

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

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

**Wednesday, October 24, 2012
4:30 p.m.
Gannett Outdoor Education Center
Forest Glen Preserve
Westville, IL**

President Little called the October 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: Nikki A. Bogart
Ken E. Green
Brett K. Little

Trustee(s) Absent: Dan L. Danner
B. Dirk Porter

In attendance were Ken Konsis, Executive Director; Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director; Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary; Rick McPhee, Farnsworth Group; Gordon Thoennes, V.C.C.D.F. Chairman; Bob Schifo, V.C.C.D.F. Vice Chairman; and V.C.C.D.F. Director Mark Meyer. Also in attendance, Glen Semple, V.P. Commercial Lending, of Farm Credit Services.

Staff members present included Susan Biggs Warner, Lorna Konsis, Jerry Leahy, 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 September 19, 2012, Regular Meeting. President Little asked for any corrections to the minutes.

Trustee Bogart wanted to clarify that during the discussion regarding the funding for Phase I of the Environmental Education Center on page four, that it would be the V.C.C.D. Foundation's liability, not the Vermilion County Conservation District's.

Trustee Bogart moved to approve the September 19, 2012, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Rick McPhee, architect with Farnsworth Group, Inc. arrived at 4:35 p.m.

Item number six, Audience Comments. There were none.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report.

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

Trustee Bogart asked about check #30795 to Crowder CPA's for audit services.

Executive Director Konsis answered that this was not an additional charge, only how they invoice all clients.

President Little asked about the portable toilets used during the Howl at the Moon Run.

Executive Director Konsis responded that these were not specifically for the Cheeseburgers& Fun event. The V.C.C.D. Foundation paid the bill only for the Cheeseburgers and Fun event, the remaining were the District's expense.

Agenda item seven e. President Little 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 \$84,400.00. Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance remained at \$39,300.00. The Illinois Funds Money Market account remained at \$5,100.00. The Hoopston Money Market balance remains at \$249,000.00. The Preferred Checking Account (Hegeler account), has a remaining balance of \$2,400.00. The Money Market Passbook account at Central Illinois Bank is \$151,000.00. The Health Insurance Reimbursement Account at First Midwest Bank of Danville has a balance of \$4,800.00.

The Wheeler Foundation Accounts Receivable has not been updated.

The grand total of cash and investments as of October 24, 2012, is \$537,500.00, which compares to \$472,850.00, at the same time last year.

The DCEO Grant is listed on the report separately as a NOW account at the First Savings Bank currently earning .25%. The current balance is \$250,100.00.

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

Trustee Bogart moved to approve the Current List of Bills from September 2012, in the amount of \$12,783.80 which included check #'s 30880 – 30904; the Manual Checks for September 2012 in the amount of \$132,077.91, which included check #'s 30781 – 30799 and #'s 30829 - 30661; the General Journal Entries for September 30, 2012; the September 2012 Budget Report and the October 17, 2012 Report on Cash and Investments. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green.

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

Trustee Bogart	-	yes
Trustee Green	-	yes
President Little	-	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: Discuss/Approval Financing Options For Environmental Education Center. Executive Director Konsis gave an account of what had transpired since the September 19, 2012 meeting. He referenced the October 23, education center memo sent to the trustees that contained financial scenarios. [See attached memo]

Gordon Thoennes was recognized, and he introduced Glen Semple with Farm Credit Services.

Gordon explained that the Foundation Board had discussed many alternative plans to make up the project shortfall of \$800,000. The best hope will be to borrow the amount over a 20 year period, but in order to procure the funding required the Foundation will have to use the 189 acres of cropland owned by the V.C.C.D.F. as collateral and will also have to ask the V.C.C.D. Board to pledge an additional 141 acres of V.C.C.D. cropland within Kennekuk County Park.

Executive Director Konsis stated that there should never be a reason the V.C.C.D.F. would lose the V.C.C.D. land. In that dire situation, the Foundation would sell the Jordan Creek Wildlife Area cropland to make loan payments.

Farm Credit Services representative, Glen Semple clarified that it would be the income from the cash rent of the cropland that would be used for payment. As long as the cash rent would be at least \$250 per acre, the loan payment estimated amount of \$62,000.00 could be accomplished.

The Trustees were very concerned with the legality of pledging District land as collateral.

Executive Director Konsis responded that this was legally acceptable, according to Gil Sailkey, V.C.C.D. attorney.

Loan parameters, cropland location, and ownership were discussed, and clarified. The interest rate will be fixed and set according to prime on the closing date of the loan.

Discussion ensued.

Trustee Bogart stated she was not comfortable with pledging property that belonged to 80,000 people of Vermilion County as collateral.

Gordon responded that the people of Vermilion County would be getting an education center worth \$2M as an asset in return. He stated that the Foundation does not expect to have this collateralized for the full 20 years.

Trustee Bogart wanted a promise that the V.C.C.D.F. will do everything they can do to get this out of mortgage promptly and back into the people's hands.

Gordon completely agreed, stating that once the groundbreaking is done, he expects the private donations to be forthcoming.

President Little asked if there would be any land released, as payments were made.

Glen explained that could be an option, but most likely not up front.

Discussion on loan and details ensued.

Rick McPhee stated that English Brothers have agreed to hold the contract bid amount to \$2,199,000 through this week. He went on to explain details of the process of revising the plans, and the costs and timeline of the project.

Discussion on project details ensued.

With no further questions or discussion, *Trustee Green moved to proceed with the financing option including the 141 acres of Vermilion County Conservation District cropland, deductions and changes as presented in the memo dated October 23, 2012, with updates provided by Rick McPhee. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart.*

President Little asked for a roll call vote. The results as follows:

Trustee Green	- yes
Trustee Bogart	- yes
President Little	- yes

The motion carried with a 3-0 vote, and met with a round of applause from the audience.

Rick McPhee explained the next steps regarding the drawings and English Brothers contract. Change orders will need written, which will take about three weeks; and it is possible that we may have the contract by the end of the week. Any extra costs, including these change orders, will be expensed from the contingency fund. Once English Brothers has the signed contract, they will begin initial work at the site.

There were no more questions, and Rick McPhee, Glen Semple, and Mark Meyer left the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Item eight b; Approve Workers Compensation Insurance Specifications. Executive Director Konsis referenced the Trustee's copy of the specifications that were provided to them. The expiration date has been changed from December 15, 2012, to January 1, 2013. The current annual premium is close to \$14,000.

There were no questions. *Trustee Bogart moved to approve the Workers Compensation Insurance Specifications for advertisement to bid. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: There was no IACD report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation report was already covered by Chairman, Gordon Thoennes.

The next V.C.C.D. F. meeting is Friday, December 7, 9 a.m., Zack Hickman Room.

Agenda item nine c: Executive Director Konsis reported that the IAPD Annual meeting will be in January 2013. He does not recommend attendance, due to the expense.

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 Outdoor School is in its final two weeks. It is important to remember that this program not only encompasses conservation, but covers all aspects of the environment.

Historical program, "Taste of the Colonies", at Edison School will be tomorrow. This has been running for 24 years, and Susan Biggs Warner does a great job.

Last Saturday, October 20, was the Forest Glen Trail Run on the River Ridge Back Pack Trail. It is a 5K or 50K run put together by a group from Champaign. The V.C.C.D. Foundation receives all the proceeds from the registration fees. Bob O'Brien, the main organizer of this event was in attendance here earlier, but could not stay.

This Saturday, October 27, will be the first drawing for upland game hunting at the Busby-Meyer Wildlife Area. He explained how the drawing and hunting program will be run.

Gary gave the Trustees the new website and Facebook advertisement cards, designed to encourage people to learn about the District. This will be helpful in that we are eliminating an issue of the District newsletter.

Trustee Bogart recognized Gary's efforts for cost savings with the newsletter while continuing to promote the District.

Gordon Thoennes commented that V.C.C.D.F. Director, Doug Quick does a fantastic job promoting the Foundation and District on the V.C.C.D.F.'s website and Facebook page.

Susan Biggs Warner added an invitation to Edison School's "Taste of the Colonies" at 9 a.m., tomorrow, lunch will be served at noon.

This concluded the Education Supervisor's Report.

Agenda item thirteen a; Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported the annual waterfowl hunting draw was attended by 30 hunters.

Work to improve the area at Lake Vermilion will continue on the hillside and retaining wall.

President Little stated that he received a complaint from a member of the Illini Bass Club regarding mud on the Lake Vermilion ramp.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that 90% of the water causing the mud to collect there will be taken away by a drainage plan that will soon be in place.

In conclusion, groundwork on the 39+ acres of potential cropland in Kennekuk County Park has begun.

Agenda item fourteen; Report of Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis stated that he attended a meeting for the Kickapoo Trail project. The grant money has been released and the closing on the sale will be this calendar year. There will be an intergovernmental agreement between the VCCD, IDNR, and CCFPD. CCFPD will purchase the entire right of way, including Kickapoo State Park. At the closing, the VCCD will own Kickapoo State Park briefly. The IDNR will purchase Kickapoo from the VCCD and will receive the title and repay CCFPD. This may take three weeks, so the VCCD would have to purchase liability insurance temporarily for the IDNR property.

Haunted Happenings on October 20 was successful with 925 people attending. The net profit will not be known until the November meeting.

Leadership Tomorrow met on Friday, October 12, at Songer Pavilion. Gary Wilford gave a program and led a group on a hike. Associate Director Pasquale gave a pontoon boat tour of Lake Vermilion. Executive Director Konsis gave the welcome, toured Wheeler Foundation Trail and bused the group to the tour sites.

The 2012-2013 Tax Levy has been filed.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 21, 2012, 4:30 p.m. in the Zack Hickman Room, Kennekuk County Park.

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

Trustee Green is immeasurably pleased that the environmental education center project is now on the road.

Trustee Bogart would like to thank the staff and executive director for making this project happen. She also thanked the Foundation, because this wouldn't have happened without their partnership.

President Little stated that he is very happy, as well.

He went on to state that he had been in contact with a member of Kenny Dunbar's Family regarding naming a dock at Lake Vermilion in honor of Kenny Dunbar. Mr. Dunbar was participating in a fishing tournament there when he passed away. The family and Illini Bass Club was willing to make a donation.

This was not possible, so several other suggestions were given to President Little for the family to consider.

President Little wished to convey congratulations and thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center Phase I happen.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Green moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart. Meeting adjourned.*

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