

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

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

**Wednesday, June 20, 2012
6:00 p.m.
Gannett Outdoor Education Center
Forest Glen Preserve
Westville, IL**

President Call called the June Regular Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 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
Ken E. Green
Brett K. Little

Trustee(s) Absent: Nikki A. Bogart
Dan L. Danner

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

Staff members present included Lorna Konsis, Mike Kotcher, 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 May 16, 2012, Regular Meeting. President Call asked for any corrections to the minutes.

Trustee Little moved to approve the May 16, 2012, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number five a. Approval of the Minutes from the May 24, 2012, Special Meeting. President Call asked for any corrections to the minutes.

Trustee Little moved to approve the May 24, 2012, Special Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item number six, Audience Comments. There were none, President Call remarked that we were about five minutes away from the official start of summer.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer’s Report.

President Call asked if there were any comments or questions on items seven a. – seven d. There were none.

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 \$73,700.00. Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance is \$10,190.00. The Illinois Funds Prime account remained at \$5,100.00. The Hoopeston Money Market remained at \$123,700.00. 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 June 20, 2012, is \$225,560.00, which compares to \$344,420.00, at the same time last year. The District is consistently running \$110,000+ under last year’s total for the past few months. Executive Director Konsis stated that while some expenses will be controlled, unexpected equipment repairs that could not be put off have occurred.

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 \$202,148.32.

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

Trustee Little moved to approve the Current List of Bills from May 2012, in the amount of \$24,044.61 which included check #'s 30513 – 30555; the Manual Checks for May 2012 in the amount of \$32,708.24, which included check #'s 30421 – 30434 and #'s 30467-30491; the General Journal Entries for May 31, 2012; the May 2012 Budget Report and the June 20, 2012 Report on Cash and Investments. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green.

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

| | | |
|----------------|---|-----|
| Trustee Little | - | yes |
| Trustee Green | - | yes |
| President Call | - | yes |

The vote was 3–0. 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 on Kickapoo Trail Project; Tim Bartlett and Steve Rugg were not present at this time, so this item was tabled for later in the meeting.

Item eight b: Approve Prevailing Wage Ordinance 2012-2013. Executive Director Konsis stated that each year the State of Illinois requires the District to abide by the prevailing rate of laborers wages as defined in the State of Illinois Labor Act. An ordinance is written, approved and published to serve as notice that the determination is effective and that this is the determination of the District. The Executive Director presents Ordinance No. 125 for the Trustees approval. There were no questions from the Trustees.

Trustee Green moved to approve Vermilion County Conservation District Ordinance No. 125: Vermilion County Prevailing Wage for June 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. This was followed by a second from Trustee Little. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight c: Request From Sleepy Creek Vineyard to sell Wine at Farm City Event. Executive Director Konsis explained that this is the first time a request resulting from the action of the 2004 V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees regarding HB4055. The passage of HB4055 amended the Liquor Control Act of 1934 to allow conservation districts the authority to have alcoholic liquor sold under the authority of a one day special use permit. This item is the first step of a three step process. Sleepy Creek Vineyard has requested a cash bar during the Farm City Event to be held at Kennekuk on August 23.

The District is covered for dram shop under the current insurance policy.

Trustee Little moved to approve the sale of alcohol during the Farm City event on August 23. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight a: At this point, Tim Bartlett and Steve Rugg were prepared to give the update on the Kickapoo Trail Project. President Call recognized them, and Executive Director Konsis introduced Steve Rugg as the President of Champaign County Design and Conservation Foundation and Tim Bartlett of the CCDC.

Steve explained that the potential trail includes 24.5 miles of abandoned CSX railroad line, along east Urbana and running into Kickapoo State Park. The positives are that a price has been agreed upon by both parties, the CCDC has secured grants and private funding to meet the purchase price, and design work is done.

Now, the group can start to move on into the development stage which is estimated to cost approximately \$500,000. This will require a great deal of fundraising in both Champaign and Vermilion Counties, and a committee is being formed. Steve clarified that they want to combine forces with the V.C.C.D. without interfering with either campaign [referring to the V.C.C.D. Foundation’s Environmental Education project]. In fact, he hopes to bring the two projects together to enhance each one.

He explained the finer points of the project, and answered questions from the Trustees and audience. Steve asked Tim if he had anything to add and he did not. President Call thanked both men for attending.

Item eight d: Approve Design Documents for Kennekuk Environmental Education Center. The documents had been mailed to the Trustees for review, previous to the meeting date.

Executive Director Konsis reported that Larry Gilliland, Lara Darling, Gary Wilford, and Associate Director Pasquale met with Rick McPhee, Scott Burge, and Kathleen Rump on June 15th to finalize plans. Several items were discussed. The only change that was made at this time was the increase of two feet in the width of the hallway corridor in front of the exhibit space and thus the reduction of the exhibit space depth from eight feet to six feet.

Rick McPhee and Scott Burge were present to answer any questions posed by the Trustees. July 25, 2012 is the date to have the final drawings ready, and then there will be another meeting. There will be a one week period for V.C.C.D. staff to review. The bidding process is expected to take three weeks. A late August, early September groundbreaking is planned; then a six month construction period.

Executive Director Konsis stated that a special V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees meeting may need to be scheduled after July 25, to approve the plans before the bidding process begins. There were no more comments or questions.

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

Item eight e: Discuss Protective Bumper Guard for Lake Vermilion Docks. Trustee Green gave a handout of information concerning a solution to the complaints of boat owners regarding damage to their watercrafts from the Lake Vermilion docks. He had an example of the material, high density polyethylene pipe; he proposes the District use as a bumper between the docks and watercraft. Trustee Green estimates that 710 feet of dock is accessible and needs protection. Taking into account the length the pipe is sold, the estimated cost would be \$2,000. He envisions using the gasoline proceeds to fund this project.

Associate Director Pasquale estimates that the gasoline profits for 2012 may be \$500 to \$1,000. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go to the V.C.C.D. general fund; the other half dedicated to Lake Vermilion projects.

President Call stated that, in his opinion, the District simply does not have the funds for this project at this time.

Executive Director Konsis suggests that in September we tally the gasoline profits, and then revisit this solution.

Trustee Green expressed that he is presenting a solution to a problem, not asking for a vote for approval tonight.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: Associate Director Pasquale reported that the annual IACD/IDNR meeting was held in Springfield, IL, May 22-23. The Executive Director and he attended, along with Trustee Green. In his opinion, it was not one of the more productive meetings. It was scheduled so the IDNR Director could have input, and he could not be present.

This concluded the IACD Report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation report was given by Foundation Chairman, Gordon Thoennes. The regular Foundation Meeting was held Friday, June 8th, 9:00 a.m., Zack Hickman Room, Kennekuk. Since then, 2,000 brochures specifically for the education center fundraising have been received and the Education Center Fundraising Committee will soon begin plans for distribution. Gordon gave the Trustees and representative from Farnsworth a brochure. They were designed by Rich Stefaniak of Design Studios.

The Education Center Fundraising Committee had a very productive meeting with Linda Bolton regarding how we are currently promoting our parks and excellent suggestions how to showcase them even better!

The Trustees agreed that the brochures looked nice. This concluded the report regarding the V.C.C.D. Foundation.

Agenda item nine c: The IAPD report was given by Executive Director Konsis. The IAPD's 2012 Best of the Best Awards Gala is scheduled for Friday, September 28, 2012 at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling. The Executive Director does not recommend attendance due to cost.

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 V.C.C.D.'s Summer Library Program, "Wildlife Literacy – Mammals" began June 8th at the Westville Library. From there we will travel to Hoopston the following week, then to Oakwood. Before ending in August, we will travel to all ten Vermilion County Libraries. The Toddler Camps are very successful, and we are currently in the middle of a brand new program, Youth Conservation Summit. Youth Conservation Summit enrollees are 12 – 15 years old and have participated in wildlife biology, forestry, land management, kayaking, canoeing, archery, and shooting. Still to go this week . . . game calling, backpacking, and geology.

This concluded the Education Supervisor's Report.

Agenda item thirteen a; Report from the Associate Director.

Associate Director Jamie Pasquale reported the work continues at Lake Vermilion. Concrete has been poured; and repair has begun on the staircase that leads down the hillside. A workday at the lake was scheduled for last Thursday and many small jobs were completed there.

He attended the Lake Vermilion Water Quality Coalition meeting and was elected to the Board.

The excavator was used to remove cattails and brush around Horseshoe Pond in preparation for the Illini Bass Club and D.A.R.E. Fishing Derby held on June 9.

This concluded the Report from Associate Director Pasquale.

Agenda item fourteen; Report of Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis reported that he had spoken with Creative Concrete Products regarding stenciling the Illinois State Symbols on the floor in the main hallway of the Environmental Education Center. The dedication of the Wheeler Foundation Nature Trail will be Saturday, August 11, in the a.m. during the Cheeseburger and Fun event.

The Illinois Walnut Council and the executive director from Purdue met at Forest Glen on June 6th to go over the final plans for the field day at Forest Glen during the National Meeting in late July. Traps were placed in the walnut plot in the Tree Research Area at Forest Glen to capture the twig beetle. This beetle is the cause of the Thousand Canker Disease which has the potential to wipe out all species of walnut. Currently Illinois has quarantined the movement of firewood and logs from neighboring states.

Executive Director Konsis met with the Farm City event organizing committee a week ago. The V.C.C.D. Foundation will provide a cookout and all proceeds will go toward the Kennekuk education center.

Catholic Heart Work Camp volunteers will be in the District on Monday, July 9th through the 12th. There will be eight high school age students and instructor from anywhere in the nation. This is our fourth year of participation. Larry Gilliland and Associate Director Pasquale will coordinate their efforts toward the construction of new steps to the dock at Songer Pavilion.

The Illini Bass Club/D.A.R.E. Fishing Derby held at Horseshoe Pond on Saturday, June 9th was successful, although slightly less attended than last year. The District always stocks the pond prior to the tournament and had some difficulty this year finding a hatchery to supply the catfish. A Richmond, Illinois hatchery provided both the catfish and bass needed.

Father of long-time V.C.C.D. supporter, Mark Lourance, passed away and his family has designated the education center to receive memorials in his honor. The Lourance family has donated nearly \$15,000 to the education center to date. The V.C.C.D. Foundation received \$2,000 from Central Christian Church to purchase classroom equipment in the

new education center. The District received a \$400 donation from the Vermilion Fishing Club to purchase rock for the pads in the Forest Glen campgrounds.

The Emerald Ash Borer beetle has been confirmed in the City of Champaign.

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 4:30 p.m. in the Zack Hickman Room, Kennekuk County Park. The new Board Member, Dirk Porter, will be introduced.

There were no other questions.

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

Trustee Green had no comment.

Trustee Little thanked President Call for his help and his service to the District as a Board Member.

Executive Director Konsis presented President Call with a plaque to commemorate his five years of service on the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees.

Executive Director Konsis introduced Amanda Hatcher, intern from Eastern Illinois University, and thanked her for her assistance with tonight's dinner preparations.

President Call responded with compliments to the park district staff for their cooperation to make the Vermilion County Parks one of the best in the state, and then his board members for helping make his experience a real pleasure.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Little moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 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