

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

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

**Wednesday, May 15, 2013  
4:30 p.m.  
Zack Hickman Room  
Kennekuk County Park  
Danville, IL**

A public hearing was conducted for the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2013-2014, Ordinance #128, at 4:30 p.m. The Executive Director presented the final budget. He noted the following amendments from the first draft of the tentative budget which was approved in March 2013 and was on public display.

Under the Corporate Fund, Revenue – Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax decreased total by \$3,000 due to increased funding by CPPRT to the Insurance and Compensation Fund. The adjusted total revenue is \$1,984,000.

Expenditures – Capital Improvements at Kennekuk County Park increased by \$6,000 for the HVAC unit at the Visitor Center.

Adjusted total estimated cash for expenditures is \$2,506,000. The adjusted total estimate expenditures described in section B is \$1,944,000. The new total estimated cash balance on March 31, 2014 is \$562,000.

The Insurance and Compensation Fund revenue was increased by \$3,000. Expenditures for medical care were increased by \$11,700, as were HRA reimbursement expenses for \$3,000. The new total estimated expenditure is \$255,700.

The adjusted total estimated cash available for expenditures is \$258,075. The new total estimate expenditures described in section B is \$255,700. New estimated cash balance on March 31, 2014 will be \$2,375.00.

The revenue figure here does include gasoline sales and expense which will be included when the ordinance is filed. Revenue total will be \$1,999,500; total expenses are \$2,337,000.

Trustee Bogart questioned whether the ordinance had to be passed at this meeting; she would like to have more time to review the figures. Executive Director Konsis answered that it did not; another meeting date could be set to allow time for review.

There were no further comments from the Trustees or the audience.

President Little called the May 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  
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; Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary; Larry Owens and Debbie Roberts with Owens Financial Services; and Gordon Thoennes, Dimond Bros. Insurance.

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

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 April 17, 2013, Regular Meeting. President Little asked for any corrections to the minutes.

*Trustee Bogart moved to approve the April 17, 2013, 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. Executive Director Konsis introduced Raymond and Barbara Wright, members of the V.C.C.D. volunteer corps who had come to the meeting to present a piece of artwork to the District. Susan Biggs Warner explained that Ray and Barbara volunteer in the Print Shop, B.H.H.A., during special events and are invaluable in that Ray is retired from the University of Illinois Print Shop and knows how to use the V.C.C.D.'s vintage printing press. They demonstrate the press during special events.

The large piece of art was handmade by Ray, and included highly collectible print engravings from the University of Illinois print shop mounted on a handcrafted frame board. This will be on display at the B.H.H.A. Print Shop for all to enjoy. Barbara wished to recognize Faulstich Printing Co. for the printing supplies they donate for them to use during the demonstrations. [The Wrights are very appreciative for the help and courtesies extended to them from the maintenance staff here at Kennekuk.]

The couple answered questions from the Trustees, and President Little thanked them for their presentation and their volunteer service. This was met with applause. 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# 31283 on the Manual Check Report. Executive Director Konsis confirmed this was a void check.

Trustee Bogart questioned ck# 31370 to Shutes Alignment for tires, and ck#31351 to Big R for short block, on the Voucher Check Listing,

Executive Director Konsis clarified that Shutes charges were for two vehicles, four tires. Superintendent Charlie Rhoden concurred that one of the vehicles was from Forest Glen. The short block is a mower engine.

Trustee Bogart asked about payments to two termite services.

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 \$88,470.00. Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance is \$53,100.00. 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 \$25,000.00. The Health Insurance Reimbursement Account at First Midwest Bank of Danville has a balance of \$5,500.00.

The grand total of cash and investments as of May 15, 2013, is \$428,570.00, which compares to \$360,360, 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 \$164,300.00.

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

*Trustee Green moved to approve the Current List of Bills from April 2013, in the amount of \$14,269.88 which included check #'s 31343 – 31372; the Manual Checks for April 2013 in the amount of \$24,975.63, which included check #'s 31259 – 31290 and #'s 31309 - 31328; the General Journal Entries for April 30, 2013; the April 2013 Budget Report and the May 15, 2013 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 Green	-	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: Open Sealed Bids for Medical Insurance. Executive Director Konsis reported that two bids were received. He opened the Owen Financial Services, Danville, envelope, and introduced Larry Owen.

Larry Owen and Debbie Roberts presented the medical insurance plan offered by Financial Services. He presented information on the ARISA medical plan under the Department of Labor to each Trustee and the Directors. It is a Lifestyle Health Plan. Debbie Roberts explained some of the details of the plan. The bid from Owen Financial Services for Life Style Medical plan premium is \$147,956.96.

The bid from Dimond Bros. was opened. Gordon Thoennes presented the Trustees with information on the Coventry Health plan he is presenting. It is similar to the coverage the District has now, with an increased employee deductible to \$3,000. The Dimond Bros. bid for Coventry Personal Care is \$119,183.12.

The Trustees discussed both of the presentations and were in agreement to schedule a special meeting for next week to allow time for appropriate review of each medical plan offered.

*Trustee Green moved to schedule a special meeting to discuss options regarding health insurance for Wednesday, May 22; 7:30 p.m. at the Kennekuk Visitor Center. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart.*

Discussion ensued regarding attainment of a quorum for the special meeting.

*All in favor by acclamation for special meeting, motion carried.*

Agenda item eight b: Open Sealed Bids for General Casualty Insurance. Gordon Thoennes, Dimond Bros., explained differences between IPARKS policy last year and the current year’s policy. The 2013 premium would be \$59,348.18, an \$89.03 increase from last year.

President Little asked for the amount budgeted. Executive Director Konsis answered, “\$62,000.”

*Trustee Bogart moved to accept the \$59,348.18 bid from IPARKS for General Casualty Insurance for 2013. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Gordon Thoennes requested a copy of the medical insurance information bid offered by Larry Owen Financial Services. The Executive Director complied, and since Mr. Owen had already left, will give him the opportunity to obtain a copy of Dimond Bros. bid information.

Agenda item eight c: Request to Apply for Recreational Trails Program Grant. Executive Director Konsis referenced the letter from Champaign County Forest Preserves to the Division of Grant Administration, in the Trustees packet. He explained that state statute prohibits the CCFPD from transacting the purchase as intended. The CCFPD now asks the V.C.C.D. to apply for a portion of this grant, allocation of \$295,855.

President Little asked for clarification of the V.C.C.D.'s cost and expense for purchase, development and for the portion of the trail that will be managed by this District.

Executive Director Konsis responded that the land will be covered by grants. Some of the development costs will also be covered by grants. The maintenance costs will belong to the V.C.C.D. He is recommending that the Board support this grant application.

Trustee Bogart is concerned with asking the public for more dollars.

President Little expressed concern with the ongoing maintenance costs and labor of the finished trail.

*With no other comments or questions, Trustee Green moved to approve the V.C.C.D. application for the Recreational Trails Program Grant. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President, Jamie Pasquale reported that there had been no activity since the V.C.C.D. Board met. The future of the IACD is uncertain at this point.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that the next V.C.C.D. Foundation meeting will be Friday, June 14, 9 a.m., in the Zack Hickman Room.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that he received information about a "Boot Camp" for trustees to attend on June 5, 13, 19, or 22. The fee is \$85.

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 Outdoor School program was in the last week. He stated that the V.C.C.D. has the best education programs in the Midwest, perhaps the United States. Summer program information is making its way into homes via newspapers, offices, and the V.C.C.D. website. This year's programs include: Youth Conservation Summit, Pioneer Kids,

Toddling Into Nature, Wonder Bugs, Camp Kennekuk, Camp Glenwood, and Canoe Safari. There is also a traveling exhibit to the Vermilion County libraries this year on "Minerals, Rocks & Fossils".

The parks are very busy with many research projects, i.e. songbird nesting, entomologists, herpetologists, etc. One project is investigating how ticks are transported on birds then transferred to deer, then humans. The deer tick population is a growing problem.

Gary stated, "The parks aren't here for you, they are here for wildlife; and we get to enjoy that."

Trustee Green is pleased that the V.C.C.D. promotes scientific studies. Access for this is beneficial to all.

Trustee Bogart inquired about the box turtle die-off. Were more found this spring and did they find out the cause?

Gary responded that this year's turtles are doing well; they believe it was a natural course of population control. Herpetologists and students will be coming to Forest Glen again, May 23, to do another box turtle count and study.

This concluded the Education Supervisor's Report.

Agenda item thirteen a; Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that the Lake Vermilion Boat Ramp will be open this weekend, May 18<sup>th</sup>. The concrete has been poured at Lake Vermilion, and the planned retaining wall is installed at the boat ramp area.

Associate Director Pasquale attended a Lake Vermilion Water Quality Meeting on April 25. He invited the Trustees and anyone who wished to assist to the Lake Vermilion Clean-up on Friday, May 31 at 8 a.m. Meet in the parking lot by 8 a.m. for instructions, lunch will be provided.

This concluded the Associate Director's Report.

Agenda item fourteen; Report of Executive Director. He reported that OSHA inspectors came to both Kennekuk and Forest Glen. They reported several minor citations and the District has 30 – 72 days to correct these violations. There were no fines issued at this time, and Executive Director Konsis expects to be in full compliance within the time period allotted.

The Kennekuk Environmental Education Center roof is expected to be done by this Friday, and the floor to be poured soon after. Next on the docket will be to back fill around the foundation, installation of the windows, stone veneer and Hardi Board siding. This week, the letters for the name of the building were placed.

Duck Dynasty mania peaks this Saturday and Sunday with the arrival of Jase and Si Robertson in Danville for the fundraising event. The Sunday show at 10:45 is the

“V.C.C.D. Foundation” show with most of the proceeds going to the education center construction. Gary Wilford will design the stage in a nature theme with taxidermy. Both shows are basically “sold out”. There are VIP passes for the Trustees for the meet and greet after the show.

The V.C.C.D. had a display with park information at the I-74 rest stop for tourism week that Gary Wilford put together.

World War II Remembrance Days at Kennekuk brought around 400 people to the park over the two day event. It is a nice event that honors veterans.

The University of Illinois Anthropology Department will begin excavation on the Collins Site area on Monday. Seasonal workers will also begin work in the park that day.

The Volunteer Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, at the Gannett Center, Forest Glen. If you have not responded already, please do so to Lara before Friday. The historic buildings open on Sundays beginning May 26. They are staffed by volunteers.

Hobnob Market will be set up in the Laury Barn and surrounding area on Friday and Saturday, June 7 & 8. The Illini Bass Club/D.A.R.E. fishing derby will be June 8. The first Forest Glen public hayride will be June 1, 7 p.m. This year there is a \$1/person charge.

Executive Director Konsis will be speaking at the Kiwanis and giving a WDAN radio interview on Thursday, May 23, then giving a program to the St. James Men’s Club on Wednesday, June 5.

The next V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees meeting is Wednesday, June 19, 2013, 6:00 p.m. in the Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve. Agenda item will be the prevailing wage ordinance.

President Little suggested foregoing the picnic, if Trustee Danner will not be present at the June meeting. Executive Director Konsis will contact Trustee Danner. Also the Trustees agreed that if the picnic portion is cancelled, the meeting will then be moved back to Kennekuk and held at 4:30.

Discussion on bidding the HVAC system out began. Executive Director Konsis stated that the limit that may be spent without board approval is up to \$4,000.

*Trustee Green moved to waive the \$4,000 spending limit imposed requiring Board approval in the case of receiving bids on the HVAC system for the Visitor Center, Kennekuk with the assurance of accepting the best estimate of said system obtained by Executive Director Konsis. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

This concluded the Executive Director’s Report.

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

Trustee Bogart had no comment.

Trustee Green had no comment.

President Little suggested posting signs at Lake Vermilion and Lake Mingo informing visitors where to obtain a V.C.C.D. boat decal. He also has a almost new Dell printer to donate to the District if it is needed.

President Little attended Conservation Olympics on May 10<sup>th</sup>, and reported that it was, "Pretty awesome. " There were so many students in attendance, it was really impressive.

Trustee Bogart stated that she heard good comments about Conservation Olympics.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Bogart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 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