

# FILE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
McHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Minutes of January 15, 2009

## 1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Hankins on the evening of January 15, 2009, at the Brookdale Administrative Office, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois.

## 2.0 ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Kimberly Hankins, President  
David LaGue, Vice President  
John Green, Treasurer  
Nancy Williamson, Secretary  
Martha Carver, Trustee  
Kevin Ivers, Trustee  
Tom O'Donnell, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: Pete Merkel, County Board Liaison  
Jeanne Goshgarian, Legal Counsel  
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director  
John Kremer, Director of Operations  
Andy Dylak, Director of Finance  
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant  
Ed Collins, Natural Resource Manager  
Val Siler, Land Preservation Manager

Others Present: Steve Byers, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission  
Beth White, Trust for Public Lands  
Lenore Byer-Clow, Openlands

## 3.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION I

*A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Green, to go into Executive Session pursuant to Exception 2C1 (Personnel), 2C5 (Real Estate), and 2C6 (Sale/Lease of Real Estate) of the Open Meetings Act at 6:10 p.m. A roll call gave the following results: Carver-yes, Williamson-yes, Ivers-yes, LaGue-yes, O'Donnell-yes, Green-yes, Hankins-yes.*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

## 4.0 RECONVENE

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was reconvened to order at 7:37 p.m. by President Hankins on the evening of January 15, 2009, at the Brookdale Administrative Office, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois.

## ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Kimberly Hankins, President  
David LaGue, Vice President  
John Green, Treasurer  
Nancy Williamson, Secretary  
Martha Carver, Trustee  
Kevin Ivers, Trustee  
Tom O'Donnell, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: Pete Merkel, County Board Liaison  
Jeanne Goshgarian, Legal Counsel  
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director  
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant  
John Kremer, Director of Operations  
Andy Dylak, Director of Finance  
Ed Collins, Natural Resource Manager  
Val Siler, Land Preservation Manager  
Jeff Diedrick, Chief of Police  
Sara Denham, Wildlife Resource Center Manager  
Amy Peters, Planning & Development Manager  
Wendy Kummerer, Communications Manager  
Deb Chapman, Educational Services Manager

Others Present: Steve Byers, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission  
Lisa Haderlein, The Land Conservancy of McHenry  
County

## 5.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## 6.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

## 7.0 PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

### 7.1 The Land Conservancy of McHenry County

Lisa Haderlein introduced herself and how the District and Land Conservancy have been working together. She reviewed the results of their strategic plan that expired in 2008 with three full-time staff people and a limited budget that is funded by members, private foundations and endowments. She thanked the District for being a partner with them.

### 7.2 Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

Steve Byers reported on the efforts of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory and its documentation of the loss of natural areas in Illinois. He reviewed the protection afforded by Illinois Nature Preserve status which is the highest level of protection in the State of Illinois. He recommended that the District and

Board consider submitting additional District acreage for this protection and that other acreage may qualify for Land & Water Reserve status. He also highlighted the support provided to the District for *Phragmites* control.

## 8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 8.1 Trustee Reports on Conferences & Meetings Attended

#### 8.1a Fox River Ecosystem and Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnerships

Trustee Williamson reported that KREP is continuing to work with Boone County on storm water management plans and is setting up a meeting in DeKalb. The KREP group will be holding public meetings on the watershed plans on March 3, 2009.

The FREP group will be meeting in March, also.

#### 8.1b Imagine McHenry County

Trustee Ivers reported that the group is hosting a community forum for municipalities and staff on housing to create a vision of the community can be proactive to housing crisis issues in McHenry County.

#### 8.1c Agricultural Conservation Easement and Farmland Protection Commission

Trustee LaGue reported that he had not been able to attend the December meeting but would have a report after the next meeting.

#### 8.1d Chicago Wilderness

Trustee Ivers reported on a meeting of faith based groups coming up and that they would be focusing on Leave No Child Inside.

#### 8.1e IACD/IACFPD/IAPD

Trustee Carver reported that the IACD meeting had been cancelled and rescheduled. She also invited the board to the Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup> evening function of the IACD staff. Trustee Carver will be attending the IACFPD meeting on Friday January 30, 2009.

#### 8.1f McHenry County Conservation Foundation

Trustee Williamson reported that the Foundation is discussing the support of a staff person to raise funds working with the District.

#### 8.1g Other

### 8.2 Finance Committee

#### 8.2a Verbal report of meeting held on January 12, 2009

Treasurer Green reported that the group had discussed the Professional Services agreement and other regular items, all of which are on the agenda with a recommendation for approval.

### 8.3 Outreach & Advocacy Committee

#### 8.3a Verbal report of meeting held on January 15, 2009

President Hankins reported that the group was looking forward to the meeting with the Citizen's Advisory Committee members on January 22, 2009 and to share with them the progress on the Adaptive Re-Use of the Lodge building.

## 9.0 COUNTY BOARD LIAISON REPORT

County Board Liaison Merkel reported that the County had reorganized the standing committees. Several categories previously covered by the Planning & Development Committee are now under the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee which will be meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month. The District now reports to this committee. Mr. Merkel will continue to be our Liaison on this committee.

## 10.0 BOARD BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA

- 10.1 Approval of Minutes
  - 10.1a December 18, 2008
- 10.2 Receive & Place in Confidential File Closed Session Minutes
  - 10.2a November 20, 2008
- 10.3 Board Committee Minutes to be Received and Placed on File
  - 10.3a Finance Committee of December 18, 2008
  - 10.3b Outreach & Advocacy of December 18, 2008
- 10.4 Treasurer's Report
- 10.5 Staff Monthly Report for December
- 10.6 Motion to award a contract for the construction of a concrete block unisex restroom at Prospect Street in Marengo, from Hargrove Builders, Inc. of South Elgin, the lowest qualified bidder, for a cost not to exceed \$29,300.
- 10.7 Motion to approve the destruction of listed verbatim recordings of Executive Session meetings between January 2007 and June 2007 in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.
- 10.8 Motion to enter into an agreement with Sikich, LLP of Aurora, IL to serve as the District's independent auditors and perform audit service for the fiscal years ending March 31- 2009, 2010 and 2011.
- 10.9 Motion to adopt Resolution #09-01 supporting Chicago Wilderness' "Leave No Child Inside" initiative - Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.
- 10.10 Motion to authorize the submittal of a grant application to the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) for the proposed geothermal system as part of the Adaptive Re-Use of the Lodge Facility at Glacial Park.

Trustee Ivers requested that item 10.8 be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

*A motion was made by Trustee Carver, seconded by Trustee Green, to approve Board Business Consent Agenda items 10.1 through 10.7, 10.9 and 10.10 as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: LaGue-yes, Ivers-yes, Williamson-yes, Green-yes, Carver-yes, O'Donnell-yes, Hankins-yes. Motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee Williamson, to approve Board Business Consent Agenda item 10.8 as presented.*

Trustee Ivers asked if there were any laws regarding how often the District needs to seek RFQ or SOQs on auditors. Director of Finance Dylak reported that the Government Finance Officers Association recommends a review approximately every five years but that it is not a requirement. We have used Sikich, LLC for three years now and there were recommended changes between the previous auditor and this auditor that have just been rectified through the current audits. He recommended contracting with Sikich, LLC on an annual basis and they have currently asked for a 4% increase in fees for the first two years of a three year quotation.

A roll call vote gave the following results: Carver-yes, Williamson-yes, Ivers-yes, LaGue-yes, O'Donnell-yes, Green-yes, Hankins-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **11.0 OTHER BOARD BUSINESS**

### **11.1 Approval of Bills Payable for the Month of December 2008**

*A motion was made by Trustee Carver, seconded by Trustee Ivers, to approve the payment of bills, as indicated on the Submission of Bills Pending Report for the month ending 12/31/2008 as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Ivers-yes, Green-yes, LaGue-recused, Carver-yes, O'Donnell-yes, Williamson-recused, Hankins-yes.*

Motion passed 5 to 0 with 2 recusals by Trustee LaGue and Trustee Williamson.

### **11.2 McHenry County Conservation Foundation - Board of Directors Appointment**

Executive Director Kessler spoke about the Foundation cultivating new Directors that would add value.

*A motion was made by Trustee Ivers, seconded by Trustee Carver to approve the re-appointment of Nancy Williamson and Cindi Jablonski to the McHenry County Conservation Foundation (MCCF) Board for a three-year term expiring on January 31, 2012 as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Williamson-yes, O'Donnell-yes, Carver-yes, Ivers-yes, Green-yes, LaGue-yes, Hankins-yes.*

Motion passed unanimously.

### **11.3 Status Report - Adaptive Re-Use of the Lodge at Glacial Park**

Executive Director Kessler stated that staff is in receipt of the Design Documents from Williams Architects and Associates and they are now in the

hands of Featherstone, Inc for the next step. We hope to have better price estimations for February. The design open house is scheduled for January 26, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Brookdale. The open house was advertised in the newspaper and was also in the Department of Natural Resources newsletter. Executive Director Kessler also reported that the Staff Leadership Team was recommending calling the new center Lost Valley Visitor Center and will be taking this to the Citizen's Advisory Committees the following Thursday.

#### 11.4 Change Orders

There were no change orders for review.

### 12.0 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Hankins reminded the Board members that they had received many invitations to upcoming events and encouraged them to attend as many as possible.

### 13.0 **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**

There were no items to report at this time.

### 14.0 **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### 14.1 Strategic Plan FY 2009 - Third Quarter Status Report

Executive Director Kessler briefly summarized the Third Quarter Status Report and asked if there were any questions. Trustee Carver commented that it was impressive.

#### 14.2 CMAQ Grant

Director of Operations Kremer stated that the grant opportunity was due at the end of the month. The grant is for 80/20 match and is looking for on the ground projects. Baxter & Woodman will write the grant for the Crystal Lake to Woodstock Trail from the college east to Oak Street and three-quarters of the way to Walkup Ave. There was discussion about the priority of grant applications in the grand scheme of projects. The consensus was to proceed with the application work and to ratify the submittal at the February meeting.

#### 14.3 Illinois Nature Preserves

Executive Director Kessler requested permission to start the preliminary work of dedicating the H.U.M. Prairie property as an Illinois Nature Preserve. The consensus was to proceed and to keep Alden Sedge Meadow on the list for potential dedication.

#### 14.4 Meeting Date Change

Executive Director Kessler asked the board about changing the March 19, 2009 regular board meeting to March 26, 2009 since President Hankins, Trustees Carver and Williamson and Executive Director Kessler will all be in

Washington D.C. at the Legislative Conference. The consensus was to change the date of the meeting to March 26, 2009.

The Communications staff was complimented on the new Volunteer Newsletter that provided a lot of information quickly.

## 15.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION II

*A motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Exception 2C1 (Personnel), 2C5 (Real Estate), and 2C6 (Sale/Lease Real Estate) of the Open Meetings Act was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee LaGue at 8:45 p.m. A roll call vote gave the following results: Green-yes, Carver-yes, O'Donnell-yes, Williamson-yes, LaGue-yes, Ivers-yes, Hankins-yes*  
Motion passed unanimously.

## 16.0 RECONVENE II

The regular session meeting was reconvened at 10:03 p.m. on the evening of January 15, 2009 by President Hankins.

## ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Kimberly Hankins, President  
David LaGue, Vice President  
John Green, Treasurer  
Nancy Williamson, Secretary  
Martha Carver, Trustee  
Kevin Ivers, Trustee  
Tom O'Donnell, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: Pete Merkel, County Board Liaison  
Jeanne Goshgarian, Legal Counsel  
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director  
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant

## 17.0 ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

17.1 Motion to pass Ordinance #09-762 Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property Commonly Known as the Martin Parcel

*A motion was made by Trustee Ivers, seconded by Trustee LaGue, to pass Ordinance #09-762 authorizing the purchase and execution of documents for Real Property commonly known as the Martin Parcel as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Ivers-yes, Green-yes, LaGue-yes, Carver-yes, O'Donnell-yes, Williamson-yes, Hankins-yes.*

Motion passed unanimously.

17.2 Motion to pass Ordinance #09-764 Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property Commonly Known as the Fedyniak Parcel

*A motion was made by Trustee Carver, seconded by Trustee Green, to pass Ordinance #09-764 authorizing the purchase and execution of documents*

for Real Property commonly known as the Fedyniak Parcel as presented. A roll call vote gave the following results: Williamson-yes, O'Donnell-yes, Carver-yes, Ivers-yes, Green-yes, LaGue-yes, Hankins-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 18.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION III

A motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Exception 2C5 (Real Estate) the Open Meetings Act was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Ivers at 10:06 p.m. A roll call vote gave the following results: Williamson-yes, O'Donnell-yes, Carver-yes, Ivers-yes, Green-yes, LaGue-yes, Hankins-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 19.0 RECONVENE III

The regular session meeting was reconvened at 10:25 p.m. on the evening of January 15, 2009 by President Hankins.

#### ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Kimberly Hankins, President  
David LaGue, Vice President  
John Green, Treasurer  
Nancy Williamson, Secretary  
Martha Carver, Trustee  
Kevin Ivers, Trustee  
Tom O'Donnell, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: Pete Merkel, County Board Liaison  
Jeanne Goshgarian, Legal Counsel  
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director  
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant

#### 20.0 ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

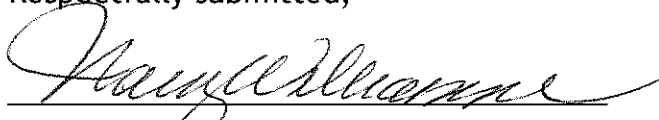
There was no action on Executive Session at this time.

#### 21.0 ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee LaGue, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m. January 15, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Williamson, Secretary

Date: 2/19/09