

FILE

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
McHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Minutes of October 21, 2009**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Special Call meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the McHenry County Conservation District was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Secretary Ivers on the evening of October 21, 2009, at the Brookdale Administrative Office, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Kevin Ivers, Secretary
Martha Carver, Trustee
Bonnie Leahy, Trustee
Matthew Ewertowski, Trustee

Committee Members Present:

Ed Laumbacher
Mike Salkas
Tom Paulsen
Bob Paine
Bill Howenstine
Jeff Varda
Dick Arsenau

Committee Members Absent:

Larry Lane
Barbara Anderson
Harold Abramson
Bill Clow
Bill Kreznor
Fred Durrenberg
Susan Begley
Don Giese
David Gervais
Dan Wilson
George Mann
Adrienne Burman
John Engebretson
Harold Rail

Staff Present: Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

4.0 YEAR IN REVIEW

4.1 Site Openings

Secretary Ivers summarized the site openings that have occurred since the group last met including Stone Mill Trail, the trail between MCC and Oak Street (yet to be named), and the re-opening of the H.U.M. Trail near Marengo.

Secretary Ivers then covered the site currently under construction including Kishwaukee Headwaters Conservation Area, Nippersink Canoe Base improvements and the Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park. He stated that the Lake in the Hills Fen and High Point Conservation Areas will be starting construction yet this fall.

4.2 Master Plans

Secretary Ivers reported that the draft master plans for Boone Creek Conservation Area and Dufield Pond Conservation Area were being presented to the Board for review on October 22, 2009 and would come back on November 16, 2009 for approval. Comments by the committee members are appreciated and the draft plans will be posted on the MCCDistrict.org website on October 26, 2009 for review.

4.3 Education

Secretary Ivers commented on the number of annual visitors to the District sites, the success of the ERCP program through the Research Field Station, and the upcoming Bioneers Conference on November 7, 2009 at McHenry County College.

4.4 Restoration

Secretary Ivers reviewed the acres currently managed by the District and the need for more stewards for restoration. He also commented on the Nippersink Creek Water Trail after recently attending the Northeastern Illinois Water Trail Summit.

4.5 Land Acquisition

Secretary Ivers reported on recent land acquisitions using the 2007 Bond Funds and the approximate amount of funds left. There was discussion about how land is valued and why the District is sometime forced to buy land or buildings in order to get the higher natural resource intensive portions and wetlands.

4.6 Other

Secretary Ivers announced that Executive Director Kessler has been elected President of the National Recreation and Parks Association which is bringing recognition to the District in many ways.

Secretary Ivers also explained the outreach to municipalities being fostered by the Board.

5.0 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.1 New Structure - Citizen Advisory Committee

Secretary Ivers discussed the change to the single committee structure and the intent to use all of the Advisory Committee Members collectively for advice and advocacy. The District will be providing additional timely information and facts on issues.

5.2 New Task Force - Wind Energy

Trustee Carver explained the proactive approach to researching wind energy production and use on District property. She stated that at one point, the use of District property for alternative energy production had been stated in an early draft of the McHenry County Regional Planning Commissions' 2030 Plan. District staff will provide existing studies they may have in house and the task force is charged with seeking out additional factual research as well as providing individual comments and opinions but will not be asked to provide a consensus or recommendation for action. Several Committee members asked questions or provided information sources. Tom Paulsen, Bill Howenstine, Bob Paine, Harold Abramson and Jeff Varda volunteered to be on the task force and more individuals are invited to participate.

5.3 Advocacy Efforts - Advisory Alerts

Trustee Ewertowski explained that Advisory Alerts would be sent out periodically providing information and facts that the Board or staff believe would be beneficial for the Committee Members to have to respond as advocates on behalf of the District. Citizen Advisory Committee Members were encouraged to provide their email addresses to use for this contact and to watch for high priority emails in the future.

5.4 Feedback

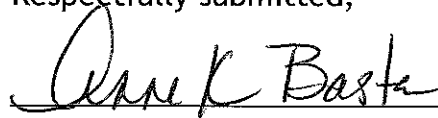
There were several comments made about participation in the Master Planning process and need for the site visitations to be later in the day. There was also a question about participating in the Master Planning Process even if they are not able to attend the site visit. An area on the quarterly newsletter will be set aside for upcoming master plan meeting dates. Trustee Leahy volunteered to take members out to visit sites.

18.0 ADJOURN

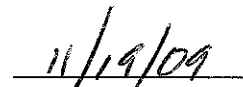
There being no further business to come before the Committee, *a motion was made by Dick Aresenau, seconded by Trustee Ewertowski, that the meeting be adjourned.*

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. October 21, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,



Anne Basten
Executive Assistant



Date