

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

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

**Wednesday, January 16, 2013
4:30 p.m.
Zack Hickman Room
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Little called the January Regular Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order at 4:37 p.m. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll call showed the following.

Trustees Present: Dan L. Danner
Ken E. Green
Brett K. Little

Trustee(s) Absent: Nikki A. Bogart
B. Dirk Porter

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

Staff members present included Lorna Konsis, Charlie Rhoden, and Susan Biggs Warner.

First order of business, agenda item number four, was the Adoption of, or Amendments to the Agenda.

President Little asked that item eight a. *Adopt Resolution to Approve Teleconferencing Board Meetings* be moved to item four a. to approve, so that an absent Trustee may be included earlier in the meeting.

Trustee Green moved to approve the agenda as amended by moving item eight a. to item four a., the next item of business. This was followed by a second from Trustee Danner. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item four a. Adopt Resolution to Approve Teleconferencing Board Meetings. *Trustee Green moved to adopt Ordinance #127, defining the procedures for electronic attendance at V.C.C.D. Board Meetings. This was followed by a second from Trustee Danner.* President Little called for a roll call vote. The results:

Trustee Green	-	yes
Trustee Danner	-	yes
President Little	-	yes

The Teleconferencing Ordinance #127 was adopted by a 3 – 0 vote. Motion carried.

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the December 12, 2012, Regular Meeting. President Little asked for any corrections to the minutes.

With no corrections, Trustee Danner moved to approve the December 12, 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 inquired about voucher check #31082 to Berry's Garden Center.

Executive Director Konsis explained that was to purchase a replacement ornamental landscape tree for the Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen.

President Little asked for explanation of the two amounts paid to Danville Tile and Sewer Pipe, voucher check #31089.

Executive Director Konsis responded that it was for the Environmental Education Center, and will be reimbursed from the OSLAD grant.

President Little asked if the Terminix service contract could be bid out.

The Executive Director answered that it could.

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 \$117,450.00. Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance is \$3,500.00. The Illinois Funds Money Market account remains at \$5,100.00. The Hoopston Money Market balance remains at \$249,000.00. The Preferred Checking Account (Hegeler account), has a balance of \$2,400.00. The Money Market Passbook account at Central Illinois Bank is \$174,500.00. The Health Insurance Reimbursement Account at First Midwest Bank of Danville has a balance of \$8,980.00.

The grand total of cash and investments as of January 16, 2013, is \$560,930.00, which compares to \$580,700.00, 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 remains at \$250,300.00.

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

Trustee Danner moved to approve the Current List of Bills from December 2012, in the amount of \$20,619.60 which included check #'s 31076 – 31100; the Manual Checks for December 2012 in the amount of \$56,690.05, which included check #'s 31000 – 31011 and #'s 31039- 31061; the General Journal Entries for December 31, 2012; the December 2012 Budget Report and the January 16, 2013 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 Danner	-	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: This item was moved to item four a.

Item eight b: Preliminary Report on 2013-2014 Budget for Capital Projects. Executive Director Konsis reported the prioritized needs of the District included a replacement mower engine at Forest Glen and a replacement air conditioning unit at the dining car, Kennekuk. He currently does not know the exact amounts for these items, and wants to put the budget on hold until he is sure.

President Little asked about the replacement of the Kennekuk Visitor Center air conditioning unit.

Executive Director Konsis answered that is on hold.

Item eight c: Adopt V.C.C.D. Staff Salaries for 2013 – Executive Session. This will be transacted during item ten b.

There were no more questions or comments.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President, Jamie Pasquale reported that the IACD meeting will be tomorrow, January 17. The Executive Director and he will be attending.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that a substantial donation for the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center was received last

month from Julius W. Hegeler. A letter of appreciation from the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees has been drafted and passed around for those present to sign.

Amy Steeples, V.C.C.D. Foundation Recording Secretary, reported that Foundation membership renewal letters were mailed in December and response has been very good so far.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. There was nothing new to report.

Agenda item ten: Executive Session.

Item ten b: Trustee Danner moved to retire to Executive Session for the purpose of negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedule for one or more classes of employees. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried. The time was 4:44 p.m.

The Trustees returned from Executive Session at 5:16 p.m.

Trustee Danner moved to approve a 2% raise for the Vermilion County Conservation District Full and Part Time Employee 2013 Salary Schedule. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green.

President Little called for a roll call vote. The results:

Trustee Danner	-	yes
Trustee Green	-	yes
President Little	-	yes

The 2013 V.C.C.D. Salary Schedule was approved by a 3 – 0 vote. Motion carried.

Agenda item eleven: Amendments to the agenda. Item 8 a. Teleconferencing, was already transacted.

Agenda item twelve a; Report From the Education Supervisor. Gary Wilford was not present; Executive Director Konsis gave the report. He spoke about the Forest Glen Deer Management Program that Gary had been working out; referencing the brochure the Trustees had been given. Executive Director Konsis explained each section of the information contained in the brochure. [see attached]

The map of the designated hunt areas was shown.

The Trustees differed in their opinions of the fee for the lottery.

Trustee Green thought that it was too high for an archery hunt, because the archery hunter success rate is only 11%.

Susan Biggs Warner questioned Trustee Green whether that was a National or State average. He was unsure.

Trustee Danner thought that the fee was too low, but agreed that Gary had done an excellent job putting this program together.

Discussion ensued.

With no more questions or comments, Trustee Green moved to approve the Forest Glen Whitetail Archery Deer Hunt 2013 and proposed fee schedule. This was followed by a second from Trustee Danner. All in favor, motion carried.

Executive Director Konsis commented that Gary is planning a public informational open house to discuss the management program.

This concluded the Education Supervisor's Report.

Agenda item thirteen a; Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale is working at the education center construction site. The driveway is finished for now. He and Larry Gilliland also ran a water line from the well to the building, and laid a fiber optic telephone line, per code.

He met with the cash rent farmer, Jim Seaton, to show him the various fields and the access lanes.

President Little asked if the plastic pipe from Brown's Trucking has been installed at the boat docks.

Associate Director Pasquale answered that has not been done yet.

This concluded the Associate Director's Report.

Agenda item fourteen; Report of Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began by reporting on the education center. Currently, construction is about one week behind due to weather constraints. The porch and pillars are under construction to support timber framing.

There are contractor's meetings every two weeks, which are covered in the contract cost that Larry Gilliland, Associate Director Pasquale, Rick McPhee, Ed Perry, and he attend. Here, they receive updates, questions are answered and new projected schedules are given. Payment meetings are the second week after the contractor meeting. Ed Perry, English Brothers, submits itemized invoices to Rick McPhee for approval; if approved, they are then submitted to the Executive Director for payment.

The \$600,000 Hegeler donation means that the V.C.C.D. Foundation no longer needs an \$800,000 loan. Possibly \$400,000; so the lien on the V.C.C.D. cropland is now moot. The grant involving multiple Rotary Clubs will also be forthcoming; all Rotary's are on board for

fundraising. Private donations are increasing, too. There were construction site photos in both newspapers.

The DCEO grant quarterly and financial reports were submitted on January 2, 2013, and approved January 7, 2013. A reimbursement of \$235,000 was received January 15, 2013.

A fundraising event for the education center is planned with Cellular One to bring stars from the hit series, *Duck Dynasty*, to the park. The date of Saturday, May 18, at the Laury Barn is planned. A meeting with Cellular One, and a small committee of V.C.C.D. employees will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 10:30 a.m., Zack Hickman Room.

Executive Director Konsis met with new Vermilion County Board Chairman, Gary Weinard, on January 14. He is 100% in support of the V.C.C.D., including our two major projects; the education center and Kickapoo Trail. He also attended an Inter-governmental Meeting on January 3 held at the Danville Sanitary District Plant; road and non-road projects were prioritized. The Kennekuk Environmental Education Center was moved from #2 to #1 on the non-road project list.

The organizers of a large antique show approached the District to request their show be held at the Laury Barn and Bunker Hill Historic Area this summer. It has the potential to attract over 1,000 people and garner the District \$1,100 in revenue.

The University of Illinois anthropology class will spend a month at the Collins State Historic Site, located in Kennekuk, working to prove that this was a religious site. Their goal is to clean up and repair the mounds. They will be here from the end of May through June. Potentially, this could be a major tourist site.

The Kickapoo Trail has hit a small snag. CSX has a new environmental person who is re-examining the need for capping the trail. Previously, this was discussed and dismissed.

Executive Director Konsis will be attending a Cover Crop Workshop on Monday, January 28, in the Farm Bureau Conference Room. The Pheasants Forever Banquet is Saturday, February 9, at Turtle Run. The District will pay for each Trustee who wishes to attend; Trustees are responsible for any guest they bring.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 20, 2013, 4:30 p.m. in the Zack Hickman Room, Kennekuk County Park. Agenda items include a preliminary 2013-2014 budget report, and the Forest Glen Hunting Program.

President Little wanted to know the final square footage of the education center.

Executive Director Konsis responded, "6,800 sq. ft."

Associate Director Pasquale added that the measurements were 80' x 85'.

This concluded the Executive Director's Report.

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

Trustee Green stated that he finds it encouraging that every time he is at the construction site, everyone is working and looks very busy. English Brothers is a class outfit, and he is pleased with what he has seen so far. Our V.C.C.D. staff is also working hard, too. He likes the layout of the site, and is looking forward to the completion.

Trustee Danner is also impressed with the construction, and commends all the V.C.C.D. staff for everything they do for this District. Please pass the word to Gary Wilford that he has done a fantastic job putting together the deer management program.

President Little remarked that he agrees with Trustee Danner and Trustee Green. He stated that he spoke with Trustee Bogart and she concurs that the Vermilion County Conservation District employees are doing a great job.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Danner moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 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