



REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

11231 MARCUM BRANCH ROAD ■ P. O. BOX 907 ■ BENTON, ILLINOIS 62812
TELEPHONE: (618) 439-4321 ■ FAX: (618) 439-2400

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT HELD August 23, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District held a regular meeting on Monday, August 23, 2021, at the Rend Lake Golf Course Banquet Room, 12476 Golf Course Road, Whittington, Illinois. President Michael Warren called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following attended:

Board of Trustees: In physical attendance: Ernest Collins, Paul Lawrence, Nicholas LeMay, Todd Thomas, Robert Walton, and Michael Warren. Keith Ward attended by telephone as indicated.

Staff: In physical attendance: Keith Thomason, General Manager; Larry Sanders, General Counsel; Michael Johnston, Comptroller; Sean Pickford, District Engineer; Tony Furlow, Water Plant Superintendent; Jeremy Richardson, IWS Distribution Manager; Keith Vaughn, Buildings Construction and Repair Manager; Amy Krueger, Season's Lodge and Condominiums Manager.

Pledge of Allegiance

Visitors: None

Minutes

Upon motion by Nicholas LeMay and second by Ernest Collins to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2021, Regular Meeting as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Ward joined the meeting via telephone.

Acceptance of Check Register

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

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Report of the Executive Team

Mr. Thomason presented a report regarding the following items:

- 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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- A report was given regarding the impact of the employee shortage on the golf course and the lodge during the month and general supply chain issues throughout the District.

Mr. Johnston presented the financial report for the month:

- Mr. Johnston reported that water, golf, lodge, and sewer did better than budgeted.
- Tax receipts are expected soon.

Illinois Legislative Update

Mr. Sanders informed the Board that Mr. Bradley has kept in touch with him on legislation that might impact the District. Mr. Bradley has offered to set up a meeting with legislators during the DuQuoin State Fair or other times but COVID is making that very difficult.

Report of the Department Managers

Mrs. Amy Krueger, Lodge Manager, presented the following information:

- A report was given regarding the projects that are going on at the lodge, condominiums, and manor.
- A report was given regarding the lack of housekeeping and front desk staff.
- Lodging rates at the cabins for 2022 were recommended as follows:
 - Cabin 1, Buck: Weekend F-Sun \$189 per night
 - Cabin 2, Bass: Weekend F-Sun \$219 per night
 - Cabin 3, Pines: Weekend F-Sun \$249 per night
 - Cabin 4, Eagle: Weekend F-Sun \$279 per night

Mr. Ward left the meeting.

Upon motion by Nicholas LeMay and second by Robert Walton to approve the lodging rates as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

An extensive discussion was held regarding seeking alternative approaches to hiring additional staff and keeping the dedicated ones that the District currently employs.

Mr. Sean Pickford, District Engineer, presented the following information:

- A report of the engineering projects was given.
- A report was given regarding the difficulty receiving a fixed price for supplies to be delivered in the future.

Mr. Jeremy Richardson, IWS Distribution Manager, presented the following information:

- A report of the sewer break during the past month was given.
- A report was given regarding the employee shortage with the summer help returning to school.
- A report was given regarding maintenance issues in the distribution system.

Mr. Tony Furlow, Water Superintendent, presented the following information:

- A report of the daily average and maximum flows of drinking water was given.
- A report was given regarding chemical shortages and delivery issues. Second low bidders are being contacted more frequently.
- A report was given that the Board should expect sharply higher chemical costs for the next chemical bids.
- A report was given regarding the EPA regulations being met.
- A report was given regarding the impact of rain during the past month on water sales.

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Mr. Keith Vaughn, Buildings Construction and Repair Manager, presented the following information:

- A report was given regarding the completion and rentals of Eagle Cabin and all others.
- A report was given of the projects that have been completed throughout the District and projects that are currently in process.

District's Strategic Plan

Mr. Thomason stated that he and the managers were consumed with the scarcity of employees and supplies but will return to the strategic plan as soon as possible.

Bids and Purchases

Repairs and Purchase of High Service Pump Electronic Drive Cells at IWS

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the repair and replacement of high service pump electronic drive cells by Siemens. He recommended purchasing new and repairing inoperable cells at a cost of \$9,609 for new and \$6,273 for repair. Mr. Furlow added that the lead time for a new cell is 4-months and repair is 1-month.

Upon motion by Nicholas LeMay and second by Paul Lawrence to approve the repair of the one inoperable cell and purchase of two additional new cells, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

Sewer Line "Pigging"

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the "pigging" of sewer lines to clear build-up and debris. The cost is \$5,300 from Midwest Excavating.

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Ernest Collins to approve the "pigging" of sewer lines for a cost of \$5,300 from Midwest Excavating, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

Repair of Sludge Pump Seals

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the need to repair sludge pump seals for the price of \$3,640 with K & E Technical, Inc.

Upon motion by Paul Lawrence and second by Robert Walton to approve the repair of the sludge pump seals from K & E Technical, Inc. for \$3,640, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

Repair of Backwash Lagoon

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the need for a Structural Engineer to design the rebuild of the backwash lagoon. The District Engineer recommended hiring Gonzalez Companies, Inc. for a price not to exceed \$6,900.

Upon motion by Ernest Collins and second by Nicholas LeMay to approve the hiring of Gonzalez Companies, Inc. to design the rebuild of the backwash lagoon for a price not to exceed \$6,900, the Board voted as follows:

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Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

Repair of 36" Water Main Leak

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the need to repair a leak on the original 36" water main in-house with parts costing \$18,304 from Utility Pipe, Inc.

Upon motion by Paul Lawrence and second by Michael Warren to approve the purchase of parts totaling \$18,304 from Utility Pipe, Inc., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

Purchase of Mower

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the need to purchase a mower but none are available for at least 12-months from the local dealer who has continued to hold his old bid price. Members encouraged Mr. Thomason to go out for new bids.

Purchase of Trucks

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the need to purchase multiple trucks from the state bid list provider, Morrow Brothers Ford, Inc., due to concern about the future availability and price of replacement vehicles. Mr. Thomason recommended the follow purchases:

- 2 - F-150s 4x4 pick-ups for \$32,485 each
- 1 - F-250 with utility bed for \$48,880
- 1 - F-350 with dump bed for \$51,780

Upon motion by Paul Lawrence and second by Todd Thomas to approve the purchase of four trucks from Morrow Brothers Ford, Inc. as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

Greater Egypt Planning & Development Commission

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the uses and purposes of being a member of the Greater Egypt Planning & Development Commission. The annual cost is approximately \$4,000.

Upon motion by Paul Lawrence and second by Robert Walton to approve the payment of approximately \$4,000 for the annual fee to the Greater Egypt Planning & Development Commission, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

Todd Thomas urged the District to support the Golf Course Superintendent's Association by sending a team to its annual event at a cost of \$480. No member stated any objection.

Closed Session

Upon motion by Ernest Collins and second by Paul Lawrence to go into Closed Session at 10:30 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

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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, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

Ernest Collins moved to rescind his Motion to go into Closed Session and Paul Lawrence likewise withdrew his second. All members approved so no Closed Session was held.

A discussion was held regarding the pending lawsuits. No action was taken.

A discussion was held regarding the purchase of land. No action was taken. Management was asked to arrange to meet with interested parties.

A discussion was held regarding an employee contract.

Upon motion by Ernest Collins and second by Nicholas LeMay to seek outside legal review, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: Lawrence

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Nicholas LeMay and second by Ernest Collins to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Ward

The President declared the motion carried.


Michael Warren, President


Robert Walton, Secretary