



7210 Keystone Road, Richmond, IL, 60071
815.678.4532, ext. 8204 | mchenryconservation.org

MCHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2021

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Semel called the January 12, 2021 meeting of the McHenry County Conservation Foundation to order at 6:36pm. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act, I as President of the McHenry County Conservation Foundation have determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent at this time because of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and Governor Pritzker's related disaster declaration. I have further determined that the physical presence of an employee or member of the public body at the regular meeting location is not feasible due to the disaster described in the Governor's declaration. Director Dreher made the motion for the meeting to be virtual, Director Althoff seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken - President Brad Semel - yes, Vice-President Kevin Ivers - yes, Treasurer Kim Becker - yes, Director Pamela Althoff - yes, Director Martie Gorman - yes, and Director Dennis Dreher - yes. All were in favor.

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)
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)
Dave Brandt, Vice-President, McHenry County Conservation District Board (Remote)
Linda Thomas, Liaison, McHenry County Conservation District (Remote)

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Ray Eisbrener, Secretary

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

4.0 APPROVAL OF MEETING TO BE HELD AS ANNUAL MEETING

Vice-President Ivers made the motion for the January 12, 2021 meeting to be held as the McHenry County Conservation Foundation Annual Meeting, Director Dreher seconded the motion, All were in favor.

5.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 December 8, 2020 - Regular Meeting

Director Dreher made the motion to accept the October 13, 2020 - Regular Meeting minutes, Treasurer Becker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

5.2 December 8, 2020 - Executive Session 1

Vice-President Ivers made the motion to accept the October 13, 2020 - Executive Session minutes, Treasurer Becker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

5.3 December 8, 2020 - Executive Session 2

Director Althoff made the motion to accept the October 19, 2020 - Special Call Meeting minutes, Director Dreher seconded the motion, All were in favor.

6.0 OFFICER'S REPORTS

6.1 President's Report

6.1a Recognition of 2021 Board Appointees

President Semel referenced that renewal appointment to the Board of Directors of Kevin Ivers and Ray Eisbrener by District Trustees will be discussed at the McHenry County Conservation District's January 19, 2021 meeting.

6.1b Pedal, Paddle, Saddle: Date of Event and Planning Meeting

President Semel asked Executive Director Flavell to discuss the upcoming plans for the 2021 Pedal, Paddle, Saddle event. The event will be scheduled for June 13, 2021. Director Dreher and Director Gorman both volunteered to help with the planning.

6.2 Treasurer's Report

6.2a Financial Review

Treasurer Becker summarized the year with comments on year-end contributions. She discussed total donations for both restricted and non-restricted donations.

6.2b Current Account Activity

Treasurer Becker commented that she has looked into current interest rates for Foundation investments. She commented that online banks have better rates of interest, but that the Foundation has always made an effort to keep investments within the county. Director Dreher felt it would be better to keep the money in the community, Vice-President Ivers concurred. Treasurer Becker suggested reevaluating six months down the road.

7.0 DIRECTOR AND BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

7.1 McHenry County Conservation District Report: District Liaison Linda Thomas

Board Liaison Thomas talked about the District's Special Call Finance Meeting. Advisor Kessler commented on a Historical Stabilization Report. Vice-President Ivers commented on the ability of the Foundation to take on donations towards historical preservation. There is a new liaison from the County Board. President Semel asked if

anyone from the Foundation is actively involved in the District planning for the 50th Anniversary: Executive Director Flavell has filled that role.

8.0 BOARD BUSINESS

8.1 Consideration to Support District Summer Camp Scholarships

Executive Director Flavell discussed the yearly Foundation support of underserved children in the community to help them to attend District-hosted Summer Camps. President Semel discussed how the Foundation has also helped fund transportation through the Youth and Family Center in McHenry. Director Dreher put forth a motion to support the District Summer Camp Scholarships up to \$1,000, Director Gorman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

8.2 Consideration to Implement 50th Anniversary Artistic Print Sales Fundraiser and Raffle

Executive Director Flavell discussed the plan for a donor and artist in the community to have her art on display at Lost Valley Visitor Center and the possibility of fundraising through print-on-demand art sales. Director Althoff suggested that there also be a drawing to raffle off a gift certificate. The Board was in favor of moving forward.

8.3 Election of Officers

8.3a Nomination and Election for President

Kevin Ivers nominated Brad Semel for president. A roll call vote was taken, President Semel abstained: *Vice-President Kevin Ivers - yes, Treasurer Kim Becker - yes, Director Pamela Althoff - yes, Director Martie Gorman - yes, and Director Dennis Dreher - yes. All were in favor.*

8.3b Nomination and Election for Vice-President

President Semel nominated Kevin Ivers for vice-president. A roll call vote was taken, Vice-President Ivers abstained: *President Brad Semel - yes, Treasurer Kim Becker - yes, Director Pamela Althoff - yes, Director Martie Gorman - yes, and Director Dennis Dreher - yes. All were in favor.*

8.3c Nomination and Election for Secretary

President Semel nominated Ray Eisbrener for secretary. A roll call vote was taken: *President Brad Semel - yes, Vice-President Kevin Ivers - yes, Treasurer Kim Becker - yes, Director Pamela Althoff - yes, Director Martie Gorman - yes, and Director Dennis Dreher - yes. All were in favor.*

8.3d Nomination and Election for Treasurer

President Semel nominated Kim Becker for treasurer, A roll call vote was taken, Treasurer Becker abstained: *President Brad Semel - yes, Vice-President Kevin Ivers - yes, Director Pamela Althoff - yes, Director Martie Gorman - yes, and Director Dennis Dreher - yes. All were in favor.*

President Semel welcomed all of the officers for the 2021 year.

8.4 Appointment of Nominating/Board Development Committee

President Semel discussed the desire to diversify the Board with members from the business community and other areas of interest that could benefit the Foundation. Vice-President Ivers offered to serve in a support role on this committee. Director Althoff also agreed to help on this committee. President Semel appointed Vice-President Ivers and Director Althoff as well as himself as members of the Nominating/Board Development Committee.

9.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9.1 Strategic Plan Implementation

9.1a FY 2021 Fundraising Progress

Executive Director Flavell discussed the gift summary as of December 31, 2020.

9.1b FY 2021 Q2 Budget Review

Executive Director Flavell asked if there were any questions about the budget. Vice-President Ivers inquired about the impact of COVID-19. President Semel asked if PPE funds should be pursued. Executive Director Flavell is willing to look into PPE programs, but since there has been no reduction in revenue, PPE funds may not be available.

9.1c FY 2021 Q2 Overall Progress Review

The comment was made that COVID-19 has slowed things down for fundraising opportunities specifically given that fundraising events such as Pedal, Paddle, Saddle were cancelled.

9.2 District Project Updates

The Owl Aviary is complete and over-budget. The additional costs were due to unanticipated staff time. The board supported increasing funding and agreed that the Foundation should be notified before project completion if projects costs are expected to exceed the approved budget, which incorporates a 10% overage, in the future.

10.0 ADDITIONAL BOARD BUSINESS

10.1 Update Annual Document Signatures

Signatures are needed for the Foundation's Conflict of Interest and Whistle Blower policies. President Semel asked that each Board member sign the Conflict of Interest form and email or send it back to Executive Director Flavell. Treasurer Becker will continue in her role as the compliance officer and will sign the Whistle Blower statement and return it to Executive Director Flavell.

10.1a Conflict of Interest

10.1b Whistle Blower

11.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 Vice-President Ivers 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.) Treasurer Becker seconded the motion. President Brad Semel - yes, Vice-President Kevin Ivers - yes, Treasurer Kim Becker - yes, Director Pamela Althoff - yes, Director Martie Gorman - yes, and Director Dennis Dreher - yes. All were in favor. Pam Althoff did not continue on the call.

Regular Session was left at 8:25 pm

12.0 RECONVENE

At 8:49 pm the Board came out of Executive Session and reconvened at 8:50 pm by President Semel on the evening of January 12, 2021 via Zoom conference services.

12.1 Roll Call

President Brad Semel (Remote)

Vice-President Kevin Ivers (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, Director of McHenry County Conservation District (Remote)

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Semel asked if there was any other business to discuss. There being none, Vice-President Ivers made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Gorman seconded the motion. (Brad Semel, Kevin Ivers, Martie Gorman, Dennis Dreher, Kim Becker, roll call vote). All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at Lost Valley Visitor Center at 6:30pm (if needed).

Respectfully submitted,


Ray Eisbrener, Secretary