

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

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

**Wednesday, April 17, 2013  
4:30 p.m.  
Zack Hickman Room  
Kennekuk County Park  
Danville, IL**

President Little called the April 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  
B. Dirk Porter

Trustee(s) Absent: Dan L. Danner

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

Staff members present included Lara Darling, Lorna Konsis, Charlie Rhoden, and Gary Wilford.

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

Executive Director Konsis amended item eight e. to read: Hiring Minorities.

*Trustee Bogart moved to approve the agenda as amended. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the March 20, 2013, Regular Meeting. President Little asked for any corrections to the minutes.

Trustee Bogart revised the sixth paragraph, first sentence on page two to read, "Trustee Bogart asked whether ..."

*With no other corrections, Trustee Bogart moved to approve the March 20, 2013, Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. 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.

Trustee Bogart questioned ck#s 31200 & 31240 on the Manual Check Report, and ck# 31299 on the Voucher Check Listing , all three listed for copiers.

Executive Director Konsis clarified that two were for the contracts for two copiers and one was an extra charge for excess copy quantity.

Trustee Bogart asked about payments to two termite services.

Executive Director Konsis answered that Ray's Termite Service is paid for regular pest control, and Terminix is contracted for the Senticon protection only. Ray's does not offer that service.

President Little commented about the payment to Faulstich. This was for the District newsletter. He asked Lorna Konsis about the cost savings and wanted to urge subscribers to receive the newsletter via email.

Lorna responded that while many do receive it online, older persons do not have computers. Notices have been in the newsletter encouraging subscribers to receive it online, and also solicitation for a subscription fee of \$5/year to receive it by mail. Some donations were received, but not many.

There were no other questions.

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 \$80,200.00. Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance is \$12,400.00. The Illinois Funds Money Market account remains at \$5,100.00. The Hoopeston 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 \$100,000.00. The Health Insurance Reimbursement Account at First Midwest Bank of Danville has a balance of \$8,100.00.

The grand total of cash and investments as of March 20, 2013, is \$484,800.00, which compares to \$478,840, 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 \$250,000.00.

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

*Trustee Bogart moved to approve the Current List of Bills from March 2013, in the amount of \$10,501.35 which included check #'s 31291 – 31308; the Manual Checks for March 2013 in the amount of \$171,350.09, which included check #'s 31189 – 31207 and #'s 31236- 31258; the General Journal Entries for March 31, 2013; the March 2013 Budget Report and the April 17, 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 Bogart	-	yes
Trustee Green	-	yes
Trustee Porter	-	yes
President Little	-	yes

The vote was 4–0. 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: Approval to Advertise for Bidding General Liability Insurance/Approve RFP Specifications. Executive Director Konsis stated that these specifications are the same as the previous years with updated figures. Currently the District has this through IPARKS.

Trustee Bogart suggested asking for a two-year commitment from IPARKS, to see if there would be any savings.

Executive Director Konsis will inquire. *[IPARKS will not do this]*

*Trustee Green moved to approve advertising to bid the general liability insurance and to approve the specifications for RFP. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item eight b: Approve Application to Sell Alcohol at Hobnob Market Event. Executive Director Konsis referenced the material included in the Trustee’s notebooks. This application needs approved by the Vermilion County Board and also approved by the District Board on a case by case basis. This only applies to beer and wine products. The applicant has included the \$25 non-refundable application fee.

Trustee Porter asked about past practice, concerned about public perception.

Executive Director Konsis responded that alcohol was sold by Sleepy Creek Winery at the Farm City Event.

The Trustees discussed the V.C.C.D. selling alcohol at events as potential revenue.

Associate Director Pasquale added that current legislation prevents the District from selling alcohol, but will have to look up that particular bill to confirm.

With no other comments, *Trustee Bogart moved to approve the application for submission to sell alcohol at the Hobnob Market event on June 7 & 8, 2013 at Kennekuk County Park. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item eight c: Approval of Change Orders for Education Center. Executive Director Konsis referenced the latest estimate from English Brothers Co. for the orders in the Trustee's notebooks. He then went through the expenses and changes chronologically. The Trustees will now receive this report as part of their board packets.

*Trustee Bogart moved to approve the change orders as presented as of April 17, 2013. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item eight d: Release/Hold Executive Session Minutes. Executive Director Konsis offered the Executive Session Minutes from January 18, 2012 and January 16, 2013 for the Trustees vote.

After brief discussion and removal of paragraph referring to the annex from the minutes of January 18, 2012 due to its irrelevance; upon Executive Director Konsis' recommendation, *Trustee Green moved to approve the release to the public of the Executive Session Minutes of both the January 18, 2012 and January 16, 2013 meeting as amended. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item eight e: Hiring Minorities. Trustee Green wanted to confirm that education construction labor was following Illinois State Law. He explained that when using state money, minorities must be utilized as outlined and wanted verification that English Brothers was following labor laws by offering work options to all.

Trustee Porter commented that by hiring all union labor, this should be covered. The Project Labor Agreement that the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees signed contains language stating that.

Trustee Green only wanted that point verified.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President, Jamie Pasquale reported that the regular IACD meeting was cancelled due to a lack of attendance. The district may meet annually rather than quarterly.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that the V.C.C.D. Foundation met Friday, April 5, 9 a.m., in the Zack Hickman Room. Copies of correspondence concerning the Jordan Creek property are in the Trustee's notebooks. Foundation Chairman, Gordon Thoennes and Director Russ Hiatt met with Mark Schlect

regarding the offer to sell the property to him, or a member of the Schlect family. The family is not interested in purchasing the property; therefore it is to remain in the Foundation's care. It is a considerable asset.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that an Annual IAPD Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 30 – May 1, in Springfield. Please contact him if interested in attending.

Agenda item ten: There was no executive session.

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

Agenda item twelve a; Report From the Education Supervisor. Gary Wilford reported that the 11.5 mile River Ridge Back Pack Trail at Forest Glen is very popular and is receiving quite a bit of attention. It is, perhaps, the leading trail in the Midwest. The District was contacted by a member of the Prairie Rivers Network offering to put up "you are here" signs at points along the trail, free. He agreed and they plan to come out this month.

Conservation Olympics program for sixth grade students is set for Friday, May 10. Gary gave guidebooks to all the trustees and explained the program. It is an educational competition experience, both mentally and physically.

Youth Conservation Summit is a 4-day summer camp for kids ages 12 – 15, June 17 – 20. He gave the trustees copies of the information and registration form.

Gary introduced Lara Darling, V.C.C.D. Volunteer Coordinator and Educator. Lara reported that a Volunteer Fair was held Sunday, April 14, at Kennekuk for anyone wishing to learn more about volunteering for the District. Twelve people attended. A Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, at Forest Glen. The Volunteer Corps has 120 people, of which 50 – 60 are very active. The rest are only once or twice a year, usually a special event.

Lara explained that with the V.C.C.D. staff of only 15, volunteer help is critical in accomplishing projects and special events. She explained the process of signing up an interested person. There are basically eight volunteer categories, but she sometimes creates specialized jobs.

The trustees were invited to attend the appreciation dinner on May 21, and the cookout the last of August. They will receive invitations.

This concluded Lara's report. There were no questions.

President Little questioned Gary about the Forest Glen hunt lottery license.

Gary responded that the paperwork is almost done and will be submitted soon.

This concluded the Education Supervisor's Report.

Agenda item thirteen a; Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale continues to work at the education center construction site. The propane tanks are set; one belongs to the District and one from Illini FS. The septic system is completed, and District Staff is now working on the telephone service.

The new agriculture fields are 99% cleared. The new farmer is cooperative.

Associate Director Pasquale attended a Lake Vermilion Water Quality Coalition Meeting.

The Kennekuk turkey hunt draw was held March 23. Forty to fifty people attended and nearly all were granted a hunting area. There are five seasons and one youth season; four zones to hunt with two hunters to each zone.

Work continues with preparing for pouring concrete at Lake Vermilion Boat Ramp area.

President Little asked about the erosion on the Lake Vermilion hillside.

Associate Director Pasquale answered that it had improved, but there is still a little work to be done.

Trustee Green inquired about the alcohol content of the gasoline sold at Lake Vermilion. He stated that high ethanol content was hard on watercraft engines and suggested selling ethanol free gas.

Associate Director Pasquale answered that it was last year, and will attempt to get the ethanol free gasoline again this year.

President Little suggested carrying gasoline additives at the boat ramp if we decide to go with an ethanol blend.

This concluded the Associate Director's Report.

Agenda item fourteen; Report of Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began with a DACVB meeting that was held this morning at the Kennekuk Nature Center. He gave a tour of the education center. The Oakwood Men's Club committed to a \$2,500 donation to the Foundation for the center.

Rain has been hampering construction progress. Currently they are installing fire resistant plywood on the roof. Once this is completed, the floor will be poured; followed by window installation and interior walls. Executive Director Konsis will give Julius Hegeler a tour on Friday morning.

The V.C.C.D. will have a display at the Cellular One booth at the "Duck Out" event tomorrow at the Palmer Arena. They will promote the Duck Dynasty event and we will promote the education center. Cellular One confirms that the V.C.C.D. Foundation will receive all proceeds from ticket sales for the 10:45 a.m. Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> show, which is virtually sold out. The V.C.C.D.F. will also receive proceeds from four pictures painted by a speed artist and sold via internet auction.

The Duck Dynasty show on Sunday will run for 90 minutes. Cassie Carter, Cell One CEO will speak and explain the donation. Executive Director Konsis will then speak on the background of the project. Don Ritter, past V.C.C.D. Board Trustee will present a check from the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Chapter. Mike Hulvey, radio broadcaster, will MC and introduce the stars. The V.C.C.D. will handle the stage display using taxidermy mounts. There will be a 90-minute meet and greet immediately following the show for 140 invited guests. The Trustees will receive two tickets each.

The Kickapoo Trail Committee will meet with IDNR Office of Reality, IDNR Deputy Director, and IDNR Greenways and Trails about the reimbursement problem with the grants. The ITEP grant was the largest grant award at \$2.1M.

The annual V.C.C.D. Staff Retreat was held Friday, April 19. Keynote speakers were Beth Penesis, IDNR, Kevin Green, Farm Bureau, and Bob Schifo, Middlefork Audubon Society. A business meeting was held with staff giving their respective reports. Episode one of Duck Dynasty concluded the retreat.

An Inter-government Committee Meeting was held April 4; material is in the trustee's notebooks. The Kennekuk Environmental Education Center is still the number one non-road project.

The Rotary Club members, who all are working together fundraising for the education center, presented the V.C.C.D.F. with a check for \$6,000. They toured the center.

This year the annual academic competition, Envirothon, was held at Maple Grove Lodge. High school sophomores and juniors from Edgar, Douglas Vermilion and Iroquois Counties attended the competition covering wildlife, aquatics, forestry, and soils. Executive Director Konsis gave the keynote address.

A Shiitake mushroom workshop was held April 6, at Forest Glen, sponsored by the Forest Glen Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society. There were 30 participants.

Executive Director Konsis attended the National Walnut Council and Foundation meetings held March 27 and 28, in West Lafayette, IN.

The next V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees meeting is Wednesday, May 15, 2013, 4:30 p.m. in the Zack Hickman Room, Kennekuk County Park. Agenda items include a public hearing and approval of the budget, bid opening for medical and general casualty insurance.

This concluded the Executive Director's Report.

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

Trustee Bogart thanked Executive Director Konsis for providing the Trustees with the numbers on the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.

Trustee Green stated that he is pleased with the progress made on the building construction considering the weather.

Trustee Porter had nothing to report.

President Little had nothing to report.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Bogart moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green. Meeting adjourned.*

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