

MCHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION #20-99

AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO PARTICIPATE IN AND TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL FOR THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY REGIONAL CONSERVATION SERVICE ENTITLED "IMPROVING OAK ECOSYSTEM HEALTH IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION"

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WHEREAS, the McHenry County Conservation District (hereinafter referred to as the "District"), is a conservation district organized and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois (70 ILCS 410); and

WHEREAS, the District is supportive of initiatives that promote the recognition, preservation and protection of natural resources in the region; and

WHEREAS, the District would provide in kind match along with additional regional partners including The Land Conservancy of McHenry County and the Lake County Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, the District would become eligible for funding to pay for up to 50% of the costs for purchasing conservation easements on private lands that are either forested or will be reforested under the program; and

WHEREAS, the in-kind match is for projects the District is currently doing, or planning to do, as part of yearly routine management and restoration efforts; and

WHEREAS, the district has determined that it is in the best interest of the public for all entities to cooperatively coordinate in oak ecosystem habitat reforestation; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the District that it is desirable and in the best interest of the District to execute the Letter of Support, and the President and Vice Secretary of the Board of Trustees are hereby authorized to execute this resolution and the Executive Director is authorized to execute said Letter and other necessary documents to execute the intent of this resolution.

WITNESS WHEREOF, this Resolution #20-99 has been executed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020, by the President and attested by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the District.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

  
JOHN HENNING  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

  
CAROLYN CAMPBELL  
SECRETARY, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



October 20, 2020

Shawn Graff  
American Bird Conservancy  
4249 Loudon Avenue  
The Plains, VA 20198

McHenry County Conservation District  
18410 US Highway 14  
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

Dear Mr. Graff,

On behalf of the McHenry County Conservation District, I am writing in support of American Bird Conservancy's (ABC) Regional Conservation Partnership Proposal to the National Resource Conservation Service entitled "*Improving Oak Ecosystem Health in the Great Lakes Region.*" This project will play an important role in restoring, enhancing, and managing globally imperiled oak ecosystems at a landscape scale to improve ecosystem health and biological diversity in four states. In addition, this project will provide vital wildlife habitat for multiple species of conservation need and concern such as the Cerulean Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Bell's Vireo, known to be indicator species for habitat function and health.

The District supports the implementation this project for its significant and many benefits for a suite of oak ecosystem wildlife, insect, and plant species and expects to be involved in the partnership as it unfolds. Over the five-year project period, the District would provide 50 acres of oak ecosystem system habitat reforestation efforts including oak savanna and open and closed oak woodlands types as in-kind match. These 50 acres would require 1000 hours of staff time. At \$52 /hour in salary and benefits, this would amount to \$52,000 of in-kind support.

In addition we will be using prescribed burning on approximately 500 acres of oak savanna and open/closed oak woodlands types over the next five years with an average cost of \$13,312 per year. This is based on a 256 hours per year at \$52 per hour for an eight person crew burning in oak ecosystem communities four days of each year. The total contribution for burn management is \$66,560.

The District's overall in kind contribution is envisioned to be \$118,560. The activities conducted with these funds are complimentary to the work proposed by ABC. We look forward to working with ABC and our many other partners to advance healthy forest management to benefit key wildlife species.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kessler  
Executive Director