

**McHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

The Special Call Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by President Kranz on the afternoon of Thursday, February 7, 2019 (originally scheduled for January 31, 2019) at the Lost Valley Visitor Center, 7210 Keystone Road, Richmond, Illinois 60071.

**2.0 ROLL CALL**2.1 Roll Call

Trustees Present: Dave Kranz, President  
Vern Scacci, Vice President  
Dave Brandt, Secretary  
John Henning, Trustee  
Carolyn Campbell, Trustee  
Benjamin Washow, Trustee

Trustees Absent: Pete Merkel, Treasurer

Staff Present: Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director  
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant

**3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Kranz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**5.0 BOARD DISCUSSION**5.1 Strategic Planning

## 5.1a Review of SWOT

Executive Director Kessler provided a Competitive Analysis SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) breakdown generated by the Leadership Team from January 2019. There were a few questions about definitions of “too responsive”, tech tools being used, “silos”, legislative changes, etc. for which Executive Director Kessler provided examples.

## 5.2b Discussion on Critical Issues &amp; Milestones

Vice President Scacci asked that the goals be simplified such as narrowing it down to top three items in three years. Executive Director Kessler explained that she would recommend hiring an outside consultant to help facilitate the plan development and allow all team members (board, leadership and staff) to participate in the process and keep all the teams on track. There would be several sessions made up of various teams including an internal staff team who would represent line staff of the departments. Long-range planning is needed as the District’s debt will be paid off in 2026. It will be important to have a full understanding of what funding the District needs to restore and maintain current acres and execute plans to meet the needs of McHenry County residents.

Additional discussion reviewed the debt limits of the District by statute, the current status of debt, and where other units of government limits are, comparatively, with Conservation Districts having the lowest debt limit percentage.

The Board of Trustees requested a data set similar to the CAMP funding for natural resource restoration and this data should include the costs required to restore the acreage not yet restored and to maintain those acres previously restored. The Board of Trustees reached consensus that this should be the underlying goal of the next five years as well as to determine the acreage that needs to be acquired to protect the best of the last with the priority being to maintain existing high-quality natural areas, manage/restore the next levels of acres before buying more unless they are of the highest quality or needed to move a property to the next level.

Another high priority is to fund CAMP by creating a revenue stream to fund CIP. CIP is currently using captured investment income from funding for projects that are not getting done due to diminished staff capacity.

### 5.3c Review of General Timeline

The group then reviewed a proposed timeline for the Strategic Plan covering 2021-2023. Executive Director Kessler will send out the Outlook invitations for the upcoming meeting dates including strategic planning meeting dates. The goal is to have a draft plan to present to the Board of Trustees at the December 2019 regular monthly meeting so the final plan can be shared with the Delegates to the 2020 Conservation Congress in February with the final plan being adopted in April 2020 with the FY 2021 Budget.

### 5.2 Executive Director Update

Executive Director Kessler shared that the Brookdale Horse Trail parking lot will have a ribbon cutting on June 1<sup>st</sup> and a trail ride will be promoted for National Trails Day.

The claim for the burst water pipe at Lost Valley Visitor Center has been filed with PDRMA and the cleanup and repairs are ongoing.

The decision was made to hire a replacement Facilities Manager after assessing the position and talking with the existing employees.

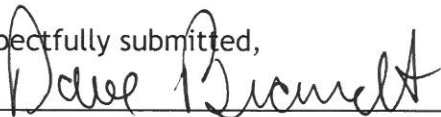
Executive Director Kessler shared that she would be meeting with potential investors of the nature hospitality “glamping” experience at Fox Bluff Conservation Area next week. She reported that conversations are continuing with great hope and optimism and that she would report back as soon as she had more information to share with the Board of Trustees.

## 6.0 ADJOURN

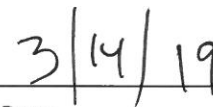
A motion was made by Secretary Brandt, seconded by Vice President Scacci, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote resulted in all ayes.

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. February 7, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dave Brandt, Secretary

  
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Date