

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

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

**Wednesday, October 15, 2014
4:30 p.m.
Gannett Outdoor Education Center
Forest Glen Preserve
Westville, IL**

President Bogart called the October 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
Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers
B. Dirk Porter

Trustee(s) Absent: None

In attendance were Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director; and Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary. Ken Konsis, Executive Director, was not in attendance due to medical reasons.

Staff members present included Charlie Rhoden and Gary Wilford.

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

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers. All in favor by acclamation, motion to approve the agenda as amended carried.

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the September 17, 2014, Regular Meeting. President Bogart asked for any corrections to the minutes. She requested the following changes be made: page two, fourth paragraph, second sentence should read "The Sheriff's Department *and* Mayor Eisenhower maintained order, and got communications up and buses running ..."; page two, fifth paragraph, second sentence from the end should read, "She stated there were issues traveling to her home, she felt disrespected and these issues *should have been addressed* prior to the event..."; page three, paragraph seven, the second sentence should be excluded. She will not review the Phases of the Moon Festival disaster plan.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the September 17, 2014, Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item number six a. Audience Comments. There were none.

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

Agenda item number seven e. The grand total of cash and investments as of October 15, 2014, is \$558,850.00, which compares to \$535,457.00, at the same time last year. President Bogart commented that the District's position is better than it was last year at this time.

With no other questions or comments, *Trustee Myers moved to approve the Current List of Bills from September 2014 in the amount of \$15,425.52, which included check #'s 32668 - 32695; the Manual Checks for September 2014 in the amount of \$322,540.92 which included check #'s 32578- 32590 and #'s 32625- 32655; the General Journal Entries for September 30, 2014; the September 2014 Budget Report, and the October Report on Cash and Investments. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter.*

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

Trustee Myers	-	yes
Trustee Porter	-	yes
Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
President Bogart	-	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. Select Engineering Firm for Vermilion County Section of Kickapoo Rail Trail. Associate Director Pasquale stated that two responses were received, one from Farnsworth Group and the other from Fehr Graham. He opened each sealed envelope and passed copies to the Trustees.

President Bogart asked if there was a deadline to choose a firm.

Associate Director Pasquale stated that he did not believe that there was, and since Executive Director Konsis was not in attendance, he agreed that these statements should be examined by him and possibly the Champaign County Forest Preserve District.

Trustee Myers moved to table both statements of qualifications for further review. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item eight b. Approve Specifications for Phone System at Kennekuk and Line Item Advertisement. The Trustees were provided with a copy of the specifications. Associate Director Pasquale stated that this is a priority since there is no phone service at

the Kennekuk Education Center and this could present problems if there is an emergency. Even with approval of these tonight, it may not be until December until a new phone system is operational.

President Bogart stated that she would like to seek bids for this system.

Trustee Myers asked if these specifications would support the future Phase II and III construction plans as well.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that it should, since the system would be expandable to support up to 40 – 48 phones; currently there are 12 phones in use. Additional equipment would have to be purchased at that time to sustain Phases II and III.

Gary Wilford was recognized and asked how calls would be handled if no one picked up at the Visitor Center.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that calls would be transferred to an answering system that would allow the caller to leave a message for the individual with whom they wished to speak. The current system does not allow for this option.

All Trustees were in agreement that the current system needed to be replaced.

With no further questions, Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the specifications as presented for the phone system and line item advertisement. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number eight c: Approve Specifications for Batwing Mower. Associate Director Pasquale explained that these were specific due to the fact it meets our current equipment horsepower limitations. This is budgeted for \$15,000 - \$16,000, but it may come in at \$17,000. He explained that the Board has the right to reject any or all bids.

With no further questions, Trustee Myers moved to approve the specifications for the batwing mower. This was followed by a second from Trustee Porter. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Associate Director Pasquale commented that both the phone system and batwing mower bids are due prior to the November Board of Trustees meeting and will be opened at that meeting.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President, Jamie Pasquale reported that the IACD Meeting is tomorrow, October 16, 2014, at Starved Rock State Park. He will attend.

This concluded the IACD Report. There were no questions.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation Report. Trustee Myers reported that the Foundation met on October 3, and he brought to the Directors the V.C.C.D. Board's concerns regarding payment structure of the Cheeseburger event. There were no

problems with changing the way that is done, so the Foundation will be paying for all the expenses from their account.

There are some Foundation Directors working on grants for the Kickapoo Rail Trail and all are assessing and wrapping up details from the Cheeseburgers and Fun event. The event was successful and we expect to clear approximately \$3,000.

This concluded the V.C.C.D.F. Report. There were no questions.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Associate Director Pasquale reported that the IAPD regularly sends out legislative updates via email. Among the new laws for 2015, one in particular will need to be addressed by the V.C.C.D. Board. An email address will be to be established for the public to access through our website. It may be one you all may access, or you may each have your own. He went on to affirm how important these legislative updates provided by the IAPD are to busy executives.

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 there are two more weeks left in the Outdoor School program; Day Visits are going strong, as well as several weekend events.

The Forest Glen Archery Hunt Program began October 1, with the harvest numbers slightly down from last year at this point. This runs for 16 weeks, with four hunters each week; one in each of four zones. Our goal is to harvest 40 – 50 deer. *[note: there are also two more zones that were offered as auction hunts for three weeks, adding an additional six hunters.*

Update on the White snake root research, regarding isolating chemicals that may be toxic to humans that consume products made from animals that ingested this plant. Plants were collected from both parks, and testing by the USDA and Purdue are ongoing. Our parks are not only important recreational areas, but vital for use as research sites.

There were no more questions from the Trustees; this concluded the report from the Education Supervisor.

Agenda item thirteen: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that the cleanup process at Kennekuk is going well. The asphalt along the side of the roads has been repaired and potholes have been filled. Rock and mulch has been moved and will be utilized by the District. The ruts have been filled and areas will be prepared for seeding soon.

Brief discussion ensued regarding plans for a matrix addressing future event inquiries at the parks.

Associate Director Pasquale reported that the Waterfowl Hunting draw went well with 30 in attendance. Leadership Tomorrow Class was held, with Gary Wilford and him assisting.

Prior events included: Pioneer Craft Day at Forest Glen on September 21; Civil War Days at Kennekuk on September 27-28. Haunted Happenings at Kennekuk will be October 25. Tickets are on sale for this event, \$10 now, \$15 on October 25.

Trustee Myers asked if the Civil War reenactors were satisfied with the grounds after Phases of the Moon Festival.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that they were after the few minor repairs were made to the re-enactment area. The Civil War event is a great historical program and an excellent educational program for the students of Vermilion County as they offer a “school day” for several hundred students the day prior to the re-enactment.

Agenda item fourteen: Report From Executive Director. He was not in attendance. Amy Steeples reported that Executive Director Konsis was progressing well. Flowers were sent on behalf on the District employees and Trustees.

President Bogart offered the Board’s assistance in any way necessary to keep the District running while Executive Director Konsis was out of the office.

Associate Director Pasquale thanked President Bogart and the Trustees and told them he would be in contact.

There were no other questions or comments.

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

Trustee Porter had no comment.

Trustee Myers commented that he will be moving forward on the plan on evaluation of the parks and how we use them. The group may/could include Executive Director Konsis, park employees, volunteers, maybe some park users, and no more than two trustees. He will be working on that.

Trustee Jaynes had no comment.

President Bogart was very appreciative of the way the Staff has carried on in the Executive Director’s extended absence.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Jaynes moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:11 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers. Meeting adjourned.*

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