prevailing Wage Ordinance for 2018.

10.10 Motion to adopt Resolution #18-17 authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Land Preservation and Natural Resource Division Joint Grassland Venture lease agreements on the ASM1, BOC1, GLP3, GLP9, GOL1, LIW1, MAR2, NOB1, PLV3, SVC2 Grassland parcels to Tyke Nichols, Philip Shanks, Boot Cattle & Grain LLC, and Tom Berning as presented.

10.11 Motion to authorize the preparation of specifications and letting of bids for the purchase of unleaded, diesel and propane fuels for a contract period of one year beginning September 1, 2018 (Bid # 0618.07.01 & 0618.07.02).

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

11.0  OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

11.1  Approval of Bills Payable for the Month of May 2018

11.1a Motion to approve the payment to Conserve FS as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Reports for the period ending June 21, 2018

A motion was made by Secretary Scacci, seconded by Treasurer Merkel, to approve the payment to Conserve FS a total of $1,173.60 as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Report for the month ending May 31, 2018 and the period ending June 21, 2018. A roll call vote gave the following results: Campbell-yes, Merkel-yes, Scacci-yes, Henning-abstained, Kranz-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0 with 1 abstention by Trustee Henning due to conflict of interest.

11.1b Motion to approve the payment of Bank Card Processing Center as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Report for the period ending June 21, 2018.

A motion was made by Trustee Henning, seconded by Secretary Scacci to approve the payment to Dave’s Bait Shop for $260.39 through the Bank Card Processing Center as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Kranz-abstained, Henning-yes, Scacci-yes, Campbell-yes, Merkel-yes, Barrett-yes.

Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0 with 1 abstention by Trustee Kranz due to a conflict of interest.

11.1c Motion to approve the payment of the balance of bills as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Reports for the month ending May 31, 2018.

A motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Secretary Scacci, to approve the payment of the balance of bills as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Reports for the month ending May 31, 2018 as
Presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Henning -yes, Scacci -yes, Campbell -yes, Kranz -yes, Merkel -yes, Barrett -yes.

11.2 Update on Implementation Strategy of Fox Bluff Conservation Area

Executive Director Kessler provided a PowerPoint on the history of the planning process used to get to the approved Master Plan in 2015. She explained that the site is encumbered with a proposed transportation corridor which has yet to be defined within the planning area. She thanked the volunteers who served on the master planning taskforce and the professional service contractors who have participated in the work so far in order to reach a point where the site will be made safe for the public: An extension of the nature trail south from the Fox Bluff parking lot has been opened; Trout Unlimited has assisted on restoration work for a catch and release trout pond on the property; the Historical American Building Survey report has been filed with the National Library of Congress documenting the site and the buildings used during the Fresh Air Movement; and, nine (9) buildings have been removed with about twenty-five (25) more to go which are currently out for bid. The District is still working on the cost estimates for stabilizing the Board of Trade Recreation Hall and updating existing amenities and the trail head as well as looking to plan for the care of the long term resources of the site, as the natural resources are front and center of the District’s mission.

Executive Director Kessler explained that the District entered into a Letter of Agreement with Modcamp, LLC in January of 2018 to consider their proposal of leasing the property for a nature hospitality/luxury camping experience. Both sides are working on their due diligence regarding the proposal. Staff has met with the McHenry Planning & Development Department as to any requirements or restrictions under the Unified Development Ordinance. They have also met with the McHenry County Division of Transportation regarding the encumbered corridor which is still in the plans. The District has held two public informational meetings and has hired an architect to assess and cost out the stabilization and improvements for the recreation hall.

Executive Director Kessler explained that Modcamp, LLC with partner Caravan Outpost, LLC is still refining their cost estimates for their improvements as well as their contributions to the ecological restoration of the site and determining the economic value to McHenry County and the surrounding community as a whole. Both parties are continuing to explore the variables and the specifics of lease terms. More information will be posted to the District’s website on July 2, 2018 regarding the project. Follow-up correspondence has been sent to neighbors, individuals attending the February informational meetings and elected officials. Open office hour meetings can be scheduled with Executive Director Kessler to share concerns and learn more about the proposed implementation strategy. These meetings will be helped on July 11th and 12th, 2018 at Prairievie Education Center and written comments will be accepted through July 13, 2018.

11.3 Consideration of Ordinance #18-950 to acquire +/- 34 acres of Real Estate from Ducks Unlimited using donated funds.

A motion was made by Secretary Scacci, seconded by Treasurer Merkel, to pass Ordinance #18-950 authorizing the acquisition by purchase and execution of documents for Real Property Commonly Known as the Kennedy East Parcel from...
Ducks Unlimited using donated funds, when the final contract meets with Legal Counsel’s final approval. A roll call vote gave the following results: Campbell-yes, Merkel-yes, Henning-yes, Kranz-yes, Scacci-yes, Barrett-yes.
Motion passed unanimously.

12.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT
President Barrett stated that he was happy to see the progress made under his term on the Board and was especially excited about the efforts on behalf of private/public partnerships and is hoping they do become a reality in the future. He would like to leave a legacy that the Board makes decisions based on facts and what is best for the District and its residents (flora, fauna and humans), and not on emotions.

13.0 TRUSTEES’ REPORTS
Secretary Scacci complimented the Planning Department staff on the Horse Trailer parking lot at Brookdale. He said it was done faster than he expected and looks great.

14.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS’ REPORT
Executive Director Kessler reported that day camps were going well. Director of Operations & Public Safety was asked by Executive Director Kessler to provide an update to the water damage to Lost Valley Visitor Center in and around the electronic equipment room at the East end of the building which resulted in the replacement of all of the components in the junction box.
Executive Director Kessler announced that the new Conservation Award information including the application forms will be available on our website by July 2, 2018 with the first awards being issued in March 2019.
Executive Director Kessler shared that as standard practice position descriptions of recently vacated or anticipated vacancies due to team members leaving the District are assessed to evaluate whether they should be refilled as is, adjusted, suspended or permanently eliminated. The positions of Restoration Ecologist and Facilities Maintenance Ranger position at Lost Valley have been posted with minor modifications made to the Facilities Maintenance Ranger position. She then spoke about the vibrant volunteer program which currently has 420 volunteers and the decision that had been made by Executive Leadership Team with input from the Leadership Team to split the position into two part-time positions which will result in both an overall cost savings to the District as well as having one of the coordinators focused on the natural resource volunteers that requires additional training and supervision in the field.

15.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS II
There were no public comments at this time.

17.0 WELCOME NEWLY APPOINTED TRUSTEE BENJAMIN WASHOW
Benjamin Washow of Cary, introduced himself and shared his history of growing up in Barrington and having lived in Lake in the Hills as well as his conservation experience beginning at age sixteen with Citizen’s for Conservation where his parents are still active members. He has resigned from his position on the Cary District 26 school board in order to serve on this board and is looking forward to his role.

16.0 RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER STEVE BARRETT
Outgoing President Barrett thanked the staff for all their hard work and listed some of the former Trustees he has served with.
Executive Director Kessler presented “Steve’s Conservation Adventure” which focused on his out of the box ideas for positively impacting the local economy which centered on destination activities and intergovernmental collaboration.

Treasurer Merkel read the presentation plaque out loud and presented it to outgoing President Barrett since Vice President Kranz was not present. President Barrett introduced his family members who were present, including his father, and thanked them for their support over the last eight years.

Executive Director Kessler shared gifts that had been left for President Barrett and all of the Trustees thanked him for his service and individually spoke about what they had learned from him.

18.0 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 8:22 p.m. June 21, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Vern Scacci, Secretary

Date