

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

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

**Wednesday, November 21, 2012
4:30 p.m.
Zack Hickman Room
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Little called the November 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.

Staff members present included Ken Kuntz and Charlie Rhoden.

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 October 24, 2012, Regular Meeting. President Little asked for any corrections to the minutes.

Trustee Bogart moved to approve the October 24, 2012, Regular 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.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report.

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

President Little stated that he was not aware that we were connected to the Danville Sanitary District at Lake Vermilion.

Associate Director Pasquale commented that we have one flush toilet at the maintenance building. Executive Director Konsis added that this particular sanitary charge is double what it normally is because of the leaking flush mechanism for the toilet. It has been repaired.

Trustee Bogart asked about the bill for the garbage bags at Forest Glen. It seem like we just purchased some a couple of months ago. Forest Glen Superintendent, Charles Rhoden, answered that the park purchases two sizes of bags from the Georgetown Music Boosters; 55-gallon and 30-gallon. They cost 48 cents per bag.

Executive Director Konsis asked Kennekuk Superintendent, Ken Kuntz about the price for each bag at Kennekuk. He answered that it was 70 cents per bag.

Trustee Bogart concurred that the purchase from the Georgetown Music Boosters is a definite cost savings.

President Little questioned the invoice from Terminix. He was under the impression that we switched companies.

Executive Director Konsis answered that the District uses Ray's Termite and Pest Control for the pest contracts at Forest Glen only.

President Little also asked what "H.H." stood for.

Executive Director Konsis answered, "Haunted Happenings".

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 \$136,850.00. Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance is \$39,300.00. The District recently received the October payment of CPPRT. There is no change in the Illinois Funds Money Market account. Both the Hoopeston Money Market and CIB Money Market are filled to the maximum amount of \$249,000.00. The Preferred Checking Account (Hegeler account), remains at \$2,400.00. The Health Insurance Reimbursement Account at First Midwest Bank of Danville has a balance of \$9,470.00.

The grand total of cash and investments as of November 21, 2012, is \$691,620.00, which compares to \$741,630.00, at the same time last year. We have been running behind by \$80,000.00 throughout the summer, but now have reduced this difference to \$50,000.00.

He asked if there were any questions from the Trustees.

President Little asked if we have to name beneficiaries for our CD's.

Executive Director Konsis answered, "No, this is not required for government accounts." The District also carries no CD's at this time because there is no interest rate advantage over money markets.

Trustee Bogart moved to approve the Current List of Bills from October 2012, in the amount of \$13,426.83 which included check #'s 30944 – 30967; the Manual Checks for October 2012 in the amount of \$35,299.71, which included check #'s 30862 – 30879 and #'s 30905 - 30928; the General Journal Entries for October 2012; the October 2012 Budget Report and the November 21, 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: Review V.C.C.D. Fee Schedule to be Adopted at December 2012 Meeting. Executive Director Konsis noted that a copy of the current fee schedule is provided to the Trustees so that it may be reviewed for possible changes next month. No action is requested tonight. He also said that he has been brainstorming some possible revenue producing items. They are:

1. Enact "summer rates" (Memorial Day – Labor Day) for rented facilities that have air conditioning.
2. Change the paper quality of our newsletter [an example of the Farm Week newsletter was shown. It is also printed by Faulstitch.]
3. Charge \$1/person for monthly hayrides at Forest Glen. Currently they are free.
4. Charge an additional \$5 for Haunted Happenings tickets for people that wait to buy them at the gate. We advertise "pre-sale only", but people know that they are available at the gate.
5. Currently, we have a farmer that cuts hay at Kennekuk for free and in return he keeps the bales. Superintendent Charles Rhoden commented that it is common practice to charge the farmer 50% of the selling price. This year, he baled 60 bales. Price this summer was \$50/bale. If we just charged \$20/bale, we could receive \$1,200. Superintendent Ken Kuntz commented that the hay is mostly weeds and autumn olive. He didn't think the farmer sells it. Executive Director Konsis commented that it must be worth something, or else he wouldn't bale it. Trustee Bogart agreed that we should get something in return.
6. Charge \$10/trip to take injured animals to the U of I Vet Clinic. Trustee Bogart hesitated because this might be something that we are expected to do. Executive Director Konsis agreed to a point, but often the request is to take

raccoons, rabbits, etc. to the clinic. He thinks this should be limited to birds of prey or other significant species. The trip is nearly 80 miles round trip with \$350/gallon gas prices.

7. Enact deer hunting at Forest Glen on our outer properties that are not utilized by the general public. Our V.C.C.D. Foundation is also considering this on their 11 acre parcel near Forest Glen. [The Trustees agreed and Gary Wilford will make a formal presentation to the Board at the December meeting.]
8. Charge \$2/person for hiking the River Ridge Back Pack Trail. Currently, this is a request for a free-will donation. Nearly 95% of the users are out-of-county, mostly from the Chicago region.
9. Seek sponsorships for our non-revenue producing events and programs.
10. Turn on the Holiday Lights on weekends and the two holidays only. [This will be enacted this year.]

Trustee Bogart commended the Executive Director for brain-storming new revenue source ideas.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD report. Associate Director Pasquale reported that there will be an IACD quarterly meeting in January in Putnam County.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation report. Executive Director Konsis said that a current list of V.C.C.D. Foundation Directors is included in the Trustee's notebook. It gives the expiration terms for the directors. Four directors will have terms expire on December 31, 2012. All four have indicated that they wish to remain for another three year term. These will be acted upon at the December meeting.

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

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that it is time for the IAPD elections. If anyone wishes to vote, he has the ballots.

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.

Executive Director Konsis reported in Gary Wilford's absence. He reported that Outdoor School is now completed and all fall events are over except the upcoming Holiday Open House.

This concluded the Education Supervisor's Report.

Agenda item thirteen a; Report from the Associate Director.

Associate Director Pasquale reported that he has been clearing brush and small trees from the additional cropland. He also has been working on the drainage problem at the Lake Vermilion Boat Ramp. Mud from the new construction is draining onto the ramp causing it to be slippery. The exposed areas will be seeded with grass. He also has been winterizing vehicles and equipment.

President Little asked how much roadways in the parks are plowed in the winter.

Associate Director Pasquale answered that we block most of the dead end roads off or we may open them back up for ice fishing. We also keep the hunter parking lots open.

Agenda item fourteen; Report of Executive Director. He began by reporting on the progress of the Kennebec Environmental Education Center. The contract was signed on Monday, the 19th, and English Brothers were on site the next day. The ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for this Sunday, November 25th, at 1 p.m. A brief introduction about the project will be given. The Trustees and Foundation Directors will be acknowledged and remarks are expected from Senator Frerichs and past Representative Bill Black. Representative Chad Hays will not be able to attend. County Board Chairman McMahon has been invited. We expect around 50 people to attend this ceremony.

The Wheeler Foundation Nature Trail will also be dedicated at this time. Wheeler Foundation Directors are expected to be in attendance. We plan a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The local Boy Scout troop will also present a check to our Foundation.

Cellular One has offered to bring some cast members from the hit show, *Duck Dynasty* to Kennebec on Saturday, April 20th. This will be a major fundraising event for the education center. A steering committee will be formed to put an entire day's agenda together to maximize donations.

Haunted Happenings will show a net revenue of about \$5,000.

The Christmas Party will be Friday, December 7, starting at 6:00 p.m. It will be privately funded this year, but we do need to RSVP.

The Kickapoo Trail is also moving along. Intergovernmental agreement documents are being drafted by Matt Deering, attorney for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District and our attorney, Gil Saikley. They are hoping to close the purchase in December.

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 12, 2012, 4:30 p.m. in the Zack Hickman Room, Kennebec County Park. Agenda items will be approval for the Workman's Compensations bid, the 2013 fee schedule, set the V.C.C.D. Board meeting calendar, and appoint the V.C.C.D. Foundation Directors.

This concluded the Report of the Executive Director. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

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

Trustee Bogart thanked the Executive Director for seeking out new revenues and cutting expenses.

Trustee Green commented that he had nothing to report, but is anticipating Sunday's ceremony.

President Little commented that he is glad that the document is finally signed.

Executive Director Konsis added that much of the wood that was cut and sawed at the National Walnut Council Meeting was from the sustainable forest area at Forest Glen. This wood will be kiln dried and used as trim and baseboards in the education building. Larry Gilliland also owns an industrial planer, and plans to bring it to Kennekuk. This will save more dollars.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Green moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 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