

**McHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OUTREACH & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2018**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees Outreach & Advocacy Committee of the McHenry County Conservation District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Brandt on the evening of April 19, 2018 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Dave Brandt, Chair
John Henning, Trustee
Carolyn Campbell, Trustee
Steve Barrett, President

Staff Present: John Kremer, Director of Operations & Public Safety
Wendy Kummerer, Director of Marketing & Communications
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant
Brad Woodson, Natural Resource Manager
Amy Peters, Planning Manager (arrived at 5:30 p.m.)

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4.0 OLD COMMITTEE BUSINESS

4.1 Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes for approval.

4.2 Outreach Project

4.2a Governmental Outreach Efforts

President Barrett stated that he had spoken to County Board Chairman Franks in February at the McHenry Township Association meeting and had also spoken with various township officials from all of the McHenry County townships except Algonquin Township.

Trustee Henning had spoken with County Board members McCann and Aavang recently. Trustee Campbell has also spoken with County Board Member McCann about the Pichen Farm parcel.

4.2b Walkabouts and Market Research

There was nothing new on this topic at this time.

4.3 Conservation Congress 2018

Director of Marketing and Communications Kummerer shared that the summary of the conversations will be emailed out to the delegates soon and they will also be included in the summer issue of *Landscapes*. They have already been posted to the website. There will also be revised Ecosystem Services charts and Funding the Dream Documents.

President Barrett shared an article from *Outside Magazine* confirming that outdoor recreational activity generates 2% of the GDP according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and is currently bigger than mining and oil production, and several other items under the GDP.

4.4 Legislative Updates

4.4a FY 2019 Legislative Program Update

Executive Assistant Basten reported that the deadline for bills to make it out of committee had passed and the next deadline was for bills to pass out of the chamber of origin. The number of bills we are following has dropped to about one hundred twenty (120). Several of the bills related to PTELL or tax freezes have technically died.

4.5 Hunting Program - 2017 Hunting Program Report and 2018 Deer and Waterfowl Hunting Directive - Ordinance #18-948

Natural Resource Manager Woodson shared that a major change for 2018 was related to out-of-county hunters and making sure that they all pay their share of the rate. There was further discussion about deer/plant management and noting that the herd management is important as is the recreational value and alternative income but it must be a positive experience. New GIS technology is being used to increase the accuracy of the hunting zones and increase the safety of the hunters.

Natural Resource Manager Woodson shared that hunters have been asking for the ability to use ATV's to retrieve their deer and that internal staff discussion and consultation with our insurance carrier that there are too many safety issues.

The group also discussed the rate of wounding during the archery season and why our testing requirements are so strict for this reason.

Chairman Brandt asked that everyone involved in the program be thanked for the careful consideration used with this program.

The consensus was to recommend proceeding through the consent agenda this same evening.

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

Director of Operations and Public Safety Kremer reviewed the history of this request from CAMBr. They originally wanted a trail at Fox Bluff Conservation Area and came through the master planning process. Since their initial request, staff has worked with CAMBr to define the criteria necessary for a successful trail experience with minimal maintenance or ecosystem damage. All of the District's existing sites have now been evaluated based on the

cooperatively created criteria and CAMBr agrees that none of our existing sites meet the criteria. Their last step was to review the proposal for the Hollows where CAMBr determined that there was not enough land that met the criteria to merit even a short trail. Future property acquisitions will include an evaluation based on this established criteria during the master planning process in addition to the evaluation criteria used for other public uses.

4.7 Collaborative Partnerships

There were no items discussed as the one item involving McHenry County and IEMA was on the full board discussion portion of the regular agenda.

4.8 Destination Events

Director of Marketing and Communications Kummerer reported that the Festival of the Sugar Maples event was near record attendance if not greater. The Earth Day program in cooperation with the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County was scheduled for the upcoming weekend at Prairieview Education Center. Also, numerous events were scheduled in cooperation with several groups for the World Migratory Bird Day.

Chairperson Brandt reported that he was not able to attend the Educational Volunteer function on May 9th and asked if anyone else could attend. Trustee Campbell stated that she was planning to attend.

5.0 **ADJOURN**

There being no additional business for the Outreach & Advocacy Committee, a motion was made by Trustee Henning, seconded by Trustee Campbell, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. on April 19, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

David Brandt

David Brandt, Chairman

5/17/18

Date