

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

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

**Wednesday, June 19, 2013
4:30 p.m.
Gannett Outdoor Education Center
Forest Glen Preserve
Westville, IL**

President Little called the June 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: Ken E. Green
Brett K. Little
B. Dirk Porter

Trustee(s) Absent: Nikki A. Bogart
Dan L. Danner

In attendance were Ken Konsis, Executive Director; Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director; Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary; Rick McPhee and Scott Burge with Farnsworth Group, Inc.

Staff members present included Lorna Konsis, Mike Kotcher, Jerry Leahy, Charlie Rhoden, and Gary Wilford.

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

Trustee Green moved to approve the agenda as presented. 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 May 15, 2013, Regular Meeting. President Little asked for any corrections to the minutes.

Trustee Green moved to approve the May 15, 2013, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number five a: Approval of Minutes of the May 22, 2013 Special Meeting. With no questions, *Trustee Porter moved to approve the May 22, 2013, Special 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. Past Trustee Jim Britton, in the audience, commented that Forest Glen looked very nice.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report. President Little asked if there were any comments or questions on items seven a. – seven d. There were none.

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 \$54,400.00. Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance is \$3,100.00. The Illinois Funds Money Market account remains at \$5,100.00. The Hoopston Money Market balance remains at \$199,000.00. 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 \$8,500.00.

The grand total of cash and investments as of June 19, 2013, is \$297,500.00, which compares to \$225,560, 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. Trustee Green would like to see higher interest rates on the accounts.

Executive Director Konsis responded that he is open for suggestions.

Trustee Green moved to approve the Current List of Bills from May 2013 in the amount of \$21,428.98 which included check #'s 31421 – 31459; the Manual Checks for May 2013 in the amount of \$29,104.34, which included check #'s 31329 – 31342 and #'s 31373 - 31398; the General Journal Entries for May 31, 2013; the May 2013 Budget Report and the June 19, 2013 Report on Cash and Investments. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter.

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

Trustee Green	-	yes
Trustee Porter	-	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: Approval of Prevailing Wage Ordinance 2013-2014. Executive Director Konsis stated that this ordinance was standard in content, and asked for questions or comments. There were none.

Trustee Green moved to approve Ordinance No. 129, Prevailing Wage for June 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item eight b: Approve Amended Memorandum of Understanding Between Champaign County Forest Preserve (C.C.F.P.) and Vermilion County Conservation District. Executive Director Konsis stated that a first draft of this was already approved, but has now been amended stating that the V.C.C.D. be able to access the grants that have already been received by the C.C.F.P. The V.C.C.D. will do this on our own; separating the V.C.C.D. from the C.C.F.P.

President Little asked if Attorney Saikley has previewed the document, and Executive Director Konsis answered that he had done so and been in contact with the C.C.F.P. attorney.

With no other questions or comments, *Trustee Green moved to approve the memorandum of understanding between Champaign County Forest Preserve District and the Vermilion County Conservation District regarding the acquisition of approximately 24.5 miles of CSX railroad right-of-way. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item eight c: Update the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy. Executive Director Konsis explained that the District's current policy simply needed updated and separated from the employee handbook, according to the DCEO Audit. The Trustees reviewed the policy.

Trustee Green moved to approve the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter. All in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item eight d: Approve Specifications for Bidding CPA Services. There were no questions or comments.

Trustee Porter moved to approve the specifications for bidding CPA services for 2013 – 2014. This was followed with a second from Trustee Green. All in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President, Jamie Pasquale reported that he received a letter from McHenry County Conservation District stating that their Board of Trustees decided that they will no longer be a part of the Illinois Association of Conservation Districts. However the other four districts, including the V.C.C.D. wish to continue membership. The annual meeting will be held in Putnam County on August 23-24, 2013.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation Report. Vice Chairman Bob Schifo reported that a meeting was held Friday, June 14, with a tour of the education center afterward. Payments to English Bros. continue, and preparations for Cheeseburgers & Fun event have begun.

Executive Director Konsis reported that Chairman Thoennes received word that the V.C.C.D.F. had been approved for the Farm Credit loan for \$180,000.

President Little thanked Bob for his report.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis had nothing to report.

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 summer camp programs are in full swing. Youth Conservation Summit is currently in session with 18 children involved in forestry, wildlife, fisheries, and archeology at the Collins Site. This is very impressive excavation now happening at the Collins Site with students from the University of Illinois digging up half of the burial mound. The Youth Conservation Summit is for kids ages 12 – 15, introducing them to careers in conservation and outdoor recreational opportunities. There is a cookout and program on Thursday, the last day, at the Gannett Outdoor Education Center and Gary invited the Trustees to participate.

Several Boy Scouts have contacted the V.C.C.D. regarding Eagle Scout projects this year, and Gary has agreed to work with them. Projects include: building two trail bridges and steps on trails in Forest Glen.

The Forest Glen Archery Hunt Lottery applications are still coming in at a steady pace.

Gary reported that another research project is underway at Forest Glen; an insect pollination study involving prairie plants.

This concluded the Education Supervisor's Report.

Agenda item thirteen a; Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that the propane tanks are set at the education center construction site; the gas line still needs to be run. The forms for the concrete porches are framed, and pouring should begin tomorrow. This will take a few weeks to complete.

Gasoline sales at Lake Vermilion have begun, sold for \$4.25/gallon. Trustee Green suggested that alcohol-free fuel be sold, since it is less corrosive to motors; and thinks we should advertise it. Jamie agreed that it is more popular with boaters and the District is currently offering that type.

Associate Director Pasquale has been busy with several maintenance projects and repairs; also working with the seasonal staff on projects.

President Little commented that it is important to keep the boat ramp free of debris and he appreciates the efforts.

Trustee Green remarked that the concrete blocks at Lake Vermilion look good. Associate Director Pasquale responded that he had obtained them very economically.

This concluded the Associate Director's Report.

Agenda item fourteen; Report of Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis reported that the new education center roof is complete, included the green metal portion. The floor was poured on June 4; grinding for the floor finish began Monday. Duct work, window installation, wall insulation, and drainage ditch digging are currently underway. A \$10,000 Iroquois Federal Savings grant has been received. This will be used for classroom equipment.

Executive Director Konsis introduced Rick McPhee and Scott Burge in the audience. Rick is retiring from Farnsworth Group, Inc. at the end of this month. Scott will be our contact.

The District hosted Hob Nob Market on June 7 – 9, at the Laury Barn, Kennekuk, with 1,500 in attendance. They want to return in 2014.

The Illini Bass Club/D.A.R.E. Fishing Derby was held on Saturday, June 8, at Horseshoe Pond in Kennekuk with approximately 85 kids in attendance. The Moose Lodge Fishing Tournament is Saturday, June 22, same location.

The V.C.C.D. audit performed by Crowder and Associates is 95% complete. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity audit was conducted June 12.

The V.C.C.D. Foundation has invited the V.C.C.D. Trustees and Staff to a cookout on Tuesday, July 9, 6 p.m. to be held at the Gao Grotto. The Foundation will provide everything.

The next V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees meeting is Wednesday, July 17, 2013, 4:30 p.m. in the Visitor's Center, Kennekuk County Park. Agenda item will be the tax levy ordinance.

This concluded the Executive Director's Report.

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

Trustee Porter had no comment.

Trustee Green has met with construction employee, Billy, often at the site. Everything is going well. He congratulated the Kennekuk and Forest Glen staffs on the appearance of the park, they never fail to impress.

President Little echoed that, commenting that both staffs do a fantastic job of keeping the parks looking great.

Executive Director Konsis stated that he appreciated Trustee Danner's one and one-half years of service on the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees. This was to be his last meeting. He was a fine board member replacement and contributed good input. He would like to say congratulations on his service to the V.C.C.D.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Green moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter. Meeting adjourned.*

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