1.0 CALL TO ORDER
The scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by President Scacci on the evening of Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
President Scacci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 INTRODUCTORY ROLL CALL
3.1 Roll Call
Trustees Present: Vernon Scacci, President
Dave Brandt, Vice President
Carolyn Campbell, Secretary
Patrick Fritz, Trustee
Bill Cook, Trustee
Linda Thomas, Trustee

Trustees Absent: John Henning, Treasurer

Counsel & Staff Present: Scott A. Puma, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
Ed Collins, Director Land Preservation & Natural Resources
Andy Dylak, Director Administration & Finance
John Kremer, Director Operations & Public Safety
Wendy Kummerer, Director Marketing & Education
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant
Laura King, Police Chief
Shawna Flavell, Director of Development/Executive Director
McHenry County Conservation Foundation
Deb Chapman, Education Services Manager
Sara Denham, Wildlife Resource Center Manager
Mary Kozub, Education Outreach Coordinator
Ty Culver, Police Sergeant
Ben Wolfe, Police Sergeant
Chris Murison, Police Officer
Randi Rewoldt, Information Desk Specialist

Others Present: Mr. & Mrs. Gorski and friends

4.0 CONSERVATION ETHIC
Trustee Cook read Goal #6 and Goal #3 aloud.
5.0 CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE
Secretary Campbell read the Conservation Stewardship Pledge introductory paragraph and Pledge No. 12 aloud.

6.0 ADOPT THE AGENDA
A motion was made by Vice President Brandt to remove item 13.4 from the agenda. Motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Fritz, to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 SPECIAL RECOGNITION PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
7.1 Resolution #20-01 Recognizing the Retirement of Education Services Manager Deb Chapman
President Scacci read aloud Resolution #20-01 recognizing the contributions of Education Services Manager Chapman to the District.
Education Services Manager Deb Chapman thanked Director of Operations and Public Safety Kremer for taking the chance and hiring her and thanked her staff for their amazing work. She thanked the rest of the staff for the support and camaraderie.
A motion was made by Secretary Campbell, seconded by Trustee Thomas, to adopt Resolution #20-01 recognizing the retirement of Education Services Manager Deb Chapman as presented. A voice vote resulted in all ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

7.2 Resolution #20-02 Recognizing a McHenry County Citizen for Heroism
President Scacci asked those involved in a critical incident from September 24, 2019 to come to the front of the room. He then read Resolution #20-02 Recognizing Delores Gorski for coming to the aid of another citizen and thanked her for her heroism to a standing ovation.
A motion was made by Vice President Brandt, seconded by Secretary Campbell, to adopt Resolution #20-02 Recognizing Delores Gorski for heroism as presented. A voice vote resulted in all ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

8.0 TRUSTEES REPORT
Secretary Campbell stated that the Volunteer Fair had gone very well and had high energy with over 60 attending and 42 signing up for more information. She also said she had heard rave reviews of Volunteer Coordinator Bero from one of the site stewards.
Vice President Brandt stated that he had received a text from his daughter that his grandkids had spent a day at Prairieview exploring the activities overseen by Education Administrative Assistant Greninger.

9.0 COUNTY BOARD LIAISON REPORT
County Board Liaison Nowak was not present because the County Board was holding a meeting at the same time as this meeting.
10.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT
President Scacci reported that he had met with County Board Member Reinert, Trustee Cook, Executive Director Kessler, Director of Operations and Public Safety Kremer, and Police Chief King which he stated went very well. Trustee Cook stated that he thought County Board Member Reinert was listening and the dialog was beneficial. The topic was policing and other budget highlights.

11.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.

12.0 BOARD BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA
12.1 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
  12.1a December 19, 2019 - Public Session
  12.1e November 21, 2019 - Executive Session
12.2 Acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report for December 31, 2019 as presented.
12.3 Acceptance of Investment Report for 3rd Quarter ending December 31, 2019 as presented.
12.4 Resolution #20-03 authorizing the Executive Director to execute and submit an Illinois Bicycle Grant Program Application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for Prairie Trail renovations and stormwater management improvements in Ringwood, IL.
12.5 Resolution #20-04 authorizing the Executive Director to execute and submit an Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) application for linking the east and west segments of the Hebron Trail near Lange Road in rural Hebron Township.
12.6 Ordinance #20-970 authorizing the Transfer of Funds between Budget Line Items GL 01-15-730 to GL 01-15-746 in the General Fund in the amount of $8,100.
12.7 Authorization to prepare specifications and letting of bids for the roadway resurfacing and replacement of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) at Marengo Ridge Conservation Area, Marengo, IL (BID #0120.09.01).
12.8 Authorization to prepare and solicit Request for Proposals to develop a long-term Conservation Grazing lease that will incorporate ongoing research on the ability of rotational grazing to provide high-quality habitat for grassland bird species at the Pleasant Valley Conservation Area (RFP #0120.08.01).
12.9 Authorization to prepare specifications and letting of bids to secure the leasing of the Kayser Parcel (36.1 +/- acres) located at the Brookdale Conservation Areas, Sass Parcel (19.3 +/- acres) located at the Glacial Park Conservation Area and the Taylor Parcel (20.3 +/- acres) located at the Rush Creek Conservation Area (BID #0120.08.03).
12.10 Authorization to prepare specifications and letting of bids for a Joint Grassland Venture Lease on two separate parcels - RCU-1 (16.2 +/- Acres) and RCU-3 (26 +/- acres) and at the Rush Creek Conservation Area (BID #0120.08.02).

President Scacci asked if there were items to be pulled from the Board Business-Consent agenda for further discussion. There were no items pulled.

Secretary Campbell then read the Board Business-Consent Agenda motions aloud.
A motion was made by Secretary Campbell, seconded by Trustee Cook, to approve Board Business-Consent agenda items 12.1 through 12.10 as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Campbell-yes, Thomas-yes, Cook-yes, Brandt-yes, Fritz-yes, Scacci-yes.
Motion passed unanimously.

13.0 NEW & UNFINISHED BOARD BUSINESS

13.1 Approval of Bills Payable for the Month of November 2019
13.1a Treasurer’s Internal Audit
Director of Administration and Finance Dylak had provided the requested information from the previous meeting in writing which was shared with the Board of Trustees in advance. All items were in compliance with the purchasing policy and procedures.
It was requested that the following documents be pulled for review:
K6293 Kimball Midwest - $87.12; and, S8783 Salsa Labs - $5.24.

13.1b Consideration to approve the payment to Conserve FS as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Report for the period ending December 31, 2019.
The motion was not moved forward.

13.1c Consideration to approve the payment of the bills as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending reports for the month ending December 31, 2019.
A motion was made by Vice President Brandt, seconded by Secretary Campbell to approve the payment of bills as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending reports for the month ending December 31, 2019. A roll call vote gave the following results: Cook-yes, Brandt-yes, Thomas-yes, Fritz-yes, Campbell-yes, Scacci-yes.
Motion passed unanimously.

13.2 Consideration of Ordinance #20-971 Tentative Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2020, and Ending March 31, 2021
A motion was made and read aloud by Trustee Cook, seconded by Secretary Campbell, to Pass Ordinance #20-971 Tentative Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2020, and Ending March 31, 2021 as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Fritz-no, Cook-yes, Brandt-yes, Thomas-no, Campbell-yes, Scacci-yes.
Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 2.

13.3 Consideration of Resolution #20-05 - Bid Authorization and Award: Electrical Services at 15 District Sites for One-year effective June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021 (BID #0120.15.01)
A motion was made by Vice President Brandt, seconded by Secretary Campbell, to adopt Resolution #20-05 Authorizing the Execution of a Contract between the McHenry County Conservation District and AEP Energy, Inc. of Columbus, OH, the lowest qualified bidder, for the Purchase and Delivery of Electrical Services to 15 District sites through May 31, 2021 at a fixed price of
$0.05642 Per Kilowatt Hour as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Brandt-yes, Campbell-yes, Cook-yes, Fritz-yes, Thomas-yes, Scacci-yes.
Motion passed unanimously.

13.4 Culture Assessment of McHenry County Conservation District
McGrath Consulting Group, Inc.
Dr. Victoria McGrath furnished the background history of McGrath Consulting Group as well as her own qualifications. She stated that the goal of her proposal is to determine what the leadership of the District is doing; what’s working and what needs to be improved upon and to go from good to great. She would determine if a problem exists and talk about what to do and how to handle any issues. She stated she had spoken to President Scacci several times.

Trustee Cook asked if the study was done through interviews to which Dr. McGrath stated that several methods could be used and that it would probably start with interviews of the Trustees.

A motion was made by Trustee Cook to accept the proposal from McGrath Consulting Group, Inc. of Ringwood, IL for a Phase I study. The motion died for lack of a second.

There were comments about the approach used to contact Dr. McGrath and that no other options had been presented and that there was not enough information on the need to move forward at this time. A few thought they were going to hear about the various types of evaluations and their purposes before a request for proposals was produced. There had also been no board summary or information provided in advance of this meeting on which the Board members could form an opinion or make a decision. President Scacci had provided information to be included in the Board folders late this same afternoon.

Dr. McGrath stated that their firm had been contacted by District staff about the costs of 360 evaluations which is a whole different process and which is very time consuming and costly. She recommended starting with a soft approach to determine if there were just rumblings of issues about supervisors not being fair or if supervisors are doing their jobs and employees are just not happy.

A motion was then made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Thomas, to put this item on the agenda for February 25, 2020.

A voice vote resulted in the motion passing by a vote of 5 to 1.

14.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
14.1 Legislative Update - Verbal Update
Executive Director Kessler reported that the Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts were moving forward with a recommendation to add Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts to the legislation allowing for design/ construction in a single bid to reduce the time needed to complete projects especially those related to grants. The group also was recommending an amendment to filed legislation asking to extend the time period for grant project completion before grant funding has to be returned to the funding source from two years to three years. This delay would help in circumstances where uncontrollable delays such as weather events would prevent a project being completed on the planned timeline.

14.2 Project Update: ADA Improvements
14.3 Quarterly Dashboard - FY 2020 - QTR 3
14.4 Strategic Plan Update - Year 5 - QTR 3
14.5 In the News - FY 2020 - QTR 3
14.6 Project Status Report - FY 2020 - QTR 3
14.7 McHenry County Conservation Foundation Update FY 2020 - QTR 3

All other reports were accepted as presented.

15.0 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS & REPORTS

15.1 Trustee Reports on Conferences & Meetings Attended

15.1a Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP)
   Secretary Campbell reported she is now Secretary of the organization, Jeff Mengler is the President, and Trustee Emeritus Nancy Williamson is Vice President. The group will continue their science-based discussions. Illinois Audubon Society Executive Director Jim Herkert recently gave a presentation on the state of birds in Illinois. She also announced that there will be a presentation on Lincoln Pond in Geneva at the next meeting. The One Earth Film Festival is coming up.

15.1b WRAP (Water Resources Action Plan)
   Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources Collins reported that Natural Resource Manager Woodson attended in his place and Laura Lurkins from the Illinois Farm Bureau had spoken on the Bioreactor grant which the District will be implementing on a parcel in the Queen Anne Macrosite. The Water Resource Action Plan is in draft form and is up for review. The District will review after most of the other comments are in. Trustees Cook, Henning and Campbell were also present at the meeting.

15.1c Chicago Wilderness
   Executive Director Kessler reported that the newly expanded Executive Council had met the previous week. The next meeting will be in April. The Chicago Wilderness Conservation Congress is April 2nd. Executive Director Kessler reported that the volunteer standardization training for “training the trainer” has begun and is being spearheaded by Volunteer Coordinator Bero.

15.1d McHenry County Farm Bureau
   Trustee Fritz reported that Director of Land Preservation and Natural Resources Collins stole his thunder on the bioreactor. Trustee Fritz also stated that there are concerns about trees falling into streams and blocking water.

15.1e IACFPD/IAPD/NRPA
   Executive Director Kessler reported that the next meeting of the IAPD and IACFPD was scheduled for later this same week.

15.1f McHenry County Conservation Foundation
   Trustee Thomas reported that the Foundation had put on a breakfast for District staff, and are starting preparations for Pedal, Paddle, Saddle. Executive Director Flavell attended a cookie exchange and the Bull Valley Flower Club. The next meeting was later in this same week.
15.1g McHenry County Council of Governments
President Scacci announced that no one had attended the last meeting and that Secretary Campbell would be attending the meeting the following evening.

15.1h Green Drinks Crystal Lake
Green Drinks was not held in January due it falling on a holiday.

15.1i Conservation Congress 2020
Vice President Brandt announced that the group was working on the final details for the event.

15.1j MCCG Shared Investment Study & Algonquin/Cary Subarea Plan Steering Committee
Executive Director Kessler reported that there was nothing new with the Shared Investment Study however the Algonquin/Cary Subarea group was meeting the following week to review the results.

15.1k MAPP
Director of Operations and Public Safety Kremer reported the group had met earlier this date at Lost Valley Visitor Center and that the McHenry County Division of Transportation had been awarded a grant to complete a county wide bicycle/pedestrian trail plan to look for critical links and that the District will most likely be heavily involved in the process.

15.1l Other Outreach Contacts
Vice President Brandt asked about the timing of the RTP grant application for the rehabilitation of the Prairie Trail between McCullom Lake and Route 120 and who had come up with the idea to apply. All credit was given to Planning Manager Peters and Landscape Architect Rummel.

Director of Operations and Public Safety Kremer explained that he had attended many meetings and commiserated with others the frustration of trying to maintain newer sites without additional funding and that now many granters are including rehabilitation grant awards and it might be because they heard the frustration from all of the agencies.

Executive Director Kessler announced that the final draft survey questions had been sent to the Board members and that they would be moving forward with the survey the following day.

Executive Director Kessler asked if any Board members wanted to attend the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County’s 50th Anniversary Dinner on March 8th. Vice President Brandt asked to attend.

President Scacci reiterated that copies of the FY 2021 Tentative Budget would be delivered to Chairman Franks, Administrator Austin, and County Board Liaison Nowak. He will offer to set up a meeting if there are any questions from the Administrative offices.

President Scacci thanked the Board and Executive Leadership Team for their patience with holding meetings several times a month.

16.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS II
There were no additional comments.
17.0 ADJOURN

A motion was made by Trustee Fritz, seconded by Trustee Thomas, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote resulted in all ayes. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. January 21, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Campbell, Secretary

Date 2-25-2020