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MCHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2020

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Semel called the December 8, 2020 meeting of the McHenry County Conservation Foundation to order at 6:32pm under the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation Executive Order 2020-07 in response to COVID-19 and PA 101-0640 which suspends a public body physically present in a public space and limiting remote participation under the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2 & 120/7). The meeting was available for public access through the same logon and meeting code as the Directors. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Semel stated that pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act, that he as President of the McHenry County Conservation Foundation had determined that an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent at this time because of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and Governor Pritzker's related disaster declaration. He further determined that the physical presence of an employee or member of the public body at the regular meeting location was not feasible due to the disaster described in the Governor's declaration. The meeting was recorded and posted on YouTube with an accessible link the following morning at [www.mchenryconservation.org](http://www.mchenryconservation.org).

2.0 INTRODUCTORY ROLL CALL

2.1 Roll Call

Brad Semel, President (Remote)  
Kevin Ivers, Vice-President (Remote)  
Martie Gorman, Director (Remote)  
Dennis Dreher, Director (Remote)  
Ray Eisbrener, Secretary (Remote)  
Kim Becker, Treasurer (Remote)  
Pamela Althoff, Director (Remote)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawna Flavell, Executive Director of McHenry County Conservation Foundation (Remote)  
Yvonne Semel, Administrator (Remote)  
Elizabeth Kessler, Advisor, Executive Director of McHenry County Conservation District (Remote)  
Nancy Gonsiorek, CPA (Remote)  
Linda Thomas, Liaison, McHenry County Conservation District (Remote)  
Laura King, Chief of Police, McHenry County Conservation District (Remote)

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

2.2 Director Althoff made a motion to allow the Board of Directors of the McHenry County Conservation Foundation to attend remotely through electronic participation. The basis for missing the meeting via electronic conference call is per the State of Illinois Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation - Executive Order 2020-07 & 2020-18 suspending requirements that members of the public body must be physically present. Treasurer Becker seconded the motion. A roll call vote gave the following results: President Brad Semel - yes, Vice-President Kevin Ivers - yes, Secretary Ray Eisbrener - yes, Treasurer Kim Becker - yes, Director Pamela Althoff - yes, Director Martie Gorman - yes, and Director Dennis Dreher - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

4.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION I

Director Althoff made the motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Exception 2C29 (external audit - internal control weaknesses and identification of potential fraud risk areas) of the Open Meeting Act (5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.) Director Gorman seconded the motion. A roll call vote gave the following results: President Brad Semel - yes, Vice-President Kevin Ivers - yes, Secretary Ray Eisbrener - yes, Treasurer Kim Becker - yes, Director Pamela Althoff - yes, Director Martie Gorman - yes, and Director Dennis Dreher - yes. Motion passed unanimously. Regular Session was left at 6:39pm.

Advisor Director Kessler and District Liaison Thomas did not participate in Executive Session I.

5.0 RECONVENE

At 7:38 pm the Board came out of Executive Session and reconvened at 7:42 pm by President Semel on the evening of December 8, 2020 via Zoom conference services.

5.1 Roll Call

President Brad Semel (Remote)  
Vice-President Kevin Ivers (Remote)  
Secretary Ray Eisbrener (Remote)  
Treasurer Kim Becker (Remote)  
Director Martie Gorman (Remote)  
Director Dennis Dreher (Remote)  
Director Pamela Althoff (Remote)

Others Present:

Shawna Flavell, Executive Director of McHenry County Conservation Foundation (Remote)  
Yvonne Semel, Administrator (Remote)  
Elizabeth Kessler, Advisor, Executive Director of McHenry County Conservation District (Remote)  
Nancy Gonsiorek, CPA (Remote)  
Linda Thomas, Liaison, McHenry County Conservation District (Remote)  
Laura King, Chief of Police, McHenry County Conservation District (Remote)

- 6.0 Presentation from Nancy Gonsiorek, CPA, LLC
  - 6.1 FY 2020 Financial Audit for the Year Ended June 30, 2020  
Ms. Gonsiorek discussed the Audit. The financial statements were presented and the breakdown of expenses and net assets.

Ms. Gonsiorek left the meeting at 8:01pm.

## 7.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 7.1 October 13, 2020 - Regular Meeting  
Director Althoff made the motion to accept the October 13, 2020 - Regular Meeting minutes, Secretary Eisbrener seconded the motion, All were in favor.
- 7.2 October 13, 2020 - Executive Session  
Vice-President Ivers made the motion to accept the October 13, 2020 - Executive Session minutes, Treasurer Becker seconded the motion, All were in favor.
- 7.3 October 19, 2020 - Special Call Meeting  
Director Althoff made the motion to accept the October 19, 2020 - Special Call Meeting minutes, Director Dreher seconded the motion, All were in favor.

## 8.0 OFFICER'S REPORTS

- 8.1 President's Report
  - 8.1a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book Fundraising Progress  
President Semel thanked everyone for their support and conveyed that the Foundation was more than halfway toward its fundraising goal.
  - 8.1b Community Foundation for McHenry County Endowments  
The board discussed the spendable balance of both endowments.
- 8.2 Treasurer's Report
  - 8.2a Financial Review  
Treasurer Becker discussed the October and November financials.
  - 8.2b Current Account Activity  
Treasurer Becker said she is looking into alternate investment opportunities due to the significant drop in interest rates.

## 9.0 DIRECTOR AND BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

- 9.1 McHenry County Conservation District Report: District Liaison Thomas  
Liaison Thomas said that the McHenry County Conservation District is working on their upcoming FY 2022 budget. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award was received by the District. There is a special call meeting on December 22 regarding the stabilization of historical buildings.

## 10.0 BOARD BUSINESS

- 10.1 Approval of Annual Membership Dues Renewals
  - 10.1a Chicago Wilderness  
Advisor Kessler commented on Chicago Wilderness and their Green Vision - habitat preservation, restoration, green space, nature access, climate resiliency and water. Directors discussed levels of membership dues. Director Dreher made the motion to support Chicago Wilderness at the level of \$150, Secretary Eisbrener seconded the motion. All were in favor.
  - 10.1b Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce

Executive Director Flavell discussed the Crystal Lake Chamber membership and felt there were many benefits of being a member. Membership cost is \$150. Director Althoff also felt it is wise to have a presence in that area of the County. She also felt that it would be a good idea to look into the McHenry Chamber. Vice-President Ivers made the motion to continue membership in the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce, Director Althoff seconded the motion. All were in favor.

10.2 Establish 2020 Meeting Dates

The second Tuesday of the month has been working well for everyone. The meeting dates for 2021 are as follows:

**January 12** -Annual Meeting as required by Foundation By-Laws

**March 9**

**May 11**

**July 13**

**September 14**

**November 9**

If there are scheduling issues at a later date, arrangements will be made for an alternative date. Director Dreher made the motion that these dates be established for regular 2021 meetings. Secretary Eisbrener seconded the motion. All were in favor.

10.3 Consideration to Accept the Formal Acknowledgement of the McHenry County Conservation Foundation and McHenry County Conservation District's Community Seed Collection Program at High Point Conservation Area in honor of donors George D. and Marilyn A. Johnson and Richard J. and Rennee L. Dankert.

Advisor Kessler discussed details of the program. The Foundation committed \$10,000 towards this program at its October 13 meeting. Executive Director Flavell explained that this is to acknowledge the formal name of the program. Vice-President Ivers made the motion to accept the formal acknowledgement of the McHenry County Conservation Foundation and McHenry County Conservation District's Community Seed Collection Program at High Point Conservation Area in honor of donors George D. and Marilyn A. Johnson and Richard J. and Rennee L. Dankert, Secretary Eisbrener seconded the motion, All were in favor.

10.4 Consideration to Solicit Support for the *Prairie Trail - Resurfacing and Wayfaring Signage - Phase One* and Further Develop a Fundraising Plan for Future Prairie Trail Improvements

Executive Director Flavell shared a summary of the repairs, improvements, and signage needs along the Prairie Trail, as well as a budget for the overall project. President Semel asked about how funding would be guaranteed to reach the financial needs for the project and Executive Director Flavell responded that any funds collected would be used toward Prairie Trail improvements even if the overall goal was not met. Vice-President Ivers made the motion to Solicit Support for the *Prairie Trail - Resurfacing and Wayfaring Signage - Phase One* and to Further Develop a Fundraising Plan for Future Prairie Trail Improvements, Director Dreher seconded the motion. All were in favor.

10.5 Consideration to Implement 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Artistic Print Sales Fundraiser

President Semel requested tabling until further details of time and commitment needed by Director Flavell are better understood.

- 10.6 Authorization to Transfer Funds Raised in Support of Big Woods and General Departmental Operations to the McHenry County Conservation District. President Semel made the motion to authorize the transfer of funds restricted for Big Woods to be sent to the District, Director Althoff seconded the motion. All were in favor. President Semel made the request to table transfer of the general departmental operation funds until a future meeting. It is hoped that guidelines to address donor restricted donations can be better defined by that time.

11.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

11.1 Fundraising Update

Executive Director Flavell said, Giving Tuesday campaign brought in more than \$3,500

11.2 Annual Appeal and Holiday Cards

Executive Director Flavell said that the Annual Appeal is officially out and donations are coming in. Executive Director Flavell will be sending out Holiday Cards.

11.3 Project Updates

Laura King, Chief of Police for the McHenry County Conservation District gave an update on the hunter app, which was made possible thanks to Foundation support. Officer King said there have been minor issues, but they were addressed and most of the hunters are very pleased with the app.

12.0 ADDITIONAL BOARD BUSINESS

12.1 Photography Session Fundraising Ideas

Executive Director Flavell will hold off on this until after her conversation with Director Althoff.

13.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION II

13.1 President Semel made the Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Exception 2C6 (purchase or lease of property) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1 et.seq.) Director Dreher seconded the motion. All were in favor. A roll call vote gave the following results: President Brad Semel - yes, Vice-President Kevin Ivers - yes, Secretary Ray Eisbrener - yes, Treasurer Kim Becker - yes, Director Pamela Althoff - yes, Director Martie Gorman - yes, and Director Dennis Dreher - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

The regular session was left at 9:37pm.

14.0 RECONVENE

At 9:55 pm the Board came out of Executive Session and reconvened at 10:00 pm by President Semel on the evening of December 8, 2020 via Zoom conference services. Director Althoff did not return.

14.1 Roll Call

President Brad Semel (Remote)  
Vice-President Kevin Ivers (Remote)  
Secretary Ray Eisbrener (Remote)  
Treasurer Kim Becker (Remote)  
Director Martie Gorman (Remote)  
Director Dennis Dreher (Remote)

Others Present:

Shawna Flavell, Executive Director of McHenry County Conservation Foundation (Remote)  
Yvonne Semel, Administrator (Remote)


Elizabeth Kessler, Advisor, Executive Director of McHenry County Conservation District

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Semel asked if there was any other business to discuss. There being none, President Semel made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Eisbrener seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at Lost Valley Visitor Center at 6:30pm.  
(if needed)

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ray Eisbrener, Secretary