

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

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

**Wednesday, May 21, 2014
4:30 p.m.
Cellular One Classroom, Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk county Park
Danville, IL**

A public hearing was conducted for the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, Ordinance #131, 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 2014 and was on public display.

Under the Corporate Fund, Revenue – Donations and Contributions was increased by \$125,000 to total \$127,200 due to the Robert Wagner Estate. This brings the adjusted total revenue to \$1,285,000.

Expenditures – Seasonal Staff increased by \$5,000 for part-time employee maintenance duties at the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, thus increasing Salaries and Wages to \$755,870 from \$750,870.

The Insurance Fund is a new account to cover general liability insurance for the Kennekuk Education Center. The budgeted amount is \$5,000.

The Fish Stocking account for Kennekuk County Park increased to \$600 for the Kid's Fishing Derby.

The Lake Vermilion County Park Picnic and Recreational account was increased from \$100 to \$500.

Total expenses are \$1,173,000. Change to the cash balance for March 31, 2015, is \$594,225.

Executive Director Konsis stated that the Insurance Fund revenue shows a collection of \$242,000 from real estate taxes; a \$61,770 from CPPRT, a \$5,000 payment for the Corporate Fund and \$25 in interest. Expenditures here total \$268,500; therefore the estimated cash balance next March 31, 2015 is \$27,025.

The IMRF Fund had no changes. Total estimated cash available is \$97,890 since we have a positive ending balance; this deficit was subtracted to give us an estimated cash balance for next year of \$14,490.

The Audit Fund had no changes. Total estimated cash available is \$8,770.

The Social Security Fund revenue is \$60,285, with total expenditures at \$61,000. Total estimated cash available \$73,085; estimated cash balance March 31, 2015 at \$12,085.

Trustee Bogart stated that we are making progress with reducing the negative fund balance. Executive Director Konsis concurred.

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

President Little asked for adoption of Budget and Appropriations Ordinance No. 131. *Trustee Bogart moved to adopt Ordinance No. 131 as amended. This was followed by a second from Trustee Green.*

President Little asked for a roll call vote.

Trustee Bogart	- yes
Trustee Green	- yes
President Little	- yes

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 131 passed with a 3 – 0 vote.

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
Perry A. Jaynes *arrived at 4:45 p.m.*
Brett K. Little

Trustee(s) Absent: B. Dirk Porter

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

Staff members present included Lorna Konsis 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 16, 2014, Regular Meeting. President Little asked for any corrections to the minutes.

Trustee Bogart moved to approve the April 16, 2014, 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 stated that we will address items seven a. through d., hear the Executive Director's Report on Cash and Investments, then approve items a – e at once.

President Little asked if there were questions from the Trustees.

Trustee Bogart commented that after questioning Executive Director Konsis regarding purchase of turtles and lizards, she was relieved to discover that these were not live animals, only plastic souvenirs.

President Little asked for clarification of the invoice paid to Saikley, Garrison, Colombo & Barney LLC for \$3648.00.

Executive Director Konsis explained that this was from the Conservation Loan, the IDNR purchase, and other items related to the Kickapoo Rail Trail. The V.C.C.D.F. Articles of Incorporation had nothing to do with the Foundation. This was at our request to find the V.C.C.D. Articles of Incorporation, which did not previously exist. The bill for this was only \$32.00.

With no other questions, President Little asked the Executive Director to give the report on cash and investments for May 21, 2014.

The Executive Director began his report by stating that our current checking account balance was \$105,100.00. We recently moved \$50,000.00 from the Community Bank of Hoopeston to checking. The Illinois Funds account has a balance of \$5,750.00. The Illinois Funds Money Market account has a balance of \$5,100.00. The Hoopeston money market balance is at \$23,900.00. The Preferred Checking account (Hegeler account) remains at \$2,200.00. The CIB passbook account has a current balance of \$123,400.00. Our Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) has a balance of \$7,725.00. The certificate of deposit with Iroquois Federal stands at \$100,000.00. Our First Savings Bank has a balance of \$400, which is the interest from the DCEO grants.

The grand total of cash and investments as of May 21, 2014, is \$373,575.00, which compares to \$428,570.00, at the same time last year.

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

Trustee Bogart moved to approve the Current List of Bills from April 2014 in the amount of \$16,107.82 , which included check #'s 32265 - 32298; the Manual Checks for April 2014 in the amount of \$33,183.32 which included check #'s 32173 – 32186 and #'s 32211 - 32244; the General Journal Entries for April 2014; the April 2014 Budget Report and the

May 21, 2014 Report on Cash and Investments. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.

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

Trustee Bogart	-	yes
Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Green	-	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. Adopt Resolution Regarding Concerns of the Dynegy Coal Fly Ash Ponds Bordering the Middle Fork River. Trustee Bogart wanted the V.C.C.D. to go on record regarding this subject. She spoke with the Executive Director and emailed a copy of the Vermilion County Board’s resolution addressing this concern to him. Executive Director Konsis then drafted V.C.C.D. Resolution 14-1. The Trustees had received a copy for review in their packets. President Little recommends approval.

Trustee Bogart moved to approve V.C.C.D. Resolution 14-1, addressing concerns of the coal ash storage pits bordering the Middle Fork National Scenic River in Vermilion County as presented. This was followed by second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item eight b. Presentation by Mike Garthaus, IDNR Fisheries Biologist. Executive Director Konsis introduced Mike Garthaus and he began his report regarding the Lake Mingo fishing management proposal.

Current regulations for largemouth and smallmouth bass are 15” length limit and 6/day creel limit. Proposed regulations call for daily catch limit for largemouth or smallmouth bass, singly or in the aggregate, shall not exceed three fish per day, no more than one of which may be equal to or greater than 15 inches in total length and no more than two of which may be less than 15 inches in total length. This proposal is based on surveys conducted every two years and other biological data. The goal would be to protect the larger bass in the lake.

Current regulations for bluegill and redear sunfish are no more than five fish over 7” permitted; unlimited daily creel for fish 7” and under. Proposed regulations call for 20 fish (either singly or in aggregate) daily creel limit, of which only five fish can be 8” or larger. The proposed regulation will allow these species to reach a larger size, and protect larger bluegill.

Mike gave the Trustees several handouts to support the proposal. He answered many questions from the Trustees regarding other regulations and considered their suggestions and comments. Extensive discussion ensued.

Trustee Bogart stated that she is in favor of the proposal, due to Mike and the fisheries division's experience and knowledge on this subject. The Trustees agreed.

Trustee Green moved to accept the IDNR Division of Fisheries proposed regulations on Lake Mingo bass and bluegill limits, effective date April 1, 2015. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

The muskellunge program was also discussed. Mike reported that there are no plans for stocking this species in any of the V.C.C.D.'s waters.

President Little thanked Mike for his informative presentation.

Agenda item eight c. Approve Request for a Loan to Reimburse the Conservation Fund to Receive Reimbursement for RTP Grant. Executive Director Konsis explained the history. The V.C.C.D. was required to purchase the Kickapoo side of the Kickapoo Rail Trail for \$582,038. To be reimbursed by two grants and a purchase. Kickapoo portion was \$209,216, the IDOT portion was \$76,976 and RFP amount was \$295,855. The total amount of the Conservation Fund loan was \$582,038.

The Kickapoo portion and IDOT portions have been paid. The balance due is \$295,855 and needs to be shown as expensed for reimbursement from the RTP grant. Executive Director Konsis has met with representatives from First Midwest Bank and this loan would be for approximately three months. Executive Director Konsis wrote a resolution which was approved by First Midwest Bank, and if the Board also approves it, the money can be procured next week.

Trustee Bogart clarified that Champaign County District will be responsible for any interest incurred. Executive Director Konsis agreed.

With no further questions, Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the resolution stating that the Board of Trustees authorizes the request for the loan in the amount of \$295,855. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart.

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

Trustee Jaynes	- yes
Trustee Bogart	- yes
Trustee Green	- yes
President Little	- yes

The vote was 4 – 0. Resolution No. 14-2 passed.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President, Jamie Pasquale reported that he attended the IACD Meeting held on May 1, 2014 at Starved Rock State Park. There were 8 – 10 people in attendance. Legislation affecting conservation districts was discussed, among other topics. It is always beneficial to network with the other conservation districts to discuss how they handle similar circumstances. A tentative date for a quarterly meeting has been

set for July 30, pending confirmation from the IDNR Deputy Director. This concluded the report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation Report. Since no VCCDF Board Members were present, the Executive Director gave the report. The Foundation was notified that they received a Vermilion County Healthcare grant in the amount of \$10,000. This will be used toward the rooftop garden. Executive Director Konsis wrote this grant for \$25,000, it was very detailed.

The next Foundation meeting will be the Friday, June 13, 9 a.m., Kennekuk Visitor Center, Zack Hickman Room.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis had no report.

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 reported that this was the last week of Outdoor School classes, and we have had many positive comments regarding the new facilities here at Kennekuk.

He gave the Trustees summer program information and registration forms, explaining the range of ages that District camps cover; from 3 – 15 years. Also each year, during the summer months, the V.C.C.D. has a traveling exhibit that is set up at each Vermilion County library for one week. At the end of the week, he presents a program at a time of the library's choosing. It is very popular.

He and Lorna Konsis are currently putting together the District newsletter, and it will be going out in early June. There are many weekend programs the District offers so watch for those.

There are two Eagle Scout projects taking place at Heron County Park; several research projects are underway at both parks, including the ongoing box turtle population examination this week. Also, a research project including an aerial survey of the wetland forests conducted by a group from Southern Illinois University.

Executive Director Konsis commented that the District received money from Pheasants Forever, Vermilion County Chapter, for Outdoor School workbooks and sponsorship for the Youth Conservation Summit Camp.

There were no questions from the Trustees; this concluded the report for the education supervisor.

Agenda item thirteen: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that staff is gearing up for this big weekend, the official start of the recreational season. The Lake Vermilion Boat Ramp and concessions are open seven days a week with lake stickers and gas sales going well. While not a permanent solution, patching

repairs have been made at the boat ramp that should last until fall. We will have to wait for a lower water level. Dock repairs have also been made at Songer as well. Movement and replacement of some the outer buoys will begin soon.

Trustee Green asked about building a dock near the Bowman Bridge to increase public access for fishing.

Associate Director Pasquale answered that there was a dock there years ago, but due to litter and other problems, it was removed. Docks are expensive to install, and financing would be an issue now.

He informed the Trustees that the Kennekuk message board was replaced; the Visitor Center aquarium is cleaned and repaired with a few fish included. Mike Garthaus was asked to bring any fish he may want to add to the aquarium to the Center.

Electrical repairs are underway at the boat ramp and Twin Points. The service there is outdated.

Associate Director Pasquale pointed out that the projector was installed in the classroom. The V.C.C.D. Foundation purchased one with speakers for each Kennekuk classroom and he installed them. These will be used for educational videos, internet clips, and photos during Outdoor School and other presentations.

Associate Director Pasquale asked if there were any questions.

President Little inquired about the Lake Vermilion gas line floats, had they been repaired?

Associate Director Pasquale answered, "Yes, the gas line is good; the clamps have a tendency to slip. There is no environmental danger."

This concluded the Associate Director's Report.

Agenda item fourteen: Report From Executive Director. Work at the Kennekuk Education Center is near completion. All that remains for the contractor is to key the hallway door to match the front doors. Mike Kotcher and Kennekuk Maintenance Staff landscaped the small area just outside the entrance; the employee restroom needs trimmed by Larry Gilliland. Executive Director Konsis gave a tour to a Model T car club that had members mostly from Indiana.

Associate Director Pasquale and he met with Phases of the Moon organizers regarding security and emergency plans. Attendees included representatives from the Sheriff's Department, Oakwood Rescue and Fire Department, IL State Police, and Jeanie Cooke.

Hob Nob Market attendance was estimated at 3,000 persons; there was good weather for World War II Remembrance Days.

The Lake Vermilion Clean-up Day is Friday, May 30; 8 a.m., Lake Vermilion parking lot. Volunteers welcome.

Executive Director Konsis gave an update on the Farm Credit loan that was taken by the V.C.C.D. Foundation to supplement the grants and Hegeler funds to complete the Kennekuk Education Center. The lien for the loan is on the Foundation's 540 acre Jordan Creek farm property. Payment on the loan is made from the farm income of the 180 acres at Jordan Creek, and any donations received. This loan is not tied to the V.C.C.D., nor are there any liens on any V.C.C.D. property, nor is the V.C.C.D. indebted for any loan intended for the education center.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 18; 6 p.m., Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve. Planned agenda items are: open sealed bids for general liability insurance and approve prevailing wage ordinance.

Executive Director Konsis asked if there were any questions.

Trustee Bogart wished to make clear that the V.C.C.D. does not have any liability toward the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.

Executive Director Konsis responded that was correct.

This concluded the Executive Director's Report.

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

Trustee Bogart thanked the staff for their superior efforts at the District.

Trustee Green asked Mike Garthaus to pass along that he is in favor of the IDNR's decision to reintroduce the prairie chicken to the area.

Trustee Jaynes reported that he is encouraging the public to visit the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center and is receiving a lot of nice comments.

President Little reported the he attended Conservation Olympics at Forest Glen last Friday, and had a "blast"! It was a very exciting program and the students really seemed to have learned a lot.

Gary Wilford added that he would be glad to have the Trustees come to Outdoor School in the fall to experience that program as well.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Green moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Bogart. Meeting adjourned.*

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