MCHEMRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2019

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 5:01 p.m. by President Kranz on the evening of Thursday, January 17, 2019 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
President Kranz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 INTRODUCTORY ROLL CALL
3.1 Roll Call
Trustees Present: Dave Kranz, President
Vern Scacci, Vice President
Pete Merkel, Treasurer
Dave Brandt, Secretary
John Henning, Trustee
Carolyn Campbell, Trustee

Trustees Absent: Benjamin Washow, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: Robert “Bob” Nowak, County Board Liaison
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
Sara Denham, Wildlife Resource Center Manager
Shawna Flavell, Director of Development/Executive Director
McHenry County Conservation Foundation
Jenny Heider, Human Resource Manager
Laura King, Chief of Police
Amy Peters, Planning Manager
Val Siler, Land Preservation Manager
Perry Weborg, Sites & Fleet Manager
Brad Woodson, Natural Resource Manager
Ty Culver, Sergeant
Ben O’Dea, Sites Supervisor

Guests Present: Jacob Karkowski, Student
Keith Von Allmen, Johnsburg
Heli & Bohdi King, Johnsburg
Linda & Brad Virgil, Norridge
4.0 CONSERVATION ETHIC
Trustee Campbell read Goal #6 and Secretary Brandt read Goal #2 aloud.

5.0 TRUSTEE REPORT
Secretary Brandt congratulated Sites and Fleet Administrative Assistant Karen Brabec for her work with the Northwest Suburban Astronomers. He also stated several statistics related to seed collection work and the very valuable contributions of the seed collection volunteers, the reduction of bat populations at the bat barn, increased mussel populations in study areas this year, and the impact of field borders on those mussel numbers. He also commended the Sites & Fleet Staff and Social Media Specialist Caitlynn McWhorter for the well-received recruitment video.
Trustee Campbell positively commented on the Wildlife and Stewards meetings, the great information that is shared by staff at these events, and how the volunteers are treated more like partners. She also spoke about representing the Plants of Concern and Phenology at the Volunteer Fair. Despite the iffy weather, 27 people attended - 22 signed up for various volunteer opportunities and 5 went through the interview process for a new Hunter Conservation Program headed by Gabe Powers.
Vice President Scacci commented on his enjoyable tour of the Wildlife Resource Center.
Treasurer Merkel brought notice to the article in the January/February 2019 Illinois Parks & Recreation Magazine on the Ridgefield Trace and the partnerships involved, written by Marketing and Communications Director Wendy Kummerer.
Trustee Henning reported that he received a telephone call from a citizen who spoke very supportively about the District as the “jewel” of the county and Director of Land Preservation and Natural Resources Collins in particular.

6.0 COUNTY BOARD LIAISON REPORT
County Board Liaison Nowak relayed that the County Board had reviewed thirteen solar farm petitions in the last week, the majority of which were approved and will move on to the next step for approval at the state level. He reported that the State of the County presentation showed the County was doing very well. Alternatives were being discussed for the surplus funds in the Valley High account which could be used for an additional building or may be refunded or partially refunded in the future.

7.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT
President Kranz thanked the Board members for the outreach they made over the past month on behalf of the District.

8.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments made.

9.0 PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
9.1 Introduction & Swearing in of Chief Laura King
Attorney Rock read and Chief King repeated the oath of office. Chief King then introduced herself and her background in Psychology and offered that one of her goals beyond keeping our sites safe is keeping the police officers happy in their work.
9.2 Sites & Fleet: The District’s Maintenance Management Team
Sites Supervisor Ben O’Dea reviewed the role of the Sites and Fleet staff members as the front line and face of the District as reflected in the appearance and maintenance of the District sites. The staff enjoys interacting with the public and they do get to hear supportive public comments while doing their work.
Sites Supervisor O’Dea then shared the seasonal recruitment video which was proposed by Ranger Steve Stabenow at their most recent retreat.

Vice President Scacci reported that the horse community has been commenting on how the District’s horse trails are the best in the area.

10.0 BOARD BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Approval of Minutes
10.1a December 20, 2018

10.2 Acceptance of Executive Session Minutes into Confidential Files until released to the public domain.
10.2a September 20, 2018 Amended
10.2b November 15, 2018

10.3 Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for December 31, 2018.

10.4 Motion to accept the Quarterly Investment Report for Third Quarter of FY 2019 (October 2018 to December 2018) as presented.

10.5 Motion to authorize the destruction of listed verbatim recordings of Executive Session Meetings between January 2017 and June 2017 in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

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

10.7 Motion to remove from tabled discussion and adopt Resolution #18-11 accepting the Illinois Historic Illinois Buildings Survey (HIBS) Record Level III for Camp Algonquin (now known as Fox Bluff Conservation Area) as prepared by Midwest Archaeological Research Services, of Crystal Lake, IL.

10.8 Motion to authorize the preparation of specifications and letting of bids to secure the leasing of the Clark & Tittle Parcels [28 +/- acres] at Boone Creek Conservation Area and Konopasek Parcel [80 +/- acres] at Brookdale Conservation Area (Bid # 0119.08.01).

10.9 Motion to adopt Resolution #19-01 providing a letter of support for the Fox River Water Trail Initiative which would designate the Fox River Water Trail as a national water trail with the National Park Service.

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

11.0 OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

11.1 Approval of Bills Payable for the Month of December 2018
11.1a Treasurer’s Internal Audit

Director of Administration and Finance Dylak had provided the requested information from the previous meeting in writing which was shared...
with the Board of Trustees in advance. All items were in compliance with the purchasing policy and procedures.

It was requested that the following documents be pulled for review:
C6943 Cintas Corp-$617.92; H2552 Hey & Associates - $3,343.52; and, S77.00 State Industrial Products Corp - $107.00.

11.1b Motion to approve the payment of bills as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Report for the month ending December 31, 2018.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

11.2 Consideration of McHenry County Citizens’ Conservation Bill of Rights & McHenry County Conservation District’s Conservation Stewardship Pledge

Executive Director Kessler explained that the wording has changed many times prior to this point and the hope is to present the Citizens’ Conservation Bill of Rights and Conservation Pledge at the State of Conservation so that the Citizens’ Conservation Bill of Rights can be taken back to the represented organizations. The Pledge will be the District’s commitment to support the rights outlined.

The verbiage will be in the Summer issue of Landscapes and will lead up to and through the 50th Anniversary Year-Long Celebration. The plan is for the Board and staff to go on a speaking tour to visit with the participating groups to present the Five R’s and the Three W’s. Executive Director Kessler and Development Director Flavell used some of the messaging at the recent Leadership of Greater McHenry County event and it was received very well.

Secretary Brandt volunteered to go on the tour with the messaging.

12.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

12.1 Legislative Update - Verbal

Executive Director Kessler reported that the 101st Illinois General Assembly was sworn in and there was a lot of focus on environmental initiatives. There was also a bill related to the Prevailing Wage Ordinance which removes the requirement to pass and publish the ordinance if the wages used for public works are those determined and posted by the Illinois Department of Labor.

Executive Director Kessler also reported that Senator Donald P. DeWitte (33rd Legislative District) will be stopping by the District’s table at the IAPD conference the following Friday in addition to Senators Dan McConchie (26th Legislative District) and Craig Wilcox (32nd Legislative District). She noted that with all the changes in Washington D.C., a trip to meet legislators in Washington D.C. may be needed this upcoming year.

12.2 Quarterly Dashboard - Third Quarter

12.3 Strategic Plan FY 2016-2020 Year 4 - Third Quarter

12.4 ADA Transition Plan: Year 6 - Third Quarter

12.5 News Highlights - October - December 2018

12.6 McHenry County Conservation Foundation Report - Third Quarter
It was noted that there was a letter to the Editor in late December in the Northwest Herald in support of Forest Bathing on District sites.

13.0 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS & REPORT

13.1 Trustee Reports on Conferences & Meetings Attended

13.1a Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP)
Trustee Campbell reported that Jeff Mengler has been reelected and will continue to serve as President of the group. The One Earth Film Festival will feature human impacts on climate change and will be held at Wabunsee Community College on March 4, 2019. The Annual Fox River Summit will also be held on March 22, 2019 in Burlington, Wisconsin.

The next meeting will be February 13, 2019 at Dundee Township with a natural areas training overview.

13.1b CMAP
Director of Land Preservation and Natural Resources Collins had not been able to attend the most recent meeting due to illness and is rotating off the group and will have no further reports.

13.1c Chicago Wilderness Alliance
Executive Director Kessler reported the Steering Committee had met the previous day in Chicago and she has begun serving as Chair and the group is in the process of planning for hosting their own Conservation Congress in early 2020.

13.1d McHenry County Farm Bureau
Trustee Henning reported there had been no discussion of items impacting the District.

13.1e IACFPD/IAPD/NRPA
Secretary Brandt reported that he, Trustee Campbell, and Treasurer Merkel were looking forward to attending the upcoming luncheon and IACFPD meeting with Executive Director Kessler as part of the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference on January 25, 2019.

13.1f McHenry County Conservation Foundation
Secretary Brandt reported that the next meeting will be for strategic planning on January 23, 2019 and then on January 31, 2019 for their annual meeting and election of officers.

13.1g McHenry County Council of Governments
Vice President Scacci reported that he would be attending the next meeting at the M Supper Club, sponsored by the City of Crystal Lake.

13.1h Green Drinks Crystal Lake
President Kranz reported that there were close to 100 attendees at the first presentation of the year on having a Zero Waste Year.

13.1i Conservation Congress 2018
Secretary Brandt reported that things are moving forward and all the invitations have been sent and we are awaiting RSVPs.

13.1j MCCG Shared Investment Study & Algonquin/Cary Subarea Plan Steering Committee
Executive Director Kessler reported that the participants will be regrouping in February to review the results.

13.1k MAPP
Director of Operations and Public Safety Kremer reported that he had attended a meeting on this same day and the availability of trail grants, some of which include funding for trail restorations had been discussed. He reminded the board that a Complete the Streets Program presentation was being held the following Friday, January 25, 2019 if anyone was interested. A contract with Zagster has been signed with three bike stations committed by McHenry County College, City of McHenry and City of Woodstock.

13.1l Other Outreach Contacts
Vice President Scacci recognized the efforts of local student Jacob Karkowski to become involved with environmental groups locally and wished him well with his further educational endeavors at University of Wisconsin - Steven's Point.

14.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS II
There were no public comments.

15.0 ADJOURN
A motion was made by Secretary Brandt, seconded by Trustee Henning, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote resulted in all ayes.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. January 17, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Brandt, Secretary

Date 2/21/19