

**Vermilion County Conservation District
Headquarters: Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2012
4:30 p.m.
Zack Hickman Room
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Call called the April Regular Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order at 4:30 p.m. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll call showed the following.

Trustees Present: Max C. Call
Dan L. Danner
Ken E. Green
Brett K. Little

Trustee(s) Absent: Nikki A. Bogart

Also in attendance were Ken Konsis, Executive Director, Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director, and Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary.

Staff members present included Lorna Konsis, Ken Kuntz, Charlie Rhoden, and Gary Wilford.

First order of business, agenda item number four, was the Adoption of, or Amendments to the Agenda.

Trustee Little moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the March 21, 2012 Regular Meeting. President Call asked for any corrections to the minutes.

Trustee Green moved to approve the March 21, 2012, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Little. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item number six, Audience Comments. Executive Director Konsis explained that the eight persons in attendance represented Lake Vermilion shore residents in favor of

bringing back gasoline sales at the District's boat dock. The gasoline pump did not pass inspection, and the underground tank had a crack in the outer wall. Because it was too costly to repair to bring up to code, the service had been discontinued and the pump and tank removed.

Executive Director Konsis introduced Steve Miller, the spokesman for the lake residents.

Steve explained he had been in contact with the Executive Director when the sale of gasoline had been discontinued to find out why. He was informed that Associate Director Pasquale had received an estimate of almost \$50,000 to repair the system and the District Board decided that it could not afford that expense. Steve has researched the cost of reinstating this valuable service and has given the Trustees a copy of the information.

President Call stated the no approval or decision can be made regarding this issue tonight, since it is not an agenda item and the Trustees have no prior knowledge of this presentation.

Steve Miller responded that he was only here to inform the Trustees of his findings on the gasoline pump reinstallation. He thanked Executive Director Konsis for allowing them to appear at the meeting. Many lake residents have docks at their homes on Lake Vermilion and keep boats on the lake. There is a large number who keep their boats at the Boat Club and the Gao Grotto. It is a severe inconvenience to get gas elsewhere and carry the gas can down the hill to their boats. The lake residents want to find a workable solution. It is clear that the general public is not as inconvenienced as the 60 – 80 boat owners who keep their boats on the lake.

Three other points that were raised were:

- Environmental – gas leakage from can spillage; into the lake and onto the soil
- Physical disabilities – some boat owners have physical limitations or disabilities making it dangerous, if not impossible, for them to carry a gas can.

Further research of the original \$50,000 quote revealed that about \$20,000 of that amount pertained to a credit card payment equipment which was not needed nor allowed. By law, gas cannot be dispensed at a marina that is unattended. The boat dock at Lake Vermilion is not manned 24 hours, so credit card equipment is not needed.

Steve stated, "Many of us that want this restored are willing to make a monetary donation." Pledges could be made or fundraising efforts to raise a substantial sum of money.

President Call asked for clarification on what kind of fundraising Mr. Miller was referring.

Steve Miller had been pleasantly surprised at the response so far. They are only at the first stages, so he does not have a written proposal. He and the other lake residents think that the people who want this service should be the ones to pay for it.

President Call stated that the Board is not against reinstating the gasoline service, it is only a matter of economics.

Discussion ensued, with several in the audience voicing their opinions. The Board is open to the fundraising idea and would like an update at a future meeting.

Steve Miller agreed, will continue to pursue the issue, and will report back.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report.

President Call asked if there were any comments or questions on items seven a. – seven d.

Trustee Little questioned the mail expenses; check number 30274 on the Manual Check Listing.

Executive Director Konsis responded that this expense included payment for a lease agreement, and postage for both Kennekuk and Forest Glen. Another check written to the postmaster was for the quarterly newsletter.

Trustee Little asked if there was any means to trim the postage expense.

Executive Director Konsis agreed to take a look and see what could be done.

Trustee Danner inquired about check number 30311 to Direct Energy for electric service.

Executive Director Konsis explained that Direct Energy is a company that provides electricity on contract at a reduced rate. We still pay Ameren IP for the delivery charge and service. It has saved the District money on electrical expenses.

There were no other questions.

Agenda item seven e. President Call asked Executive Director Konsis to give the Report on Cash and Investments.

Executive Director Konsis reported that the current balance in the checking account at First Midwest Bank, Danville is \$144,650.00. Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance is \$53,750.00. The Illinois Funds Prime account remains at \$5,100.00. The Hoopston Money Market remained at \$198,700.00. The Preferred Checking Account (Hegeler account), has a remaining balance of \$2,090.00. The Money Market Passbook account at Central Illinois Bank has a balance of \$10,800.00.

The grand total of cash and investments as of March 21, 2012, is \$424,840.00, which compares to \$544,650.00, at the same time last year. The total does not include the third allocation of real estate taxes (approximately \$55,000), usually received by this time.

The DCEO Grant is not included in this cash and investment total, but listed on the report separately as a NOW account at the First Savings Bank currently earning .25%. The current balance is \$250,064.00.

Executive Director Konsis checked on the certificate of deposit interest rates, as requested, and found them to be competitive with the current financial institutions the District is using now.

He asked if there were any questions from the Trustees. There were none.

Trustee Little moved to approve the Current List of Bills from March 2012, in the amount of \$11,718.85 which included check #'s 30354 – 30384; the Manual Checks for March 2012 in the amount of \$28,178.93, which included check #'s 30263 – 30284 and #'s 30308 - 30330; the General Journal Entries for February 29, 2012; the February 2012 Budget Report and the Report on Cash and Investments. This was followed by a second from Trustee Danner.

President Call requested a roll call voice vote. The results:

Trustee Little	-	yes
Trustee Danner	-	yes
Trustee Green	-	yes
President Call	-	yes

The vote was 4–0. Treasurer’s Report, items seven: a – e were approved. Motion carried.

Agenda item number eight, Specific Items of Business to be Transacted.

Item eight a: Approval to Advertise for Bidding General Liability Insurance/Approve RFP Specifications.

Executive Director Konsis briefly explained the copy of the policy given to the Trustees, and asked for permission to place an advertisement to bid.

With no questions or comments, Trustee Little moved to approve the RFP specifications and advertisement to bid the General Liability Insurance. This was followed by a second from Trustee Danner. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight b: Approve Schematic Drawings for Education Center.

The Executive Director explained the drawings the Trustees had been given.

Trustee Green moved to approve the schematic drawings for the Kennekuk Education Center. This was followed by a second from Trustee Little. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight c: Discuss Approval of Mid Central Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters Renewal.

Executive Director Konsis stated that he received notification to renew membership in this council, and referred the item to Trustee Green.

After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that they have no opposition to the V.C.C.D. Employees forming a union; but if the V.C.C.D. has membership with a union, this dictates which union the employees must be affiliated. The Board does not have any right to order which union the employees join. Therefore, the Board agreed to ignore this application.

Item eight d: Permission to Seek Loan to Cover OSLAD Grant for Reimbursement Expenses.

Executive Director Konsis reported that the OSLAD grant required spending dollars for the education center project before reimbursement. A bridge loan for 6 – 8 months will be sought from First Midwest Bank. The loan will not be needed until July.

Brief discussion ensued.

With no more questions, *Trustee Danner moved for approval for a loan to be taken out by the Vermillion County Conservation District for the Kennekuk Education Center project expenses, to be reimbursed by the OSLAD Grant. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green.*

Roll call vote requested:

Trustee Danner	-	yes
Trustee Green	-	yes
Trustee Little	-	yes
President Call	-	yes

The vote was 4–0. Item eight: d. was approved. Motion carried.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: Associate Director Pasquale reported that the annual IACD/IDNR meeting will be held in Springfield, IL, May 22-23. The Executive Director and he will be attending. All Trustees are invited. Trustee Green has already accepted.

Executive Director Konsis added that Lara Darling attended a Trails and Greenways Committee meeting in his absence. She is our IACD Representative, and Associate Director Pasquale will be President.

This concluded the IACD Report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation report was given by Executive Director Konsis. At the April meeting, plans for major fundraising for the education center are underway. A marketing brochure is in its first draft, and Foundation Director Mike Courson is Chairman of the Education Center Fundraising Committee. He has invited a V.C.C.D. Trustee to serve on this committee. The next meeting will be Friday, June 8th, 9:00 a.m., Zack Hickman Room, Kennekuk.

This concluded the report regarding the V.C.C.D. Foundation.

Agenda item nine c: Executive Director reported that the Trustees' IAPD membership cards are in their notebooks.

Agenda item ten: There was no executive session.

Agenda item eleven: There were no amendments to the agenda.

Agenda item twelve a; Report From the Education Supervisor. Gary Wilford reported that the Outdoor School Program is in its fourth week, and he is hoping to have a copy of the revised guidebook for the Trustees at the next meeting.

Conservation Olympics event will be held on May 11th, at Forest Glen starting at 9 a.m. This is a culmination of four months of preparation by the Vermilion County 6th grade classes in an "Olympic" style event. Medals are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes in each event; with overall winners receiving plaques for first through fifth places. Gary invited President Call to attend and assist in handing out medals.

Planning for summer programs is going well. Summer camps begin on June 5th and run through July. This year program advertising costs were reduced by doing it in-house.

This concluded the Education Supervisor's Report.

Agenda item thirteen a; Report from the Associate Director.

Associate Director Jamie Pasquale reported that a controlled burn had been done at the Jordan Creek property, in conjunction with the WHIP.

March 24th was the spring turkey hunting draw for Kennekuk. Thirty people participated. Last year just three turkeys were taken.

Work continues on the hillside at the boat ramp on Lake Vermilion, and the restroom is dismantled. The restroom will be relocated to allow better access.

A meeting concerning hunting activity proposals for the Busby-Meyer Wildlife Area with Pheasants Forever was held March 28th. The proposal list has been given to the Trustees. All items listed were agreed upon by all parties.

President Call questioned the Lake Vermilion gasoline tank leakage mentioned earlier in the discussion of reinstalling gasoline service there.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that there was no environmental damage. It is a dual wall tank, only the outer wall was cracked.

This concluded the Report from Associate Director Pasquale.

Agenda item fourteen; Report of Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began his report with an update on the Environmental Education Center. The final floor plans were

given to the Trustees and approved. The first of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity reports have been submitted online by Lorna Konsis. The next step is to work on construction drawings and decide what types of siding, windows, doors, lavatory fixtures, and roofing materials will be used.

The Kickapoo Trail purchase agreement was reviewed at a committee meeting on March 22nd. A final draft will be sent to CSX for their comments. The Champaign County Forest Preserve District is taking the lead to apply for more federal grants. The Executive Director and Jerry Pagac gave a fundraising presentation for this project for the Noon Rotary group.

Jeremy Parish and he will present an agenda to be used at the National Walnut Council Meeting, scheduled for July this year, to the committee for approval. The Executive Director will attend a Southern IL University Agriculture Board meeting on April 19th.

Following up with the KABOOM Playground Co. proposal, the Executive Director presented it to the Foundation and they will check with Ambucs to see if they could cover the \$8,500 fee.

The Illinois Audubon Spring Gathering – state meeting will be April 20 – 22, here in Vermilion County with several field trips planned to our parks.

The Trustees have a list of general contractors In our area that bid announcements will be sent by Farnsworth.

Executive Director Konsis will be out of the office Monday, April 30 through Thursday, May 3.

The next V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees meeting will be Wednesday, May 16th; 4:30 p.m., in the Zack Hickman Room, Kennekuk County Park. Planned agenda items so far will be to approve the final budget, open health insurance bids, and approve the specification for the farm lease bid.

There were no other questions.

Agenda item fifteen: President's and Trustee's Comments.

Trustee Green commented that on July 21, 2012, the Vermilion County Democrats Annual Picnic will be at the White Oak Barn, Kennekuk County Park. Gary Wilford and Lara Darling will present a Kennekuk Education Center overview and answer questions. This year's picnic will have speakers and presenters that are not politicians. He would like to invite the Trustees and all District staff to come and if you plan to attend, bring a covered dish.

Trustee Little commented that the park looks good, and he saw the work taking place at Lake Vermilion.

Trustee Danner had no comment.

President Call was happy to see that the V.C.C.D. Foundation had agreed to pay the attorney expenses pertaining to all work regarding the Kennekuk Education Center. Also, that the parks are looking good; Forest Glen is busy with visitors.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Little moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Danner. Meeting adjourned.*

Nikki A. Bogart
Secretary/Treasurer
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees