

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

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Thursday, August 22, 2012
2:00 p.m.
White Oak Nature Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Little called the August 22, 2012 Special Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order at 2:00 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

Also in attendance were Ken Konsis, Executive Director; Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director; Rick McPhee and Scott Burge, Farnsworth Group; and Gordon Thoennes, V.C.C.D. Foundation Chairman.

The purpose of this meeting was to open sealed bids for the construction of the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.

President Little requested that the agenda be approved.

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

Executive Director Konsis wished to acknowledge the following agencies and organizations for providing funding this project.

Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (Open Space Land and Development Grant)
Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (Capital Construction Grant)
Illinois Clean Energy Foundation (energy grant)
V.C.C.D. Foundation (preliminary A & E funding)

President Little asked that the bid opening proceed. The bid results were read aloud by Rick McPhee. The results were:

Dodd's Co. (Champaign)	- \$2,390,000
Johnco Construction, Inc. (Mackinaw)	- \$2,413,000
CDI, Inc. (Terre Haute)	- \$2,376,000
Associate Construction Co. (Bloomington)	- \$2,349,000
Commercial Builders, Inc. (Champaign)	- \$2,419,000
English Brothers Co. (Champaign)	- \$2,199,000
Broeren Russo (Champaign)	- \$2,327,000

The bids are now to be reviewed by Farnsworth Group to be sure all specifications were met. President Little thanked the bidders for their participation and all bidders for their participation and all bidders left the meeting.

The low bid is from English Brothers Co. and is still \$800,000 over our current budget for the project. Rick McPhee told the trustees that three options remain.

1. reject all bids
2. work with low bidder to bring costs down
3. redesign the project

Gordon Thoennes, Chairman of the V.C.C.D. Foundation asked permission to address the Board. He stated that the Foundation is totally committed to the project and it will happen. He has some ideas to procure a loan or refinance the existing loan to come up with some of the shortfall.

The Trustees, the architects, and the Executive Director, next discussed some of the more expensive components of the project that could be taken out and moved to Phase II of the project. The Trustees asked that the Executive Director and the architects work together to come up with a solution. All Trustees agreed that construction needs to begin this fall so that the public will realize that the project is indeed going to happen. It is the belief that additional private funds will be easier to procure once this happens.

The Executive Director added that he will also get an opinion from our District Attorney about moving forward without rebidding the project. If we rebid, this will further delay the project by 2½ months. The grants have deadlines to consider.

Therefore, *Trustee Green moved to table the bids up to 30 days. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Green moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 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