



# 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 27, 2017

The Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District held a regular meeting on Monday, February 27, 2017, at the Rend Lake Conservancy District Administration Office, 11231 Marcum Branch Road, Benton, Illinois. President Todd Thomas called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following attended:

**Board of Trustees:** In physical attendance: Ernest Collins, Nicholas LeMay, Todd Thomas, Robert Walton, and Keith Ward; By telephone: Don Lucas; Absent: Kisha Jackson

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

**Visitors:** None

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Minutes

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Robert Walton to approve the minutes of January 23, 2017 as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Abstain: Lucas

Absent: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

### Acceptance of Check Register

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Nicholas LeMay to accept the Check Register as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

### General Manager's Report:

Mr. Thomason presented the General Manager's report covering the following items:

- IEPA water requirements continue to be met
- Daily average and maximum flows of drinking water
- Easement clearing

## February 27, 2017 (continued)

- Critical backup components

During the presentation of the critical components, Mr. Thomason reported the need to repair or replace the backup high service pump. He explained that it would cost \$1,800 to inspect the pump and another \$25,000 to \$50,000 to repair it. The alternative would be to purchase a new pump for about \$100,000.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Nicholas LeMay approving \$1,800 to inspect the high service pump. Discussion of motion ensued. Mr. Lucas questioned repairing the old pump and suggested that it may make more sense to purchase a new pump. Mr. Ward and Mr. LeMay withdrew their motions. Mr. Thomason stated he would seek quotes to purchase a new pump. The Board took no action.

General Manager's Report continued,

- Clarifier components
- Valve repairs
- Residential transmitter replacements
- Golf revenues
- Golf POS system
- Lodge revenues
- Lodge long term rentals
- Dead tree removal
- Safety – Employee car accident

### Financial Report

Mr. Johnston presented the financial report. In his report, he noted that the Prison owed the District \$485,047 and the state, in total, owed the District \$523,737.

### Lease Inspection

Mr. Sanders presented the lease inspection report.

- The Rend Lake Resort closure has caused an increase in business for the District.
- The District repaired the Restaurant cooler.
- Shooting Complex windows have been re-ordered.
- Farms – six tracts are up for lease.
- Apartments – District's rental revenue percentage is down due to apartment vacancies.

### Engineering Projects

Mr. Thomason provided an update on the following engineering projects:

#### Du Quoin Swamp Bypass

Mr. Thomason reported that engineering is pushing the contractor to start the project as soon as dry weather allows access to the construction area.

#### 36"/42" Water Treatment Plant Transmission Pipe

Mr. Thomason reported the design and alignment for the 36"/42" water main is underway.

#### Clearwell Sediment Removal

Mr. Thomason reported that the District is bidding the removal of sediment buildup in the clearwell. He explained that after the clearwell has been cleaned out the District will inspect the integrity of the clearwell.

#### IDOT Route 37 Project

Mr. Thomason reported that the District's engineering consultant has found discrepancies with IDOT's survey and we continue to work to resolve the easement issue.

**February 27, 2017 (continued)**

Johnston City Pump Station Upgrade

Mr. Thomason reported the Johnston City Pump Station Upgrade Project is nearly completed and noted that the Mt. Vernon Pump Station would be next.

**Legislative Consultant**

Mr. Thomason presented Mr. Bradley's agreement to provide lobbyist services for Board consideration. Mr. Sanders reported that John Bradley is a good candidate to serve the District's interest with the legislature. He also mentioned that he continues to seek additional lobbyist support from Sarah Clamp and Milton Sees to serve the District's interest with the governor's office. Discussion ensued regarding the candidates. Mr. Sanders recommended hiring John Bradley and continuing the search for the best person to assist the District with the Governor's administration.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Don Lucas approving the lobbyist service agreement with John Bradley, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Robert Walton authorizing the General Manager to negotiate and hire a second person for lobbyist services up to \$1,500 per month, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

**Bids and Purchases**

Clearwell Sediment Removal

Mr. Thomason reported that the District received three bids for the inspection and sediment removal of the clearwell. The low bid was Enviro-Science Inc. at a unit price of \$9.61 per cubic foot with a minimum of 2000 cubic feet and an inspection cost of \$4,578. Mr. Thomason recommended approving the low bidder with a budget of \$25,000 for the project.

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Todd Thomas approving the low bid with a budget of \$25,000 for the sediment removal and inspection of the clearwell, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

Dry Sludge Hauling

Mr. Thomason presented the bids for dry sludge hauling. He recommended approving all bidders, giving priority to the lowest bidder, with any bidding ties to be prioritized in alphabetical order.

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Nicholas LeMay approving all bidders, giving priority to the lowest bidder, with any bidding ties to be prioritized in alphabetical order, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

## **February 27, 2017 (continued)**

### **Resolution 496 Closed Session Semi-Annual Review**

Mr. Sanders reported that he did not recommend opening any Closed Session minutes at this time.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas approving Resolution 496 Closed Session Semi-Annual Review as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Employee Health Benefits and Self-Insurance**

Mr. Thomason reported that the District is evaluating self-insuring more of the employee health benefits. He noted that further discussion would be held in closed Session.

### **Rend Lake TDML**

Mr. Thomason reported the District would host the third stage of the TDML Report of Rend Lake on March 6, 2017 at 3 pm. He encouraged Board members to attend. He explained that the results of this report may result in a future reduction of point source load limits that could cause high operational costs to affected point source facilities.

### **Closed Session**

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Ernest Collins to go into Closed Session at 9:47 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 Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Lucas left the meeting.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Nicholas LeMay to come out of Closed Session at 11:25 p.m., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson, Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Closed Session Minutes**

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Robert Walton to approve the Closed Session Minutes of January 23, 2017, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson, Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

**February 27, 2017 (continued)**

**Personnel**

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Keith Ward to approve salary raises for the General Manager at 4%, Legal Counsel at 4%, and Comptroller at 3%, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: Collins

Absent: Jackson, Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

**Employee Benefits**

Mr. Thomason discussed the rising costs of health insurance. Currently the District purchases employee health insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield. The District uses a high deductible policy to reduce costs by self-insuring a portion of the coverage. The District can further reduce costs by increasing the self-insurance portion. Mr. Thomason mentioned that a full self-insurance program would likely save costs. However, there is a risk of cost increases and the current manner of spreading the cost could be difficult for the recreation department to afford. The District would need to use a more equitable manner of spreading the costs. Board members all expressed their views.

Upon motion by Nicholas LeMay and second by Keith Ward to combine the health care benefit insurance under the entire District. During the discussion on the Motion, Mr. Thomason suggested Tabling the Motion until the District knows the actual cost of the insurance options. The Board tabled the Motion.

**Golf Pro**

Mr. Thomason reviewed the recommendation of the Board members assigned to help management review golf pro candidates. Based upon Board member input, Mr. Thomason recommended that the Board adjust the repayment term of the internal loan to allow the golf course to be able to afford to hire the most experienced golf pro candidate. In addition, Mr. Thomason reported that the top Golf Pro candidate was seeking a salary in the range of \$55-\$60,000.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas to adjust the terms of the internal recreation loan to a 20-year rate from May 1, 2017 to April 31, 2018 and to authorize the General Manager to negotiate the hiring of the new Golf Pro with a salary range of \$55-60,000, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: Collins

Absent: Jackson, Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

**Adjournment**

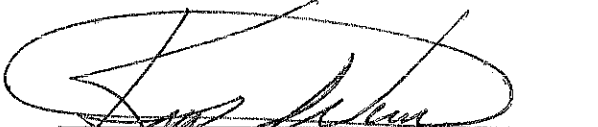
Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Nicholas LeMay to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson, Lucas

  
Todd Thomas, President

  
Keith Ward, Secretary