

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

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

**Wednesday, May 16, 2012
4:30 p.m.
Zack Hickman Room
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

A public hearing was conducted for the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2012-2013, Ordinance #124, at 4:30 p.m. The Executive Director presented the final budget. He noted the following amendments from the first draft of the tentative budget which was approved in March 2012 and was on public display.

Under the Corporate Fund, Revenue – There were two amendments to revenue to make the total revenue figure a round number of \$1,310,000. Shelter rentals were increased by \$400 and donations by \$100.

Under Corporate Fund, Expenditures - An amendment took \$5,500 from the arboretum restricted cash fund to buy a mower for the arboretum and tree research area.

On Capital Improvements - \$500 was added to purchase two pedestal grills; and \$1,200 for a fishing dock that will be paid from memorials.

The new total for expenditures is \$1,322,000 which leaves a \$12,000 difference between expenditures and revenue. The \$12,000 comes from restricted cash and must be treated as an expense.

There were no changes to the Insurance Fund. Total revenue is \$253,325 and total expenditures are \$268,860.

There were no changes to the IMRF Fund. Total revenue is \$56,090; total expenditures are \$67,500.

There were no changes to the Audit Fund. Total revenue and expenditures are balanced at \$6,000.

There were no changes to the Social Security Fund. Total revenue is \$48,010 and total expenditures are \$55,600.

Trustee Bogart clarified that all budget balances were cash positive, and Executive Director Konsis agreed.

There were no further questions from the Trustees or the audience.

Therefore, *Trustee Danner moved to approve the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013, Ordinance #124 as amended. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green and approved by acclamation.*

President Call requested a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

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

The budget and appropriations ordinance no. 124 was therefore approved by a 4 – 0 vote.

President Call called the May Regular Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order at 4:34 p.m. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll call showed the following.

Trustees Present: Nikki A. Bogart
Max C. Call
Dan L. Danner
Ken E. Green

Trustee(s) Absent: Brett K. Little

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

Staff members present included Kim Fox, 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 Bogart 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 April 18, 2012, Regular Meeting. President Call asked for any corrections to the minutes.

Trustee Green moved to approve the April 18, 2012, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Danner. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item number six, Audience Comments. There were none.

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 Bogart questioned check #30455 on page three of the Voucher Check Listing, to GRF Music Boosters for garbage bags.

Superintendent Rhoden responded that the supply will last Forest Glen one to two years, he purchases the bags from the Georgetown-Ridge Farm Music Boosters because they are less expensive than those from Danville Wholesale Paper Products.

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 \$61,500.00. Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance is \$82,190.00. The Illinois Funds Prime account remained at \$5,100.00. The Hoopeston Money Market remained at \$198,700.00. The Preferred Checking Account (Hegeler account), has a remaining balance of \$2,070.00. 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 May 16, 2012, is \$360,360.00, which compares to \$454,470.00, at the same time last year. The difference can be attributed to the purchases of the backhoe and mower for the arboretum.

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 \$221,027.00.

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

Trustee Green moved to approve the Current List of Bills from April 2012, in the amount of \$15,379.03 which included check #'s 30435 – 30466; the Manual Checks for April 2012 in the amount of \$49,179.88, which included check #'s 30331 – 30353 and #'s 30385 - 30420; the General Journal Entries for April 30, 2012; the April 2012 Budget Report and the Report on Cash and Investments. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart.

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

Trustee Green	-	yes
Trustee Bogart	-	yes
Trustee Danner	-	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: Update From Civic Group to Reinstate Gasoline Sales at Lake Vermilion.

Executive Director Konsis introduced Steve Miller, representative of the group. Steve presented the original of petitions that were signed by persons requesting to have gasoline sales reinstated at the V.C.C.D. Boat Dock. Since his request at the April Board Meeting, he has organized fundraising efforts and reports that 30 people, as well as the water company and a generous anonymous benefactor have made pledges to total over \$27,000. This amount is equal to the estimated cost received from Excel for \$18,023.00 for equipment and Petro Maintenance for \$9,506.00 for installation. He expects to collect the pledge money in the next couple of weeks.

With this donation, the group of citizens requests the creation of a dedicated fund, input on improvements from the donors, and they also ask for dialogue regarding any future plans regarding gasoline sales. The group does not want something like this to happen again without their knowledge, now that they have vested interest. The resolution also includes a clause that would stipulate that the revenue from the gasoline sales be used for lake-related expenses. Steve gave the Trustees a copy of a proposed resolution.

The Trustees reviewed the proposed resolution, and brought up several points of concern.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the District’s attorney, Gil Saikley, look over the resolution and work with Steve and the group. After they reach an agreement, Gil, Steve, President Call and Executive Director Konsis will meet to finalize the resolution and to go over the estimate for the work and materials. This needs to be accomplished in a timely fashion due to the summer recreational season, so a V.C.C.D. special meeting will be scheduled.

The Trustees thanked Steve Miller for his efforts regarding a solution for this issue.

Item eight b: Open Sealed Bids for Medical Insurance.

Executive Director Konsis reported that two bids were received; one from Illini Community Insurance, agent Bob Woodard, and Dimond Bros. Insurance, agent Gordon Thoennes. Both agents were in attendance.

Bob Woodard introduced himself and asked the Board to go with Gordon Thoennes, due to the fact he is local and would probably be able to give the District a slightly better bid. He encouraged the Board to take a close look at the Personal Care insurance package, as he felt it was a good plan for a good rate. He then deferred to Gordon.

Gordon began the presentation of two coverage options: Health Alliance and Coventry Health of Illinois [Personal Care].

The current Health Alliance Medical Plan annual premium is \$165,960. The renewal premium will be \$174,660, an increase of \$8,700 for the identical plan the District has now. Coventry Health of Illinois coverage establishes a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) of a set amount per insured employee and each dependent. The amount of HRA is determined by the plan option and therefore determines the maximum deduction paid by employee and the amount paid by the employer, the District.

Gordon offered proposal premium bids for Coventry Health of Illinois that included three different plan options for the 30 employees and dependents the District covers:

SJ Prime 1000 – The premium is \$140,988 annual coverage and establishes a HRA at \$750/person.

SJ Prime 2000 – The premium is \$119,280 annual coverage and establishes a HRA at \$1,500/person.

SJ Prime 3000 – The premium is \$101,928 annual coverage and establishes a HRA at \$2000/person.

Gordon explained how each of the Coventry Health plans differ in co-pays and coverage amounts. In these plans the District sets aside dollars as part of the HRA for employees and their dependents so the out-of-pocket expenses are decreased. This requires taking a slight risk for the District, but Gordon thinks this could save the District thousands of dollars.

He elucidated the similarities and differences between the District's current health coverage and Coventry Health of Illinois. He stated that fully insured discounts with Carle Clinic doctors are significantly better than with self insured policies. Coventry Health is not a real "self insured" plan.

A question and answer session between the Trustees and Gordon ensued. The Trustees became more interested in changing to Coventry Health of Illinois.

Gordon gave the Trustees a handout with suggested plan designs for Coventry Health of Illinois. When asked for his recommendation, he reluctantly proposed #1 on the handout. This scenario could save the District up to an estimated \$28,474.00 per year.

Trustee Bogart asked the employees present for their input, and received several helpful comments.

After discussion among the Trustees, it was agreed upon to go with Coventry Health of Illinois and President Call asked for a motion.

Trustee Green moved to accept Coventry Health of Illinois SJ Prime 2000 Plan annual bid of \$119,280.00 with an additional Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for each employee and dependent set for \$1,500.00 annually. The maximum deductible from each insured to be \$500 out of pocket from the HRA. This was followed by a second from Trustee Danner.

President Call asked for a roll call vote. The results:

Trustee Green	-	yes
Trustee Danner	-	yes
Trustee Bogart	-	yes
President Call	-	yes

The vote was 4–0. SJ Prime 2000 HRA \$1,500 Insurance from Coventry Health of Illinois (Personal Care Plan) approved. Motion carried.

The ceiling for employee health insurance cost of \$165,000 will remain in place for 2012.

Item eight c: Open Sealed Bids for General Casualty Insurance. The only bid was from Dimond Bros. Insurance with our current IPARKS policy. The current premium for the District’s General Liability coverage is \$58,058.88. This bid has an increase of \$1,500, raising this year’s coverage to \$59,588.88.

Trustee Bogart moved to accept the bid for the IPARKS General Liability Insurance premium of \$59,558.88 from Dimond Bros. This was followed by a second from Trustee Danner.

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

Trustee Bogart	-	yes
Trustee Danner	-	yes
Trustee Green	-	yes
President Call	-	yes

The vote was 4–0. General Liability Insurance bid from Dimond Bros. approved. Motion carried.

Item eight d: Adopt Resolution to Seek Grant Funds for Kickapoo Trail Project. President Call asked If all Trustees had read and understood the resolution mailed in their packets. Simply stated, the Champaign County Forest Preserve District is applying for additional grants for construction and there is a maximum amount for each entity. It is suggested that each organization apply for the maximum amount to be awarded. The C.C.F.P.D. will write the application for us, but as with most major grants, approval must be given by each board. There were no questions.

Trustee Green moved to approve the resolution of support for application to the IDOT for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Funds. This was followed by a second from Trustee Danner. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight e: Illinois Public Risk Fund By-law Change. Executive Director Konsis informed the Trustees that there was no action required, that currently the workman’s compensation policy begins on December 15th, it will now begin on January 1st to coincide with the calendar year.

Item eight f: Approve Bid Specifications for Farm Lease. Executive Director Konsis explained that the farm ground bidding should be on a three year renewal, with the exception of tract 803 which he would like to keep on a one year program of renewal.

Trustee Bogart moved to follow the recommendation of the Executive Director and place the V.C.C.D. farm ground on a three year bidding lease, with the exception of tract 803 which will remain on a yearly renewal. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight g: Approve Design Documents for Environmental Education Center. Documents are not ready. No action required.

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, along with Trustee Green. Tuesday evening is the social; the meeting will be held on Wednesday.

This concluded the IACD Report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation report was given by Foundation Chairman, Gordon Thoennes. At the April meeting, a resolution was passed to form an Environmental Education Fundraising Committee. Director Mike Courson was chosen to chair this committee and given a budget of \$10,000. Currently, there is a new brochure in the design phase to promote the project.

Gordon invited a Trustee to serve on this committee which meets the second Tuesday of each month. Nikki Bogart was chosen to represent the V.C.C.D. Board. She agreed, pending approval from her employer.

The next regular Foundation 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: There was no report for the IAPD.

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 stated that the Outdoor School program is in the middle of its 40th year of existence. There is an open house planned at each park this fall to celebrate. He hopes to bring the revised Outdoor School Workbook for them to peruse at June's meeting. The staff is also offering Day Visits and many classes are taking advantage of opportunities to come to the park for a day to supplement their classroom studies.

Conservation Olympics were held last Friday, May 11th, at Forest Glen. Eighteen teams representing ten schools participated. A team from Judith Giacom, Westville took first place overall.

The summer program schedule is set to begin soon. This includes children's camps, public programs, traveling wildlife literacy program featuring "Mammals" to all Vermilion County libraries, partnering with organizations like the YMCA to bring kids to the parks, and historical programs on weekends at the Homestead Cabin (Forest Glen) and Bunker Hill Historic Area (Kennekuk).

This concluded the Education Supervisor's Report.

Agenda item thirteen a; Report from the Associate Director.

Associate Director Jamie Pasquale reported that Lake Mingo Dam had passed inspection with only minor repair requests. This is requirement every three years.

Lake Mingo is 8 inches below average, almost up to normal operating level after lowering to remove problem vegetation. Larry Gilliland has procured free concrete remnants to help with erosion control at both Heron and Lake Vermilion Parks. Restroom work continues at Lake Vermilion.

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. He passed around pictures of design choices for the education center. Staff visited Farnsworth's office to go over details for the design documents. There was one major change regarding elimination of a vehicular entrance to the basement which resulted in cost savings.

He will "meet" via conference call, with CSX, Jerry Pagac and Tim Bartlett regarding the Kickapoo Trail on May 26th. Executive Director Konsis continues planning for the National Walnut Council Annual meeting scheduled in late July. He attended the National quarterly meeting on Friday, April 27th at Purdue University. He also attended an SIU College of Ag Board Meeting, Carbondale, regarding alternative funding for the farms.

The V.C.C.D. has been asked to host this year's Farm City Event scheduled for Thursday, August 23rd. It will be held at Laury Barn, Kennekuk and will focus on our conservation education programs and the environmental education center.

Boy Scout Troop #365 of Danville plans a work day Saturday, May 19th, to construct steps to the observation blind at the Kennekuk Marshes. All material used was paid for by the Middle Fork Audubon Society.

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m., at the Gannett Center, Forest Glen.

Illinois Natural History Survey plans to visit Forest Glen next week to research further why there was a major box turtle die-off in the western portion of the park last spring. They plan to use “turtle sniffing” dogs that can find up to 30 turtles per day.

The June 20th meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. followed by the annual Trustee Picnic. There will be a Kickapoo Trail presentation by C.C.D.C. Tim Bartlett and Steve Rugge. This will be President Call’s final meeting of his term, spouses and guests are invited. Please RSVP by Thursday, June 14th.

There were no other questions.

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

Trustee Bogart had no comment.

Trustee Green had no comment.

Trustee Danner had no comment.

President Call appreciated everyone’s patience. It was a long meeting and much was accomplished.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Danner moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green. Meeting adjourned.*

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