



# REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 907 ■ 11231 MARCUM BRANCH ROAD ■ BENTON, ILLINOIS 62812  
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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT HELD May 23, 2016

The Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District held a regular meeting on Monday, May 23, 2016, 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, Kisha Jackson, Don Lucas, James Rippy, Todd Thomas, Robert Walton, and Keith Ward

**Staff:** Keith Thomason, General Manager; Larry Sanders, Legal Counsel/Treasurer; Michael Johnston, Comptroller; Leonard Killman, Water Plant Superintendent; Robert Clodi, Executive Assistant; Jim Ashby, Golf Superintendent; and Sarah Towle, Engineer

**Visitors:** None

### Minutes

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Keith Ward approving the public hearing minutes of April 25, 2016 as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Thomas, Rippy, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Don Lucas and second by Kisha Jackson approving the minutes of April 25, 2016 as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Thomas, Rippy, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

### Acceptance of Check Register

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

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Thomas, Rippy, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

### General Manager's Report:

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

- Daily Average and Maximum Flows for drinking water
- Major water and sewer leaks.
- Summer easement clearing
- Bi-product recycling
- Insured water damage repairs at the Manor
- Golf Course Veteran's Appreciation Day to be held on May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Safety

## May 23, 2016 (continued)

### Financial Report

Mr. Johnston presented the financial report for the month of April. He stated that the State prison owes the District \$622,406, but in total the State owes the District \$679,815. Also he reported that a farm lessee owes the District \$82,554. Mr. Sanders explained that the farmer wants to negotiate a modification to his contract. Mr. Sanders recommended holding further discussion regarding the farm lease for closed session.

### Engineering Projects

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

#### Big Muddy Middle Fork Bypass

Mr. Thomason reported that work continues to progress on the bypass. Mr. Ward asked if the District applied for grant funding. Mr. Thomason replied that the District did not apply for grant funding because we did not want to delay the project.

#### Thermal Imaging Leak Testing

Mr. Thomason reported that the thermal image testing identified two leaks. He added that there were no notable signs of the leaks at the surface. Mr. Rippy asked if the leaks were in the area that was overlapped by the acoustic testing. Mrs. Towle reported that the leaks were not located in the overlapping area. Mr. Thomason explained that the next phase of the project was to dig up the pipe and inspect the potential leaks.

#### Rapid Mix

Mr. Thomason reported that the new liner for the rapid mix has been installed, the contractor is currently completing the remaining pipe installation, and the rapid mix will be in operation soon.

### Bids and Purchasing

#### Radio Meter Reading System

Mr. Thomason reported that the batteries for the residential meters have reached the end of their 10-year life expectancy. He explained that the batteries are molded together with a transmitter. It was noted that the transmitter in the battery will only work with the proprietary software of the original manufacturer's meter and meter reading equipment. It was reported that the District has approximately 1,270 residential meters. The replacement batteries for 500 units would cost \$40,375 and 1,000 units would cost \$80,750. Mr. Killman reported that the water department is planning to replace 500 units this year and the remaining the following year. Mr. Thomason suggested that the Board may want to consider purchasing 1,000 units to avoid next year's price increase. Mr. Ward asked if the battery's 10-year life expectancy depreciates as the product sits in storage. Mr. Thomason replied that he did not know but would follow up with the manufacturer. Mr. Rippy asked why the District was not bidding this purchase. Mr. Thomason explained that the transmitter in the battery uses proprietary software that is not compatible with products from other manufacturers. He noted that the District could bid the project if we were prepared to replace the entire meter reading system which would add significant cost to the project.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Robert Walton approving the purchase of the first 500 replacement batteries and authorizing the purchase of the second 500 batteries if the manufacturer will hold the units until the District is ready to receive them, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

#### IEPA Sample Testing

Mr. Thomason presented a purchase request for water sample testing services from IEPA labs. He reported that IEPA continues to be the lowest cost for water sample testing at \$4,687. He noted that IEPA is requiring additional testing for cryptosporidium. He added that IEPA labs were not the lowest quoted price for cryptosporidium testing and recommended not to use IEPA's labs for that particular test.

## **May 23, 2016 (continued)**

Upon motion by Don Lucas and second by Keith Ward approving water sample testing at IEPA labs for \$4,687, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Thomason explained that cryptosporidium testing is a two-year process. Three labs in the country currently offer testing services, two labs in Indiana and one in New Jersey. The District did not seek a quote from the New Jersey lab because the sampling retention time is very short and concerns were raised regarding shipping delays and cost. Scientific Methods in Indiana was the lowest quoted price for \$3,290.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas approving testing for cryptosporidium from Scientific Methods for \$3,290, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

### Backup Meter

Mr. Thomason requested approval to purchase a 10" Krohne meter for \$4,725 to replace Du Quoin's meter while it is sent off for testing and calibration. Mr. Rippy asked why the District was not bidding the purchase of the meter. Mr. Thomason explained that the District has standardized our meters with Krohne meters due to the high level of accuracy. It was also noted that the Board has voted previously to standardize Krohne meters as the manufacturer for all wholesale customers.

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Keith Ward approving the purchase of a 10" Krohne meter for \$4,725, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Golf Course Chemical Bid**

Mr. Rippy raised questions regarding agency pricing, differences in bids, and why other suppliers did not bid on certain items regarding golf course chemical bids. Mr. Rippy also read an excerpt from the 2004 Auditor General Report which recommended that all purchases including the purchase of goods and services over \$2,500 should be bid. Mr. Sanders presented Mr. Rippy with the State statute and District's policy regarding bidding requirements. A discussion ensued regarding agency pricing, bidding practices, and false accusations that have been made in the newspaper, on Facebook, as well as to county and municipal boards. Mr. Thomas explained that suppliers do not control how chemical manufacturers regulate their pricing and offered to provide him with their contact information. Mrs. Jackson asked if Mr. Thomas was the sales representative and if he made money from the purchase of the chemicals sold to the District. Mr. Thomas stated that he was the sales representative and has made income from the chemicals sold. Mr. Thomas added that his boss prepares the chemical bids for the company and that he does not participate in that process.

Mrs. Jackson asked to review the most recent Freedom of Information Act requests.

### **Election of Officers**

#### Nominations

The nominations were as follows:

Mr. Ward sought to retain the same president and vice-president as the last term, nominating Mr. Thomas as President and Mr. Walton as Vice-President.

Mr. Lucas nominated Mr. Ward as Secretary.

## **May 23, 2016 (continued)**

Mrs. Jackson nominated Mr. Rippy as Vice-President, Mr. Walton as Secretary, and Mr. Sanders as Treasurer.

Mr. Lucas nominated Mr. Sanders as Treasurer.

Mr. Thomas nominated Mrs. Jackson as Vice-President.

### Election of President

The nomination for President made by Keith Ward in favor of Todd Thomas.

There were no other nominations, the Board voted as follows:

Collins - Nay, Jackson - Aye, Lucas - Aye, Rippy - Aye, Thomas - Aye, Walton - Aye, Ward - Aye

The President declared Todd Thomas as President.

### Election of Vice-President

The nominations for Vice-President were as follows:

Keith Ward nominated Robert Walton.

Kischa Jackson nominated James Rippy.

Todd Thomas nominated Kischa Jackson.

There were no other nominations, the board voted as follows:

Collins - Rippy, Jackson - Rippy, Lucas - Walton, Rippy - Abstain, Thomas - Jackson, Walton - Walton, Ward - Walton.

The President declared Robert Walton as Vice-President.

### Election of Secretary

The nominations for Secretary were as follows:

Don Lucas nominated Keith Ward.

Kischa Jackson nominated Robert Walton.

Mr. Walton was elected as Vice-President and withdrew his bid for Secretary. The President reopened nominations for Secretary.

Mrs. Jackson nominated herself for Secretary.

There were no other nominations, the board voted as follows:

Collins - Jackson, Jackson - Jackson, Lucas - Ward, Rippy - Jackson, Thomas - Ward, Walton - Ward, Ward - Ward.

The President declared Keith Ward as Secretary.

### Election of Treasurer

The nomination for Treasurer was made by Kischa Jackson and Don Lucas in favor of Larry Sanders.

There were no other nominations, the Board voted as follows:

Collins - Abstain, Jackson - Aye, Lucas - Aye, Rippy - Abstain, Thomas - Aye, Walton - Aye, Ward - Aye

The President declared Larry Sanders as Treasurer.

Mrs. Jackson expressed dissatisfaction regarding Mr. Rippy's vote to abstain during the election of Vice-President citing that Jefferson County had an opportunity to have an elected officer on the Board.

### **Resolution 492-Designated Depository and Authorizing Signature**

Upon motion by Don Lucas and second by Keith Ward approving the officers as signatories of all bank accounts and approval of banks to receive deposits, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

**May 23, 2016 (continued)**

**Closed Session**

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas to go into Closed Session at 9:44 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, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Kisha Jackson to come out of Closed Session at 10:28 a.m., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

**Legal Issues**

Upon motion by Kisha Jackson and second by Keith Ward authorizing management to negotiate with the State of Illinois regarding the lake maintenance bill, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Kisha Jackson and second by Keith Ward authorizing management to negotiate with the Illinois Department of Correction regarding their bill, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Kisha Jackson and second by Keith Ward authorizing management to negotiate with the farm lessee and others for sharecrop contracts, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

**Closed Session Minutes**

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Kisha Jackson to approve the closed session minutes of April 25, 2016, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

**Adjournment**

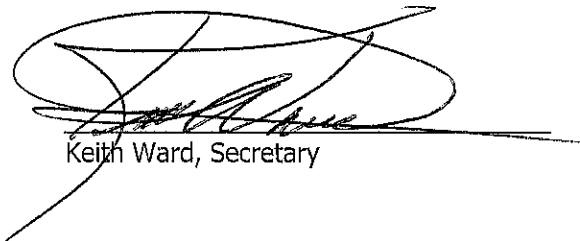
Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Kisha Jackson to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 a.m., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

  
Todd Thomas, President

  
Keith Ward, Secretary