1.0 CALL TO ORDER
The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by President Scacci on the evening of Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

2.0 INTRODUCTORY ROLL CALL
2.1 Roll Call
Trustees Present: Vern Scacci, President
Dave Brandt, Vice President
John Henning, Treasurer
Carolyn Campbell, Secretary
Bill Cook, Trustee
Patrick Fritz, Trustee
Linda Thomas, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: James D. Rock, Legal Counsel
Sara Yeger, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant

3.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION
At 5:02 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Fritz, seconded by Trustee Thomas, to go into Executive Session pursuant to Exception 2C1(Personnel) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote gave the following results: Fritz-yes, Cook-yes, Brandt-yes, Thomas-yes, Campbell-yes, Henning-yes, Scacci-yes.
Motion passed unanimously.

4.0 RECONVENE
The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was reconvened to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Scacci on the evening of Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

4.1 Roll Call
Trustees Present: Vern Scacci, President
Dave Brandt, Vice President
John Henning, Treasurer
Carolyn Campbell, Secretary
Bill Cook, Trustee
Patrick Fritz, Trustee
Linda Thomas, Trustee
Counsel & Staff Present: James D. Rock, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
John Kremer, Director of Operations & Public Safety
Andy Dylak, Director of Administration & Finance
Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources
Wendy Kummerer, Director of Marketing & Education
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant
Laura King, Chief of Police
Val Siler, Land Preservation Manager

5.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Scacci.

6.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS
President Scacci spoke fondly of Trustee Emeritus Kent Krautstrunk and asked for a minute of silence in honor of the former Trustee and Foundation Director.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS
7.1 Review of the January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda Items
Trustee Campbell asked about two invoices: Marengo Well and Pump - was this for sealing a well- which it was; and, asked what thermal seal packets were, to which the reply was for laminating signs related to the hunting program.
A question was asked about other uses of the Insurance fund besides paying PDRMA invoices. Director of Administration and Finance Dylak explained that the balance is used for loss control and background checks as the statutes are very specific as to what these funds can be used for.

Item 13.4: Cultural Assessment of McHenry County Conservation District - McGrath Consulting Group.
Vice President Brandt asked what this was. President Scacci responded that he at the October 2019 meeting during a discussion of types of 360 reviews that he had been asked by Trustee Cook to bring in someone to come in and explain the different types and their uses. He stated that he had reached out and Dr. Victoria McGrath had volunteered to come in. When asked how he found Dr. McGrath, President Scacci replied that he had reached out to a government contact and they had been recommended.
Vice President Brandt then asked about the other consultants and the report compiled by Human Resource Manager Heider. He then asked that a Board Summary be prepared before the meeting to summarize what would be presented.

Item 12.8: Grazing Lease Request
Director of Land Preservation and Natural Resource Collins explained that due to Mr. Fitzpatrick relinquishing his grazing lease, the staff recommendation is to continue to study the impact of grazing on the vegetation in cooperation with a new lessee. Terms of the lease will include data collection, etc.

Chief King was asked the difference between a Dedicated Detail which assigns an officer to a specific problem and to implement solutions; and, Patrol which is
going from site to site to attend to items as they occur and to proactively meet with site users.

7.2 **Strategic Discussion: Method of Selection of Trustees, Annual Budget Approval Process, and Legislative Changes to the Conservation District Act (70 ILCS 410/)**

Trustee Thomas asked for the presentation chart with Options 1 through 4 be shown on the screen. Executive Director Kessler then reviewed the various options previously presented.

President Scacci stated that his intention is to take the consensus back to the County Board Chairman once made.

Treasurer Henning suggested doing nothing until after the budget is approved and would like to keep the option to revisit at a later date.

Vice President Brandt was not firmly behind any specific option but disliked Option D - Converting to a Forest Preserve District.

Trustee Cook would like to do nothing in the near term until after the budget is passed but review again shortly thereafter.

The consensus was that this group has come to no decision and are continuing to discuss.

Executive Director Kessler reminded the Board that she would be meeting with the Illinois Association of Conservation Districts and asked if she could share information and solicit feedback.

Executive Director Kessler was asked by Treasurer Henning to talk to whomever is appropriate to gather more information.

8.0 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Kessler reminded everyone that Festival of the Sugar Maples is coming up in March. She also reminded everyone that the Congress is on February 8th and encouraged attendees to check out the renovations in the upper A wing where discussions will be held. She thanked all the staff for their work on the FY 2021 Tentative Budget especially Director of Administration and Finance Dylak.

Executive Director Kessler shared that she is still trying to get a meeting scheduled with the Village of Ringwood on the flooding issues. It has been difficult to find a date and time that is conducive to both groups.

Executive Director Kessler reminded the Trustees to let staff know if they will be attending the Retirement Party for Education Services Manager Chapman at the end of the month.

9.0 **OTHER**

President Scacci stated that County Board Member Reinert had contacted him and asked to set up a meeting for the following Monday on the Policing issue. Mr. Reinert will also be asking for a representative of the Sheriff's office to attend. Mr. Reinert will then contact the Chairman of the County Board.

President Scacci requested a change to send the FY 2021 Tentative Budget to the Chairman and it was further clarified that at the Finance & Administration Committee Meeting earlier this same week that it had been changed to: County Board Chairman, County Administrator, and County Board Liaison. President Scacci will hand deliver it to the County Board Chairman.

President Scacci reminded the board members that at the January 14, 2020 committee meeting that the consensus was to return funding to the Foundation for two
projects that will not be completed. He shared that he had heard from at least one Director that they would consider outsourcing the work to complete the project. Treasurer Henning had offered to build one of the projects if there were schematics for what was needed. Director of Operations and Public Safety Kremer stated that the turtle enclosure did not have plans but had ideas but that he thought there were some aviary pictures and would acquire them from the Facilities Maintenance Manager Zientko. Director Dreher had requested that projects have full plans submitted so they can see if they can hire an outside contractor. It was requested that Wildlife Resource Center Manager Denham put together what they need and acquire a cost estimate. Director of Marketing and Education Kummerer was to send out the spreadsheet to the current Trustees on the projects that have been completed over time through the Foundation.

The consensus still remains to refund back to the Foundation the funds for these two projects.

Executive Director Kessler stated that the acreage numbers in the FY 2021 Tentative Budget document have been standardized to September 30, 2019 and the terms used will be consistent.

10.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS II
There were no public comments.

11.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION II
At 8:12 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Fritz, seconded by Trustee Cook, to go into Executive Session pursuant to Exception 2C5 (Real Estate) and 2C6 (Lease of Real Estate) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote gave the following results: Henning-yes, Fritz-yes, Campbell-yes, Cook-yes, Thomas-yes, Brandt-yes, Scacci-yes. Motion passed unanimously.

12.0 RECONVENE
The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was reconvened to order at 9:43 p.m. by President Scacci on the evening of Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

12.1 Roll Call
Trustees Present: Vern Scacci, President
Dave Brandt, Vice President
John Henning, Treasurer
Carolyn Campbell, Secretary
Bill Cook, Trustee
Patrick Fritz, Trustee
Linda Thomas, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: James D. Rock, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant
Val Siler, Land Preservation Manager
13.0 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Fritz, seconded by Treasurer Henning, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote resulted in all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Campbell, Secretary

Date

2-25-2020