

**MCHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2022**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Cook on the evening of Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices and via video conference software by ZOOM.

The meeting was available for public access through the same log-on and meeting code as the Trustees. All Trustees were present in person at the Brookdale Administrative Offices and were connected to ZOOM through individual devices for video and a shared connection via conference phone for audio.

The meeting was recorded and posted on YouTube with an accessible link at www.MCCDistrict.org.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 INTRODUCTORY ROLL CALL

3.1 Roll Call

Trustees Present: Bill Cook, President
Chris Dahm, Vice President
Pat Fritz, Treasurer
Linda Thomas, Secretary
Reynaldo Gaytan, Jr., Trustee
Shawn Zimmerman, Trustee
Llyod Everard, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: Kelli Wegener, County Board Liaison
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
John Kremer, Director of Operations, Planning & Public Safety
Andy Dylak, Director of Administration & Finance (Remote)
Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources
Wendy Kummerer, Director of Marketing & Education
Kristi LaMontagna, Executive Administrative Assistant
Laura King, Police Chief (Remote)
Amy Peters, Planning & Development Manager
Val Siler, Land Administration & Preservation Manager
Brad Woodson, Natural Resources Manager
Stephanie Michael, IT Systems Administrator (Remote)
Fernando Hernandez, Restoration Ecologist
Brendan Smith, Habitat Technician
Arturo Diaz, Police Administrative Coordinator
Jennifer Oliver, Landscape Architect

Public Present: There were no public present in-person or remotely.

4.0 CONSERVATION ETHIC

President Cook asked Trustee Everard to read aloud Conservation Ethic Goals #6 and #4.

5.0 CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

President Cook asked Trustee Gaytan to read aloud Conservation Stewardship Pledge #5.

6.0 ADOPT THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Trustee Gaytan, seconded by Trustee Everard, to adopt the agenda as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Thomas-yes, Zimmerman-yes, Gaytan-yes, Dahm-yes, Everard-yes, Fritz-yes, and Cook-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 INTRODUCTIONS/PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

7.1 Introduction of New Team Members

7.1a Arturo Diaz, Police Administrative Coordinator

Police Chief Laura King introduced the new Police Department's Police Administrative Assistant Arturo Diaz to the Board.

Police Administrative Assistant Diaz gave the Board a brief introduction about himself.

7.1b Jennifer Oliver, PLA, Landscape Architect

Planning & Development Manager Amy Peters introduced the Planning Department's new Planning Landscape Architect Jennifer Oliver.

Planning Landscape Architect Oliver gave a brief introduction about herself to the Board.

7.1c Fernando Hernandez, Restoration Ecologist

Natural Resources Manager Brad Woodson introduced the new Restoration Ecologist Fernando Hernandez with the Land Preservation & Natural Resources Department to the Board.

Restoration Ecologist Hernandez gave a brief introduction about himself to the Board.

7.1d Brendan Smith, Habitat Technician

Natural Resources Manager Woodson introduced the new Land Preservation & Natural Resources Department's Habitat Technician Brendan Smith to the Board.

Habitat Technician Smith gave a brief introduction about himself to the Board.

7.2 Recognition of Stephanie Michael, IT Systems Administrator on becoming a Certified Park and Recreation Professional

Executive Director Kessler gave recognition to IT Systems Administrator Michaels for becoming a Certified Park and Recreations Professional.

7.3 Illinois Association of Park District's Best of the Best - Intergovernmental Collaboration Award: St. Charles Park District, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and McHenry County Conservation District.

Executive Director Kessler briefed the Board on the District being recognized as one of the Illinois Association of Park District's Best of the Best Award Honorees and that this was an Intergovernmental Collaboration Award which was also presented to

St. Charles Park District, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Forest Preserve District of Kane County, and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

Executive Director Kessler noted that Plant Ecologist Laurie Ryan, Lake in the Hills Fen Conservation Area Site Steward Dave Schwaegler and Habitat Tech Brendan Smith are recognized specifically for their efforts in this collaborative partnership.

8.0 TRUSTEES REPORT

Treasurer Fritz mentioned that the McHenry County Farm Bureau held their monthly meeting on October 12th where there was talk about federal and state money for rural internet and the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) talked about additional roundabouts.

9.0 COUNTY BOARD LIAISON REPORT

County Board Liaison Wegener mentioned that County passed a few Resolutions a week ago, to create artificial and living snow fence contracts with farmers, set new salary ranges for county employees and pay for performance guidelines for next year, and the exercise of quick take powers of eminent domain for the completion of the highway project on Randall Road.

County Board Liaison Wegener also mentioned that there was a robust debate about some resolutions with The Safety Act and House Bill 33447 at this month's meeting and that it was heard today that the new training center and gun range for County municipal police officers and the Sheriff's Office are starting to receive bids for the remodel.

County Board Liaison Wegener mentioned they also had a few ordinances, updating Public Health Ordinance, new building code and residential code updates.

County Board Liaison Wegener mentioned that the levy ordinance and budget ordinance which currently are on separate ordinances and there was talk about placing on one ordinance. It was also mentioned that the County is taking \$1.5 million dollars of their ARPA money that was supposed to go to grants will instead be going towards their budget. In addition, the County will be taking \$500k in new growth and \$990k thousand in CPI, which is twenty-seven percent (27%) of what can be taken on CPI because the County did not take the allowable \$4.1 million dollars.

10.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cook did not have anything to report.

11.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS I

No question or comments, there were no public present in-person or remotely.

12.0 BOARD BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA

12.1 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

12.1a July 15, 2021 - Committee of the Whole - Executive Session - Amended

12.1b August 18, 2022 - Committee of the Whole - Executive Session

12.1c September 12, 2022 - Committee of the Whole

12.1d September 15, 2022 - Regular Meeting

12.1e September 27, 2022 - Special Call Meeting

12.2 Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report

12.2a Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for September 30, 2022, as presented.

12.3 Resolution #22-79, a Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Site Use Agreement with the McHenry County Snowmobile Association, Huntley

- Penguins, and Marengo Snowgoers for the 2022-2023 Winter Season (December 10, 2022 to March 15, 2023).
- 12.4 Resolution #22-80, a Resolution authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Marengo Township Road District for the procurement of road salt for the 2022-2023 Winter Season.
 - 12.5 Resolution #21-81, a Resolution authorizing the grant agreement for five (5) additional FLOCK cameras with the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the Northern and Middle States Rural Law Enforcement Training and Technical Assistance Grant Program for a total of \$25,000.
 - 12.6 Resolution #22-82, a Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Conservation Grazing Lease Agreement for rotational goat grazing operation at Queen Anne Prairie Conservation Area (QAP1 - 4.5 +/- acres) to Katherine Sims and David Sims, Jr., for a period of three years from November 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025 (RFP #0922.00.01).
 - 12.7 Resolution #22-83, a Resolution awarding a contract to the lowest qualified bidders of Prairie Moon Nursery of Winona, MN (\$38,429.27), Shooting Star Native Seeds of Spring Grove, MN (\$27,727.09), Spence Restoration Nursery of Muncie, IN (\$22,254.83), Agrecol LLC of Evansville, WI (\$9,249.90), Genesis Nursery, Inc. of Tampico, IL (\$2,921.25), and Cardno, Inc. of Walkerton, IN (\$924.00) for a total cost not to exceed \$101,506.34 for the completion of seeding projects on approximately 146 acres of various habitats for standard mixes and Natural Resource Special Revenue account projects within conservation areas (BID #0822.08.01)
 - 12.8 Resolution #22-84, a Resolution authorizing the disposal of listed excess equipment and office items through a public on-line auction with Obenauf Auction Services, Inc. of Round Lake, IL.
 - 12.9 Resolution #22-85, a Resolution ratifying the Executive Director's execution of a contract with Constellation New Energy of Houston TX, the lowest responsible and responsive bidder for the Electric Service at fifteen (15) District Sites for an amount not to exceed \$.0.09897 per kilowatt hour for one year beginning November 2022 (BID #0222.07.01-RA).
 - 12.10 Resolution #22-86, a Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute the agreement documents with Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) to provide both the S-130 Field Day and S-219 Ignition Operations Trainings.
 - 12.11 Resolution #22-87, a Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute the listed agricultural leases with terms beginning March 1, 2023 on fourteen (14) parcels containing approximately 898 +/- acres: Alden Sedge Meadow (ASM-11613 - 210 +/- acres) to Tim Nichols at 0.33%; Alden Sedge Meadow (ASM-10845 - 74 +/- acres) to Tim Nichols at 0.33%; Alden Sedge Meadow (ASM-11138 - 50 +/- acres) to Jim Nichols at 0.35%; Alden Sedge Meadow (ASM-11613 - 165.5 +/- acres) to Craig Spiniolas at 0.50%; Barber Fen (BAR-2240 - 28.75 +/- acres) to Grant DeYoung at 0.34%; Barber Fen (BAR-2437 - 11.81 +/- acres) to Grant DeYoung at 0.34%; Winding Creek/Bailey Woods (BAW-11045 - 16 +/- acres) to Rick Schoenbeck at 0.30%; Brookdale (BRD-10244 - 117.39 +/- acres) to Robert Haraden at 0.30%; Brookdale (BRD-1096 - 83.31 +/- acres) to Robert Haraden at 0.31%; Brookdale (BRD-11475 - 38.40 +/- acres) to Robert Haraden at 0.26%; Glacial Park (GLP-1641 - 9 +/- acres) to Travis Holian at 0.45%; Kloempken Prairie (KLP-9273 - 52.6 +/- acres) to Jim and Rita Hennig at 0.25%; Lind Woods (LIW-887 - 30 +/- acres) to Grant DeYoung at 0.34%; Marengo Ridge (MAR-10126 - 12 +/- acres) to George and Vickie Freise at 0.25%.

- 12.12 Resolution #22-88, a Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute the listed Joint Grassland Venture Leases with terms beginning March 1, 2023 on ten (10) parcels containing approximately 502+/- acres: Glacial Park (GLP-8841 - 52.5+/- acres) to Tyke Nichols at \$50/acre; Glacial Park (GLP-H-01 - 14.5+/- acres) to Travis Holian at \$50/acre; Hickory Grove (HIC-01 - 12.2+/- acres) to Tom Berning at \$20/acre; Lind Woods (LIW-12572 - 60.9+/- acres) to Tyke Nichols at \$55/acre; Lind Woods (LIW-9643 - 44.5+/- acres) to Casey Watkins at \$50/acre; North Branch (NOB-03 - 85.3+/- acres) to Tyke Nichols at \$77/acre; Pleasant Valley (PLV-05 - 187.92+/- acres) to Joe and Beth Clarke at \$35/acre; Rush Creek (RUC-01 - 16.2+/- acres) to David Laufer at \$23/acre; Rush Creek (RUC-1036 - 20.3+/- acres) to Chris McKee at \$50/acre; and Stickney Run (STR-02 - 8+/- acres) to Tom Berning at \$21/acre.
- 12.13 Authorization to prepare specifications and let bids to secure Joint Grassland Venture leasing of 10.6 +/- acres on the AGP-03 parcel at Alden Gap Conservation Area.
- 12.14 Authorization to prepare specifications and let bids to secure Joint Grassland Venture leasing of 7.8 +/- acres on the FXB-01 parcel at Fox Bluff Conservation Area.
- 12.15 Authorization to prepare specifications and let bids to secure Joint Grassland Venture leasing of 27.5 +/- acres on the PLV-01 parcel at Pleasant Valley Conservation Area.
- 12.16 Resolution #22-89, a Resolution approving a First Amendment to Employment Agreement between McHenry County Conservation District and Executive Director Elizabeth Kessler.
- 12.17 Resolution #22-90, a Resolution authorizing the purchase of six (6) replacement vehicles directly from the Illinois State Bid Purchasing Contract for a total cost not to exceed \$291,000 (BID #21-416CMS-P-29479).

A motion was made by Secretary Thomas, seconded by Treasurer Fritz, to approve Board Business-Consent Agenda Items 12.1 through 12.17 as presented after being read aloud by Secretary Thomas. A roll call vote gave the following results: Gaytan=yes, Thomas=yes, Zimmerman=yes, Everard=yes, Dahm=yes, Fritz=yes, and Cook=yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

13.0 OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

13.1 Approval of Bills Payable for the Month of September 2022

13.1a Treasurer's Internal Audit

13.1b Consideration to approve the payment of bills as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Report for the month ending September 30, 2022.

A motion was made by Treasurer Fritz, seconded by Trustee Zimmerman, to approve the payment of the balance of bills as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Report for the month ending September 30, 2022. A roll call vote gave the following results: Dahm=yes, Everard=yes, Thomas=yes, Zimmerman=yes, Fritz=yes, Gaytan=yes, and Cook=yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

14.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

14.1 Legislative Update - Verbal Report

14.2 Strategic Plan Update - Year 3 - QTR 2

- 14.3 Project Status Report
- 14.4 Quarterly Dashboard - FY 2023 - QTR 2
- 14.5 In the News - FY 2023 - QTR 2
- 14.6 McHenry County Conservation Foundation Update FY 2023 - QTR 2
- 14.7 Letters of Support
 - 14.7a Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Letter of Support - Village of Cary, Village of Port Barrington, Algonquin Township Road District, Nunda Township Road District - Rawson Bridge Bikeway Project.
 - 14.7b McHenry County Division of Transportation - Owner with Jurisdiction Concurrence Letter - Determination of de minimus impact for Section 4(f) Resource - Glacial Park Conservation Area West Solon Road Bridge (FAU 165) Reconstruction Project over North Branch Nippersink Creek Section No. 19-00510-00-BR, McHenry County.

Executive Director Kessler stated to the Board that they received all the quarterly reports in their board packets and if there were any questions on the items, she would be happy to provide answers.

Executive Director Kessler gave brief updates to the Board of Trustees including a legislative update on a proposed amendment being considered for veto session on the Rivers, Lake and Streams Act for recreational navigability for paddlers, elections on November 8th, and that the Forest Preserve of Cook County has a proposition on the ballot.

Executive Director Kessler mentioned that the Chicago Metropolitan Agency of Planning (CMAP) is having an open house for their 2050 plan on Thursday, October 27 at the Lake County Forest Preserve Dunn Museum in Libertyville, The Chicago Wilderness Alliance Conservation Congress is on November 3rd, Deborah Shore from the Environmental Protection Agency will be the keynote speaker and the new refreshed branding will be showcased with the Green Vision Initiatives.

Executive Director Kessler also mentioned that the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County will have their Green Living Expo on Saturday, November 5th. The Friends of Hackmatack will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary on Tuesday, November 8 at the Dole Mansion, and Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources Ed Collins will be speaking with IDNR Deputy Director John Rogner.

Executive Director Kessler mentioned that McHenry County held their Community Health Assessment and Implementation Plan and that Director of Public Safety and Operations Kremer has been very involved with the plan through the MAPP Group.

Executive Director Kessler gave a shout out to Land Administration & Preservation Manager Val Siler and McHenry County Conservation Foundation Executive Director Shawna Flavell and the Natural Resources Team for receiving an Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation grant.

Executive Director Kessler mentioned that at the last Naturally McHenry County Board Meeting she was elected as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.

Trustee Zimmerman asked if a list of upcoming important dates could be sent out to everyone.

Executive Director Kessler stated that she would send these out to the Board and reminded the Board of the IAPD/IPRA Conference in January if anyone wanted to attend.

Executive Director Kessler asked if there was a general consensus to proceed with the 2023 Meeting Dates of the Board of Trustees given to them at the last

meeting. Board of Trustees were in consensus to bring them forward for acceptance at the Regular Monthly Meeting in November.

Executive Director Kessler reminded the Board of the upcoming Special Call meeting to be held on November 14 at 5 p.m. at the Lost Valley Visitor Center.

**15.0 COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS & REPORTS**

15.1 Trustee Reports on Conferences & Meetings Attended
There were no Trustees reports or comments given.

16.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS II

No question or comments, there were no public present in-person or remotely.

17.0 ADJOURNMENT

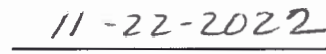
A motion was made by Vice President Dahm, seconded by Secretary Thomas, to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote gave the following results: Zimmerman-yes, Thomas-yes, Everard-yes, Dahm-yes, Fritz-yes, Gaytan-yes, and Cook-yes.

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Thomas, Secretary



Date