



# 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 July 27, 2020

The Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District held a regular meeting on Monday, July 27, 2020, at the Rend Lake Conservancy District Golf Course Banquet Room, 12476 Golf Course Road, Whittington, Illinois. President Todd Thomas called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The following attended:

**Board of Trustees:** In physical attendance: Ernest Collins, Paul Lawrence, Nicholas LeMay, Todd Thomas, and Michael Warren; Absent: Robert Walton and Keith Ward

**Staff:** In physical attendance: Keith Thomason, General Manager; Larry Sanders, General Counsel; Michael Johnston, Comptroller; Tony Furlow, Water Plant Superintendent; Keith Vaughn, Buildings Construction and Repair Manager; Amy Krueger, Manager of Season's Lodge and Condominiums; Pete Hunter, Golf Course Superintendent; Sean Pickford, District Engineer; Ryan Farley, Project Engineer; and Jen Zinzilieta, Executive Assistant

**Visitors:** Phillip Rone, Ewing Township Road Commissioner

Mr. Rone was present for the discussion of the Benton Camp Road repair.

### Minutes

Upon motion by Paul Lawrence and second by Nicholas LeMay to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2020, Regular Meeting as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Walton, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

### Acceptance of Check Register

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

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Walton, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

### General Manager's Report

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

- A report of the daily average and maximum flows of drinking water was given.
- A report of the water and sewer leaks during the past month was given.
- A report of the District's response to the Coronavirus Pandemic was given. All utility operations remain fully functional. The managers and employees have done a very good job complying with the recommendations.

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## July 27, 2020 (Continued)

- RLCD will restart the water and sewer customer disconnection schedule which was put on hold due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- Mr. Thomason introduced Mr. Keith Vaughn, Buildings Construction and Repair Manager, and Mr. Sean Pickford, District Engineer, to the Board of Trustees. He complimented their work thus far in their new positions with the District.
- The Ash Bore beetle has made a big impact on the trees of the District. The dead trees are unsightly and will turn into safety issues over time. The District will begin the process of clearing the damaged trees from the District property. Tree removal costs will be charged to the General Fund.
- The Coronavirus Pandemic has had a large impact on the revenues of the recreation department.
- Recreation development evaluation trips are planned during the next 30 days. The Parks and Recreation Director search was put on hold during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

### Financial Report

Mr. Johnston presented the financial report for the month of June. Mr. Johnston reported that Big Muddy Prison owes the District \$544,474 and the state, in total, owes the District \$622,055.

### 5-Year Strategic Plan

Mr. Michael Warren presented the 5-Year Strategic Plan that was discussed by the Board of Trustees and managers of the District at the February 24, 2020 meeting. The strategic plan was developed prior to the Coronavirus Pandemic so some items might need to be reevaluated. Discussion ensued.

### Engineering Projects

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

#### Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic there was a delay in the start of the project. The contract has been signed by both parties, and RLCD is ready to move forward.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Street Water Main Project

The 9<sup>th</sup> Street area in West Frankfort has had repeated breaks in the water line. Mr. Sean Pickford, District Engineer, is in the process of designing the project. It will then go out for bid to the contractors.

#### Secondary WTP Discharge Line

Mr. Thomason reported the project is close to being finalized except for a few issues that still need to be resolved. One issue that was discussed was the Benton Camp Road repairs which has also been referred to as Baptist Camp Road. Mr. Thomason explained that the Board approved payment of \$30,810 to the Ewing Township Road Commissioner at the May 18, 2020 meeting for Benton Camp Road repairs. Mr. Phillip Rone, Ewing Township Road Commissioner, did not accept the offer because he felt more materials were needed to fix the road than what was offered. Mr. Sean Pickford presented pictures and an explanation of the road conditions before the project and after the project. Mr. Ryan Farley presented information regarding the materials and costs of the road repairs. Discussion ensued. Mr. Rone was present during the discussion and accepted the previous offer of \$30,810 for the Benton Camp Road repairs. Mr. Thomason informed him that RLCD would mail a check to the Ewing Township along with a release for the payment.

### Recreation Facilities Update

Mr. Sanders reported the following information regarding the recreation facilities. The Coronavirus Pandemic has had a major impact on the recreation departments.

- Lodge: The pool has had many issues in the past. It is time to replace the pool, but no pool installers are available due to high demand for home pools. The pool will not be reopened this summer due to COVID-19 restrictions. The condos have golf groups returning. The cabins are heavily booked throughout the summer.



## July 27, 2020 (Continued)

- Golf Course: The golf course is open without many restrictions. The golf course has been able to hold several junior tournaments. The course is in very good condition at this time. The irrigation project last winter has greatly improved the condition of the fairways.

### Leased Facilities Update

Mr. Sanders reported the following information regarding the leased facilities. The Coronavirus Pandemic has had a major impact on the leased facilities.

- Restaurant: The restaurant has suffered due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the many mandatory restrictions. Mr. Heinrich has opened the patio and inside for dining and is having some level of success.
- Shooting Complex: The shooting complex is open as much as possible with the COVID-19 restrictions. The lessee of the shooting complex has requested for a forgiveness of ½ of their yearly maintenance fee of \$6,000. Mr. Sanders recommends approving this decrease in the annual maintenance fee of \$3,000 for one-time due to loss of revenue because of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Upon motion by Paul Lawrence and second by Todd Thomas to approve a one-time forgiveness of ½ or \$3,000 of the annual \$6,000 maintenance fee for the shooting complex, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Walton, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

### Sewer I and I

Mr. Thomason updated the Board on the sewer inflow and infiltration issues. Sean Pickford, District Engineer, has determined that part of the Sewer I & I issue is the disposal of oil/grease down the drains by restaurants. RLCD will be getting in contact with the restaurants that are on the system to ask that they comply with the proper disposal of oil/grease.

### Southern Illinois Arts & Crafts Marketplace

Mr. Thomason presented information updating the Board on the Southern IL Arts & Crafts Marketplace. A phone conference was held in June of 2020 with the Director of the IDNR and many of her staff to discuss the Southern Illinois Arts & Crafts Marketplace. The IDNR continues to use the facility for office and police space. The IDNR wants to use part of the building for office and possibly police purposes and part of the building for an arts and craft shop. Mr. Thomason informed the Board that he has moved forward with getting an appraisal of the building. Discussion ensued.

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Nicholas LeMay to grant approval to Mr. Thomason to have three appraisals of the Southern IL Arts & Crafts Marketplace performed and to approve Mr. Sanders to file a lawsuit to force the state to reconvey the Southern Illinois Arts & Crafts Marketplace property to the District, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Walton, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

### Bids and Purchases

#### Clarifier Conversion from Oil to Grease Lubrication

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding converting three clarifier drives from oil to grease lubrication. The cost for the parts would be \$11,775.00 and the cost of the field service would be \$8,925.00 for a total cost of \$20,700.00.

## **July 27, 2020 (Continued)**

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Paul Lawrence to approve the conversion of the three clarifier drives from oil to grease lubrication for a total cost of \$20,700.00, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Walton, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

### Meter Testing for Large Meters

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding meter testing of three large electromagnetic meters. The total cost for calibration of the three magnetic flow meters is \$4,800 from Utah Water Research Laboratory.

Upon motion by Nicholas LeMay and second by Michael Warren to approve the meter testing of three magnetic flow meters for a total cost of \$4,800, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Walton, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

### Wet Sludge Hauling

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the wet sludge hauling for two lagoons at the water plant. Oros & Busch will be hauling the wet sludge for a cost of \$53,896.50 per lagoon per the bid.

Upon motion by Paul Lawrence and second by Michael Warren to approve the water plant wet sludge hauling by Oros & Busch for a cost of \$53,896.50 per lagoon, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Walton, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

## **Illinois Legislative Update**

Mr. Sanders provided a legislative update regarding the following topics:

- John Bradley continues to advise and work with the state legislature and state agencies on behalf of the District.
- John Bradley continues to be helpful and responsive regarding the various changes due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- Mr. Bradley participated in the phone conference with the District and IDNR in June to discuss the Southern IL Arts & Crafts Marketplace.

## **Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2020**

Mr. Johnston presented the Financial Report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2020.

## **Ordinance 299 – Tax Levy**

Upon motion by Paul Lawrence and second by Todd Thomas to approve Ordinance 299 - Tax Levy as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Walton, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

## **Resolution 514 – Semi-Annual Closed Session Minutes Review**

Upon motion by Nicholas LeMay and second by Michael Warren to approve Resolution 514 – Semi-Annual Closed Session Minutes Review as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

**July 27, 2020 (Continued)**

Absent: Walton, Ward  
The President declared the motion carried.

**Appointment of Secretary Pro Tempore**

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Ernest Collins to appoint Paul Lawrence as the secretary pro tempore for the July 27, 2020 meeting, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Walton, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

**Closed Session Minutes**

Upon motion by Michael Warren and second by Ernest Collins to approve the Closed Session Minutes of the June 22, 2020, Regular Meeting as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Walton, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Upon motion by Ernest Collins and second by Paul Lawrence to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Walton, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

  
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Todd Thomas, President

  
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Robert Walton, Secretary