

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

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

**Wednesday, June 17, 2015
4:30 p.m.
Gannett Outdoor Education Center
Forest Glen Preserve
Westville, IL**

President Bogart called the June 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
Allen E. Cooke
Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers

Trustee(s) Absent: B. Dirk Porter

In attendance were Ken Konsis, Executive Director; Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director; Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary; and Kevin Wills, First Midstate, Inc.

Staff members present included Mike Kotcher and Charlie Rhoden.

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

There were no corrections; *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the May 20, 2015, Regular Meeting. President Bogart asked for any corrections to the minutes.

With no corrections, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the May 20, 2015, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item number six a. Audience Comments. There were no comments.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report. President Bogart asked if there were any questions on items seven a through d.

With no questions or comments, *Trustee Myers moved to approve the Current List of Bills from May 2015 in the amount of \$13,401.86, which included check #'s 33281 - 33308; the Manual Checks for May 2015 in the amount of \$38,551.64 which included check #'s 33153 – 33173 and #'s 33205 - 33220; the General Journal Entries for May 31, 2015; and the May 2015 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke.*

With no more questions, President Bogart requested a roll call vote. The results:

Trustee Myers	-	yes
Trustee Cooke	-	yes
Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
President Bogart	-	yes

The vote was 4–0. Treasurer's Report, items seven: a – d were approved. Motion carried.

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported the grand total of cash and investments as of June 17, 2015, is \$398,005.00, which compares to \$260,625.00, at the same time last year.

President Bogart commented that this year's figure is up by almost \$140,000.00 over last year's total.

Executive Director Konsis noted that \$166,000.00 of this year's total is due to the Wagner Estate donation.

With no further discussion, *Trustee Myers moved to approve the June 17, 2015, Report on Cash and Investments as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

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

Trustee Myers	-	yes
Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Cooke	-	yes
President Bogart	-	yes

The vote was 4–0. Treasurer's Report, item seven e was approved. Motion carried.

Agenda item number eight, Specific Items of Business to be Transacted.

Item eight a. Continue Bond Discussion with First Midstate, Inc. Kevin Wills, representative from First Midstate, Inc., was introduced. Trustee Myers recapped the three options for bonding that were the District was considering; General Obligation, Alternate Revenue, and Debt Certificate. Kevin Wills clarified each in detail, with timelines.

Kevin answered questions regarding percentage rates, cost of issuance, amount, length, regulations, and coverage factors. He explained the differences in a debt certificate and an alternate revenue bond.

Trustee Cooke asked how soon the money from the options would be available.

Kevin responded that a debt certificate requires an ordinance, and could be approved at the July Board of Trustees Regular Meeting. The money could be available soon after that meeting. This option would cost approximately a .5% interest rate over the alternate revenue bond rate.

An alternate revenue bond would take several months, requiring an ordinance stating the District's intention to borrow, a public hearing, and a final ordinance authorizing the issue or sale of the bonds stating the amount and length. This type also calls for annual maintenance in the form of an abatement ordinance.

The District needs to define a definite amount and length of time, so First Midstate, Inc. can give us rates and advice.

Discussion ensued.

In regard to the capital project list provided to the Trustees, Executive Director Konsis stated that, in the past, roughly \$25,000 per year was budgeted for road repair. Trustee Myers commented that the District has been putting capital projects off, and now are behind. Some of the projects need addressed, and in the long run will save District dollars.

President Bogart stated that these projects need done using money as it is available, prioritizing the projects instead of committing to a loan.

Trustee Myers views this as a first step toward a new financial plan for the District that needs to be done by the end of this year.

President Bogart feels that the Board is rushing into bonding, no matter the cost.

With no more questions for Kevin, the Board thanked him for his presentation.

Extensive discussion regarding taxes, expenses and available funds for capital projects ensued.

Real estate tax levy for the District has not changed since 2005, except for the slight increase last year due to the wind farms, which has increased the EAV. When Executive Director Konsis began as executive director, the Capital Project budget was \$80,000 - \$100,000. Currently, the Capital Project budget is \$16,540.

The Trustees asked the amount needed to run the parks for one month. Executive Director Konsis responded that it varies due to the busier recreational season. During the recreational season expenses are around \$50,000.

Trustee Myers suggested using the figure needed for one month, subtract it from the low "water mark" and use the remaining for capital projects to get the District through this budget year.

When it is time for the annual tax levy ordinance for next year, it was the consensus of the Board, with the Executive Director's approval to increase the levy by the allowable amount., and earmark those funds for capital projects.

Agenda item eight b. Approve Prevailing Wage Ordinance. Executive Director Konsis explained that the only changes were the dates. There were no questions.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve Ordinance No. 135 Prevailing Wage Ordinance for period June 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers. Three votes for yes; one abstention, motion carried.

Agenda item eight c. Approve Specifications for General Liability Insurance. Executive Director Konsis stated that the only changes from last year are the dates. A copy of the RFP is included in the Trustee's notebooks. The current IPARKS premium is \$70,960, with a rebate of approximately \$2,500. The bids will be opened at the Board of Trustees July Regular Meeting.

There were no questions from the Trustees; *therefore Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the RFP specifications to advertise for bids. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item eight d. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Village of Muncie. A copy of this agreement was included in the Trustee's board packets. Executive Director Konsis affirmed that the agreement states that the portion of the Kickapoo Rail Trail which passes through Muncie will be maintained by the Village of Muncie. This is in lieu of an existing lease which has a fee of \$60/year for limited use of this right-of-way.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the V.C.C.D. and the Village of Muncie, IL regarding the Kickapoo Rail Trail use of right-of-way as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item eight e. Approve Amended Lease with Terrapin Ridge Productions. Executive Director Konsis stated that he has been in close contact with Barry Shear regarding another music festival event at Kennekuk. A copy of a the amendment to the existing contract was included in the Trustee's packets for review. There is a change in wording in article 2.02 regarding booking and cancellation policies.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the contract lease amendment as presented with Terrapin Ridge Productions. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers.

Trustee Myers stated that he felt that the District was let down by the last contract, budgeting \$50,000 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but this amount was not received.

Executive Director Konsis responded that \$100,000 was budgeted, due to early projections; but it was written in the contract that they could cancel for "good reason"; bankruptcy was the reason. When Barry Shear found a party to invest in "Phases of the Moon", that saved the company, thus allowing them to come back to Kennekuk again.

Trustee Myers is positive about the event, but still concerned about the contract wording being one-sided, and the District losing dollars again.

With no more questions or comments, President Bogart asked for a vote on approval of the lease amendment. *All in favor, motion carried.*

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President Jamie Pasquale reported that there will be a meeting scheduled in July.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that a meeting was held on Friday, June 12. A decision was made previously, to increase the Board number, and to accept Director Applications at any time. These persons, who submit applications and are approved, will be appointed as an Associate Director, with meeting attendance expected, but only as a non-voting member. They will be evaluated by attendance and assistance for possible appointment to the voting Board as a Director.

Heather Wheaton was approved as a voting director, to fill the vacancy of Cheryl Vergin. Rick Strebing, Butch Schroeder, and Mike Puhr were all accepted as Associate Directors.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis stated that a freeze on property taxes has become a bargaining chip between the Governor and Madigan. This could be a problem, because any tax increase would have to be through a referendum. He contacted Representative Hays about this potential problem. Representative Hays suggested that we conduct business as usual and that he will voice our concerns if the issue comes up for a vote.

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing Committee Report. Trustee Myers reported the committee met June 10th. Members present: Trustee Jaynes, Gary Wilford, Kim Fox, Associate Director Pasquale, and himself. He thanked these individuals for their consistent attendance at these meetings. They evaluated all revenue ideas and the next meeting will be focused on the expense side. They have created a matrix and will be coming to the full Board to make a presentation.

Trustee Jaynes added that Kim Fox had come up with very creative, attainable revenue producing activities that the parks could offer with little work to our staff.

There was no report from the Health Insurance Committee. Trustee Jaynes, chairman, reported that the committee had not met yet; one will be scheduled soon. He stated that the District should have new employee health insurance rates earlier. Coventry Company was purchased by Aetna and will no longer offer the District's current stated policy, so this is an issue that needs careful consideration.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

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

Agenda item twelve. Report From the Education Supervisor. Gary Wilford was not present. Executive Director Konsis reported that Gary is busy planning for the V.C.C.D.'s 50th Anniversary. The Palmer Arena Civic Center is booked for a banquet on Saturday, June 11 and open houses will be scheduled at each park. Events are in the planning stage for June 11-12, 2016, so mark your calendars now.

Trustee Jaynes reported that he will be a sponsor for the 2016 Conservation Olympic medals. President Bogart thanked Trustee Jaynes for his support.

There were no other questions or comments from the Trustees; this concluded the report for the Education Supervisor.

Agenda item thirteen: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale began with the amount of minor damage occurring at Kennekuk Park due to the copious amount of rain. Lake Mingo Trail had damage to bridges, some were washed out; the boat house at Lake Mingo floated into the cove where it was taken out of the water to dismantle; the dock at the boat ramp became loose and needed to be repaired. Lake Mingo water level was up 60 inches. The cables on the dam are not operating, but appeared to do the job. Staff has been clearing farm access lanes, but farmers still don't have the ground planted due to the rain.

Larry Gilliland and he have been mowing the Jordan Creek Wildlife Sanctuary following the guidelines set forth by the WHIP grant.

Trustee Myers gave a brief history of the Jordan Creek property, donated by the Schlect family. There are 540 acres, less the farm ground. The Whip grant was procured to help return the ground back to a sustainable wildlife and plant habitat as set forth by the Schlect family's wishes.

Associate Director Pasquale asked, in regard to the previous discussion on cutting expenses, what the Board would like for him to do with excess vehicles in the District fleet that are not used.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to put the vehicles out for bid, if not sold then sell them for scrap. The buyer would need to sign a waiver of responsibility.

In regard to begin spending on capital project items, he stated that the current policy calls for any project costing \$4,000 or more requires bidding out. The Illinois state limit for municipalities is \$20,000. Executive Director Pasquale asked for an increase in the District's limit. This will save time and money.

After some discussion, it will be an agenda item for approval at the next meeting. Executive Director Pasquale will bring a policy amendment for the July 15 meeting.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item fourteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began with the Kickapoo Rail Trail (KRT). Doug Ireland and he met with a representative from Genpact for a donation. June 5th was KRT night at the Danville Dans game. The match funding from the state has not yet been received. There will be a meeting on June 29 with Fehr Graham, IDOT, IDNR, and CCFPD regarding final design.

The Kennekuk Environmental Education Center kitchen cabinets and plumbing have been installed. Work continues with ECivis on grant opportunities.

Executive Director Konsis was contacted by another production company, React Presents, regarding another music festival at Kennekuk. The company toured Kennekuk.

Events that have occurred are: Lake Vermilion Cleanup went well, lots of trash was cleared. The Illini Bass Club/D.A.R.E. Kids Fishing Derby was last Saturday with approximately 40 kids in attendance.

The Kennekuk Road Runner Lake Mingo Run was held with no issues on Lake Mingo Trail. He thanked the Kennekuk Staff for their work to prepare the trail for the run.

Executive Director Konsis attended the Inter-government Meeting on June 4. The committee consists of Danville City officials, county mayors, Vermilion County Highway Dept., township and road commissioners, utilities, Danville Mass Transit, Vermilion County Health Dept., V.C.C.D. and others. The Trustees have the final priority project list in their notebooks.

The Executive Director will speak at tomorrow's Old Town Preservation group at Songer Pavilion, and Monday for the Golden Kiwanis at Rotary Point. *Note: Associate Director Pasquale filled in for Executive Director Konsis for the Old Town Preservation program.*

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 15, 2015; 4:30 p.m.; Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park.

There were no questions or comments.

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

Trustee Jaynes reminded Executive Director Konsis that the Kiwanis's have their installment check ready to present to the District at their next meeting.

Trustee Myers had no comment.

Trustee Cooke had no comment.

President Bogart had no comment.

Trustee Cooke was initially appointed to fill the vacancy of Ken Green, and has been reappointed to serve a full 5-year term.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Myers moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers. Meeting adjourned.*

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