



# REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT HELD February 24, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District was held on Monday, February 24, 2013, at the Rend Lake Conservancy District Administration Office, 11231 Marcum Branch Road, Benton, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Keith Ward with the following in physical attendance:

**Board of Trustees:** Don Lucas, James Rippy, Jere Shaw, David Stewart, Robert Walton and Keith Ward;  
Absent: Todd Thomas

**Staff:** Keith Thomason, General Manager; Larry Sanders, Legal Counsel/Treasurer; Michael Johnston, Comptroller; Leonard Killman, Water Superintendent; and Robert Clodi, Executive Assistant.

**Visitors:** None

### Minutes

Upon motion by James Rippy and second by Robert Walton to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2014, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Lucas, Rippy, Shaw, Stewart, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.

### Acceptance of Check Register

Upon motion by David Stewart and second by Don Lucas to accept the Check Register as presented, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Lucas, Rippy, Shaw, Stewart, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.

**General Manager's Report:** Keith Thomason discussed the February General Manager's Report and provided an Engineering update.

Mr. Thomason reported the following:

As the weather warms up, the District will start bring the membranes back on line.

The filter rehabilitation project is to be complete in May. The contractor is waiting on equipment to be delivered and is work to meet IEPA regulations.

Senator Durbin's Office has scheduled a meeting with the US Corp of Engineers in Washington D.C. to discuss charges for lake maintenance of all US Corp of Engineer lakes. Mr. Thomason offered to meet with them in Washington to assist in the discussion.

## **February 24, 2014 (continued)**

The Rend Lake Area Tourism Council is now functioning. The Council is waiting for bed tax funds from the County. The Council is pursuing West City and Mt. Vernon to participate in marketing Rend Lake. RLCD has participated in several recreational marketing shows and has received many new contacts of interested visitors.

Mr. Sanders reported that the restaurant is now open and presented a slide show of the remodeling. The restaurant has some infrastructure issues. An estimate to repair the plumbing was received for \$9,000. Mr. Sanders requested the Board to approve \$5,000 to make other needed repairs. He noted that this wouldn't cover all the needed repairs and other repairs will be brought to the Board at a later date.

Upon motion by James Rippy and second by Jere Shaw approving \$5,000 in RLCD expenditures to make needed repairs at the restaurant, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Lucas, Rippy, Shaw, Stewart, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by James Rippy and second by Don Lucas approving up to \$10,000 credit to Jeff Batts toward his lease payments to make repairs within the restaurant, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Lucas, Rippy, Shaw, Stewart, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Thomason reported that the Toyota Prius, an administrative office vehicle, is nearing the end of its manufacture warranty and requested to trade it in for a new vehicle. Board members expressed an interest in waiting until the Prius is closer to the end of the battery warranty. No action taken.

### **Conflict of Interest Forms**

Mr. Thomason distributed Conflict of Interest forms from Franklin County to the Board.

### **Recreation Rates**

Upon motion by Jere Shaw and second by Robert Walton approving the rates as presented, a discussion ensued. The Motion was withdraw by Jere Shaw.

Upon motion by Jere Shaw and second by Robert Walton approving the presented rates as standard rates with authority given to the General Manager, Recreational Manager, Golf Pro, and Lodge Manager to negotiate rates, and all negotiated rates shall be documented, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Lucas, Rippy, Shaw, Stewart, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Recreation Grants**

Mr. Sanders reported that the Governor is soliciting projects for a potential grants. The District has submitted \$3 million worth of recreational projects, i.e. recreation building, cart barn, wedding center, gas station, and other family oriented recreational facilities. Mr. Thomason reported that the District has submitted \$25 million worth of water infrastructure projects, i.e. a new intake pipe, a loop along the west side of the distribution system, and pump station upgrades.

Mr. Sanders reported that the District will apply for IDNR Youth Recreational Corps Program which provides funding to hire 16 to 19 year olds to work and maintain youth recreational programs.

## **February 24, 2014 (continued)**

Mr. Sanders reported that he is interested in have us represented on the Illinois Association of Park Districts Board of Directors. Illinois Association of Park District periodically support funding for recreational development through grants.

Mr. Sanders reported that management is looking into an IDNR grant for boat ramps. The boat ramp program offers funding for improvements and repair up to \$300,000.

### **Accounting Fee**

Mr. Sanders reported that the District received a bill for accounting services from Rice and Yucus, PC for \$3960. He also reported that the bid announcement for auditing services has been published and last years auditors would like to submit a bid. The Board unanimously agreed that the District should continue to follow the practice, that an auditor shall not serve the District in consecutive terms.

Upon motion by Don Lucas and second by Robert Walton approving payment of accounting services to Rice and Yucus PC for \$3,960, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Lucas, Shaw, Stewart, Walton, Ward

Nays: Rippy

Absent: Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Regions Bank Financing**

Mr. Sanders reported that Regions Bank is willing to renegotiate the Bond. The cost to refinance the Bond would be at least \$15,000. Regions Bank also expressed that they are unsure that they can get the District a rate equal to or better than 1.96%. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Sanders stated that management will consult with Kevin Wilson and additional banks to get the District other proposals.

Mr. Sanders reported that Regions Bank is willing to reverse the early payment of \$500,000. Board members expressed that they would like to see the other offers before making a decision.

### **Closed Session**

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by James Rippy to go into Closed Session at 10:50 a.m. to consider: (1) Personnel (For the Discussion of the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal); (2) Collective Negotiations (For the Discussion of Collective Negotiating Matters); (6) Sale, Purchase or Lease of Property (For the Setting of a Price for Sale, Purchase or Lease of Property); (8) Security (For discussion of security procedures); (11) Litigation (For the Discussion of Pending, Probable or Imminent); and (21) Closed Session Minutes (For the Discussion of Closed Session Minutes), the following vote was had:

Ayes: Lucas, Rippy, Shaw, Stewart, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Don Lucas and second by David Stewart to come out of Closed Session at 11:17 a.m. the following vote was had:

Ayes: Lucas, Rippy, Shaw, Stewart, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.

**February 24, 2014 (continued)**

**Closed Session Minutes**

Upon motion by Don Lucas and second by David Stewart to approve the Closed Session Minutes of January 27, 2014, as presented, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Lucas, Rippy, Shaw, Stewart, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.

**Annual Raises**

The Board members expressed a desire to consider annual raises for management until all Board members are present, but any raise given shall be retroactive.

**Annual Contracts**

The Board members expressed an interest to review and approve the General Manager, General Counsel, and Comptroller contracts on an annual basis.

**Adjournment**

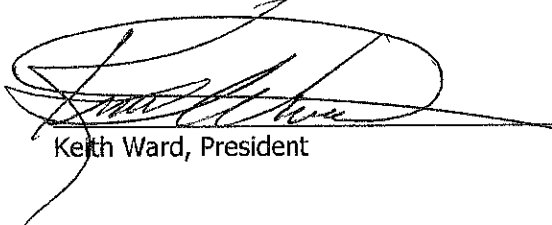
Upon motion by James Rippy and second by Jere Shaw to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m., the following vote was had:

Ayes: Lucas, Rippy, Shaw, Stewart, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.



Keith Ward, President



Todd Thomas, Secretary