

**RESOLUTION #20-01**  
**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**  
**FOR DEDICATED SERVICE**

**Deb Chapman**

McHenry County Conservation District  
*Officers and Board of Trustees*  
*Unanimously Adopted on*  
*January 21, 2020*

**WHEREAS**, McHenry County Conservation District owns and manages over 25,600 acres of open space and 35 conservation areas; 59 miles of regional trails that provide access to more than 115 miles of an integrated trail network; acts to restore its lands to their ecological health; offers educational programs which encourage appreciation of the natural environment and a fundamental understanding of the environmental ethic; and develops its lands for the safe quiet enjoyment and interests of McHenry County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is supported in its efforts by many dedicated staff and volunteers, who engage in a variety of activities including protection of natural resources and the flora, fauna and people who share them, site and facility maintenance and improvement, natural area restoration, trail clearing and monitoring, wildlife monitoring and care, environmental, historical and cultural interpretation, educational outreach programs and many other endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, Deb Chapman began with the District January 24, 2000 as the Education Services Manager at the newly created Prairieview Education Center within the Education Services Department of the Conservation District; and

**WHEREAS**, Deb Chapman has coordinated the educators and docents supporting 10,744 programs and events for 560,320 program participants of all ages since 2002 when we began keeping records; and

**WHEREAS**, Deb Chapman brought a mission-based approach to the Education Services Department ensuring that programs remained consistent, relevant, reached a diversity of audiences and complemented other District initiatives, and

**WHEREAS**, Over the years she guided and supported staff initiatives to develop new and innovated ways to reach diverse audiences through art and nature programs, First Friday Concert Series, sip and paint classes, yoga, and recreation-based programming with an environmental twist, as well as the Great Outdoor Beer Trail; and

**WHEREAS**, Deb Chapman served as a key team member on the repurposing of the former lodge facility into the flagship Lost Valley Visitor Center for Glacial Park Conservation Area; and

**WHEREAS**, Deb Chapman standardized and professionalized the procedures for vetting participants, and oversaw 13 years of the popular, now retired, Trail of History event, continuing the rich tradition of presenting one of the most authentic and premiere reenactments in the state, when in its prime attracted 12,000 visitors over the course of a weekend; and

**WHEREAS**, When the District needed to secure additional revenue, Deb Chapman rose to the challenge of increasing programming revenue by at least 10% each year, and par for the course, overachieved and exceeded those goals by increasing revenue by 110% in five years, and

**WHEREAS**, Deb Chapman brought great leadership skills to staff meetings within her department and the Leadership Team by providing valuable insight, professional opinion germane to the topics, and assisting with reaching group consensus; and

**WHEREAS**, Deb Chapman managed more than 30 traveling exhibits for the Lost Valley and Prairieview Education Centers from contract, through set up and takedown, including several artist receptions; and

**WHEREAS,** Deb Chapman lead the team and championed the creation of the Passport to Lost Valley Adventure permanent exhibit from initial concept through funding and design and will come to fruition in 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** Deb Chapman created and nurtured many community partnerships including outreach to the Latino community, Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, and Visit McHenry County where she served multiple years as President; and

**WHEREAS, for the past 20 years, having obtained her dream job,** Deb Chapman remained steadfast in her belief of the Conservation District's mission, and gained immense satisfaction in providing the public with great opportunities to learn about and connect with nature; and

**WHEREAS,** Deb Chapman has decided to retire from her position effective January 31, 2020.

**LET IT BE RESOLVED:** That the Officers and Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District hereby express and convey their deep and sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to Deb Chapman for her continued dedication to the Mission of the District, and that this Resolution be incorporated into the official records of the District, and that Deb Chapman receive recognition through this resolution.

**IN WITNESS WHERE OF,** we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed the seal of the District, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vern Scacci, President

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Dave Brandt, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Henning, Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn Campbell, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Fritz, Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Cook, Trustee

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Linda Thomas, Trustee