

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

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

**Wednesday, March 19, 2014
4:30 p.m.
Gannett Outdoor Education Center
Forest Glen Preserve
Westville, IL**

President Little called the March Regular Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll call showed the following.

Trustees Present: Nikki A. Bogart
Perry A. Jaynes
Brett K. Little

Trustee(s) Absent: Ken E. Green
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 and Charles 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 Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the February 19, 2014, Regular Meeting. President Little asked for any corrections to the minutes.

Trustee Bogart moved to approve the February 19, 2014, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number five a. Approval of the Minutes from the February 19, 2014, Executive Session Meeting. President Little asked for any corrections to the minutes.

Trustee Bogart moved to approve the February 19, 2014, Executive Session Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. 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 stated that February items seven a. through d. will be addressed with any questions from the trustees.

Trustee Bogart asked how many vehicles were in the District fleet. Associate Director Pasquale answered that the District owns 30, and two years ago the average age was 11 – 12 years old. This year, there is money for only one vehicle to be replaced.

Trustee Bogart would like to see a more aggressive schedule of replacement for the V.C.C.D. fleet. She suggested a goal of five replaced per year.

Trustee Bogart inquired about voucher check #32128 written to Blackie's Automatic for furnace repair at a District owned home, then a manual check to Wright's Heating & Air for a new furnace at the same house.

This was referred to Charlie Rhoden, Forest Glen Superintendent, in the audience. He explained that at first, Blackie's was called to attempt to repair the furnace. When this did not work, two estimates were collected and Wright's was the lower of the two.

With no other questions, President Little asked Executive Director Konsis to give the report on cash and investments for March 19, 2014.

Executive Director Konsis reported that the current balance in the checking account at First Midwest Bank, Danville was \$106,190.00. Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance was \$18,200.00. The Illinois Funds Money Market account balance remains at \$5,100.00. The Hoopeston Money Market balance was \$123,900.00. The Preferred Checking Account (Hegeler account), remains at \$2,400.00. The Money Market Passbook account at Central Illinois Bank was \$123,300.00. The Health Insurance Reimbursement Account at First Midwest Bank of Danville had a balance of \$8,700.00. The Certificate of Deposit at Iroquois Federal remains at \$100,000.00.

The grand total of cash and investments as of March 19, 2014, is \$488,190.00, which compares to \$484,800.00, 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 \$400.00.

Trustee Bogart asked Executive Director Konsis if there was anything fiscally she may have missed. He replied, "No."

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

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the Current List of Bills from February 2014 in the amount of 18,414.94 , which included check #'s 32123 - 32148 ; the Manual Checks for February 2014 in the amount of \$35,564.61 which included check #'s 32054 – 32066 and #'s 32085 - 32105; the General Journal Entries for February 28, 2014; the February 2014 Budget Report and the March 19, 2014 Report on Cash and Investments. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart.

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

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Bogart	-	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: Approve Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Executive Director Konsis had sent the Trustees a copy with the Board packets. There was a correction to the Insurance Fund and a new copy given to them at this meeting. Executive Director Konsis stated that total revenue will be \$1,162,000; grand total expenditures are estimated at \$1,162,000.

Trustee Bogart explained that the District will be receiving some extra revenue from the collection of real estate taxes due to estimated assessed valuation increasing. We should have been getting this previously.

Trustee Porter arrived at 4:50 p.m.

There were no more questions; *Trustee Bogart moved to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

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

Trustee Bogart	-	yes
Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Porter	-	yes
President Little	-	yes

The vote was 4-0. Tentative budget for 2014-2014 passed and will be displayed for public review for 33 days at each park.

Agenda item eight b. Request from McHenry County Conservation District for Letter of Support. Executive Director Konsis explained that McHenry County Conservation District, who opted out of the Illinois Association of Conservation District organization, has prepared a bill for passage by the Illinois General Assembly regarding an increase in a tax levy amendment to the Conservation District Act. They have requested the V.C.C.D. to write a letter in support of this bill.

The Trustees had been given a copy of the bill and letter from McHenry County Conservation District.

After a brief discussion, Trustee Bogart moved to table the request from McHenry County Conservation District for a letter in support of the tax levy increase amendment to the Conservation District Act. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President, Jamie Pasquale reported that the IACD Meeting was held here at the Kennekuk Education Center on March 6, 2014. Representatives from Macon and Boone Counties were present. The next IACD Meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2014 at Starved Rock State Park.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that the next Vermilion County Conservation Foundation meeting will be April 11, 9:00 a.m.; Zack Hickman Room, Kennekuk County Park.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that membership dues remained the same for 2014.

Agenda item ten: There was no executive session.

Agenda item eleven. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Agenda item twelve. Report From the Education Supervisor. Gary Wilford was not present. V.C.C.D. Program Secretary Amy Steeples reported that Gary, Susan and Jeremy had given several Maple Syrup Day Visit programs with the last one scheduled for today. Spring Day Visits will begin in late April and continue through May.

The Spring Session of Outdoor School begins March 24 and continues through the end of May with classes at both parks.

This concluded the report for the education supervisor.

Agenda item thirteen: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that he is in his office at the new education center. He has been working on getting the building computer and Wi-Fi ready. All the communication equipment is relocated in the new building and in working order.

He attended the Kickapoo Rail Trail meeting with Executive Director Konsis.

This Saturday, March 22, 9:00 a.m. is the District's annual Turkey Hunt drawing for sites. Approximately 30 – 35 hunters show up to procure a hunting site.

This concluded the Associate Director's Report.

Agenda item fourteen: Report From Executive Director. The Kennekuk education center is now open on weekends from 1 – 4 p.m. staffed by volunteers. So far, about 10 people each day are visiting. The exterior hallway door should be replaced by next week. During the Maple Syrup Open House, 622 people were served in 30° weather. Last year we served 732 people, but the temperature was 81°. There was not enough syrup made to sell to the public on Sunday, March 16, but the tree sap is running well.

Executive Director Konsis recognized Charlie Rhoden, in the audience to report on syrup production. Charlie reported that 500 gallons of sap were collected yesterday. We are boiling frequently. The lighter syrup always comes from the first batches, and then gets darker as the season goes on. This year, after the syrup began to be darker, it turned light again.

Executive Director Konsis reported that President Little, Lorna Konsis, Gordon Thoennes and Kevin Green attended the “Who’s Who of the Kickapoo Trail” meeting last Thursday. There were 60 people in attendance. Dan Olson was the master of ceremonies and gave a power point presentation of the trail and its attributes. Representatives on the newly formed fundraising committee from Vermilion County are: Kevin Green, Judd Peck and Adam Underwood. Closing on the Kickapoo section is set for March 27, 10 a.m. All paperwork is done. The IDOT grant has been requested by CCFPD on the V.C.C.D.’s behalf. The RTP IDNR grant is ready for final paperwork and will be submitted next week.

Jamie and he attended an engineering meeting at Frehr-Graham, regarding the trestle. Others there included IDNR, CCFPD, Urbana Park District, and a representative from a construction company out of St. Louis.

Mike Garthaus, IDNR Fisheries, is proposing new regulations for Lake Mingo. The current regulations are 15 inch length limit and 6/day creel limit. Proposed change to daily catch limit singly or in aggregate shall not exceed three fish per day and no more than one of which may be equal to or greater than 15 inches and the other two which may be less than 15 inches in total length.

The IDNR also has removed Muskie from the fish stocking list for Lake Mingo.

The next V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2014; 4:30 p.m. in the Zack Hickman Room, Kennekuk.

The annual V.C.C.D. Staff Retreat will be tomorrow, March 20, here at the Gannett Outdoor Education Center.

Executive Director Konsis also referenced the letter from Mid-Central Illinois Regional Council regarding the Master Agreement contract negotiations. The Trustees agreed that there was no response necessary.

This concluded the Executive Director’s Report. He asked if there were any questions.

President Little commented that he was pleased with IDNR's decision regarding the Muskie population. Executive Director Konsis responded that it was part of an Illinois Natural History Survey research project.

In regard to the new fisheries proposed changes that would affect the District waters, the Board asked for more information. The proposal was in response to the declining fish population.

Executive Director Konsis explained that the proposal will go into effect April 1, 2014, if the District does not disapprove of said proposal. The Trustees were not sure, due to the information provided.

Executive Director Konsis offered to invite Mike Garthaus to the April 16th Meeting. The Trustee agreed that would be a good idea.

Due the lack of information, Trustee Jaynes moved to disapprove of the IDNR proposal regarding new fishing regulations for the District until more information could be acquired. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

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

Trustee Porter asked where a list of Phases of the Moon Festival bands could be found. Executive Director Konsis answered that all information available is on their website: <http://phasesofthemoonfestival.com/info/festival-guide/>

Trustee Bogart asked if the Board could meet at the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center. Executive Director Konsis replied that there are two Board Meetings scheduled there this summer.

Trustee Jaynes had no comment.

President Little had no comment.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Bogart moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. Meeting adjourned.*

Perry A. Jaynes
Secretary
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees