

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

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

**Wednesday, October 18, 2017
4:30 p.m.
Kennekuk Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Myers called the October 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 to be present.

Trustees Present: Robert W. Arnholt
Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers
Charles B. Schroeder

Trustee(s) Absent: none

In attendance were Executive Director Konsis and Associate Director Pasquale.

Staff members present included Charlie Rhoden, Gary Tyrl, Jeff Lete, and Mike Kotcher.

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

President Myers asked for amendments to the agenda.

With no amendments, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the September 20, 2017, Regular Meeting.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the September 20, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. 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 Myers asked if there were any questions on items seven a through d.

With no questions or comments, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the Current List of Bills from September 2017 in the amount of \$19,102.94, which included check #'s 37721 - 37745; the Manual Checks for September 2017 in the amount of \$445,186.11 which included check #'s 37549 – 37581, 37610 – 37611, 37643 – 37658, and 37661; the General Journal Entries for September 30, 2017; and the September 2017 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt.*

President Myers requested a roll call vote. The results as follows:

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Schroeder	-	yes
Trustee Arnholt	-	yes
President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 4 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported that our checking account has a balance of \$219,200, but that still includes the Catlin Bank CD that needs to be reinvested in the amount of \$141,104. Our Illinois Funds totaled \$45,400 and there is no activity on the Illinois Funds Money Market. First Farmers Bank and Central Illinois Bank have totals of \$249,500 and \$249,600. These are bond funds. The HRA has a total of \$5,400. First Savings and Bank of Catlin have funds totaling \$249,100 and \$250,000 respectively.

The grand total of cash and investments minus the bond funds is \$779,300. This compares to \$896,705 of last year, but we did not receive our October second installment of real estate taxes yet.

President Myers asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the accounts or investments. There were none.

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

Item eight a. Open sealed bids for General Liability Insurance. Associate Director Pasquale gave the two sealed bids to President Myers for opening. They were from Dimond Brothers Insurance with IPARKS and from Joseph M. Wiedemann and Sons Inc., our current carrier.

President Myers announced that the bid from Dimond Brothers Insurance, IPARKS, totaled \$28,450.00. The sealed bid from Weidemann Insurance totaled \$40,875.00.

Gordon Thoennes, agent from Dimond Brother Insurance stated that the IPARKS bid was \$30,000 higher than last year. After losing 14 clients, IPARKS re-did their insurance contracts to be more competitive and try to retrieve the contracts that they lost last year.

President Myers suggested that the board tentatively approve the Dimond Brothers bid as long as they met specifications. He directed Executive Director Konsis to provide copies of the bids so that the board may review them.

Therefore, *Trustee Jaynes moved that the Board accept the bid for the District's General Liability Insurance Dimond Brothers Insurance in the amount of \$28,450.00 upon the review of the bids to be certain that they do meet the required specifications. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt.*

President Myers requested a roll call vote. The results as follows:

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Schroeder	-	yes
Trustee Arnholt	-	yes
President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 4 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Item eight b. Report on the Greenways and Trail Plan. Executive Director Konsis introduced Tyson Terhune, Danville City Planner. Executive Director Konsis told Tyson that the Board has copies of the trail plan. Tyson began by stating that this is a draft of the trail plan that is a work in progress. He just wants to introduce entities to this greenways and trail plan so that it may be of future use when applying for grants for trails. Tyson briefly described the mission, benefits, economic effect, objectives, cultural and historical resources, natural resources, and a listing of all the parks (city and county) in Vermilion County. He asked the Trustees if they had any questions.

There were none, and President Myers thanked Tyson for his presentation.

Item eight c. Approve purchase of skid steer. Associate Director Pasquale explained that since we were not bidding this out, the Board must approve the purchase. It includes a bucket, forks, auger, the FECON mower head (forestry mower), and also fits the road broom. The price is \$64,970.10. He noted that he researched this purchase extensively and this fits our needs the best. It comes with a three year warranty and a 3,000 hour warranty. If repairs take more than three days, they will provide a loaner machine. It is 74 HP and has a hydraulic flow of 35 gal/minute and we can haul everything on one trailer without being overweight. We plan to purchase it from J. Jett in Casey, Illinois.

With no questions from the Trustees, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the purchase of the skid steer as described by Associate Director Pasquale from J. Jett in Casey, IL for the purchase price of \$64,970.10. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.*

President Myers requested a roll call vote. The results as follows:

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Schroeder	-	yes
Trustee Arnholt	-	yes
President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 4 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Item eight d. Discuss employee medical insurance. Gordon Thoennes explained that the current renewal of the employee medical insurance has a 22% increase. He passed out copies of the renewal to the Trustees. Because of the ACA standards, all renewals are seeing large increases. There really aren't any alternatives anymore. We are at our maximum deductible. Locally, the Order of Saint Francis (OSF) Hospital in Peoria is

buying Presence Medical Center in Danville and Provena in Urbana. There is presently a battle between OSF and Methodist Hospital in Peoria; Blue Cross/Blue Shield recently put Methodist Hospital in-network, so if we went to BC/BS, our employees would be out of network. Health Alliance and Carle have no interest in BC/BS. Also, Aetna is not interested in insuring small groups. Aetna, BC/BS, and Health Alliance are the only carriers of group health insurance in our area. Humana does not have anyone in-network here.

President Myers gave a brief history of our employee's health insurance. Last year, the District went to a \$6,000 deductible that would be front loaded \$1,000 for the employee. The District then eliminated the one month premium that employees paid, and the employee pays 10% of the premium for any and all dependents.

Gordon added that ACA will not allow anything over a \$6,000 deductible.

President Myers stated that we have no tools left to reduce the premium.

Gordon said that since Larry Gilliland has retired, and Executive Director Konsis will begin Medicare, that will almost offset the premium increase. There is really nothing else to do unless you increase the HRA or have the employees pay more of the deductible.

President Myers stated that he does not want to put anymore burden on the employees. Their salaries are not that high and they do a very good job. He also likes Health Alliance. We should just settle on the renewal.

Trustee Arnholt asked if we should go after bids.

President Myers answered that we don't have to. All the bids will be the same. He says that it is the board's pleasure to put it up for bid, but he sees no gain. It would only be a discussion point.

Trustee Schroeder remarked that it should be an agenda item in November.

Trustee Jaynes agreed. There should be no more increase to employees and we should table this until November.

Trustee Arnholt added that we should vote on it next month.

Item eight e. "Ordinance abating the tax hereto levied for the year 2017 to pay the principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds (Alternative Revenue Source), Series 2017, of the District."

President Myers stated that we have to file a tax levy with the County Clerk. If the District does not have enough dollars to pay the bond, it becomes part of the tax levy. Each year, we must therefore file a "relief" that it is not part of the tax levy. We are not going to need a levy.

Trustee Jaynes moved to adopt the ordinance to abate the tax levy as stated. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. Associate Director Pasquale reported that there is an IACD quarterly meeting tomorrow at Starved Rock State Park and Executive Director Konsis will attend. There were no questions.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Foundation Chairman Gordon Thoennes reported on the Cheeseburger and Fun event held in August. It appears that the Foundation will net \$8,000 profit. The board agreed to keep two of the three bands and to replace Steve Rodman.

This concluded the VCCF Report.

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

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing/Expense Reduction Committee Report. President Myers had nothing new to report.

Agenda item nine e: V.C.C.D. Education. President Myers asked if there was a report. Executive Director Konsis stated that since Program Administrator Amy Steeples is on vacation, no report was compiled.

Agenda item nine f: V.C.C.D. Maintenance. The Trustees were provided with the Forest Glen Maintenance Report in their notebooks. There were no questions.

Agenda item nine g: Internet Access Committee. Trustee Arnholt had nothing to report.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that the lift and FECON mower were the latest equipment purchases. The Forest Glen dump truck should be ready either this week or next. A smaller FECON mower has been purchased to fit on the skid steer. We will need to sell the excess equipment. The District may be \$5,000 over budget now on bond funds.

Ribbe completed the road work from the Lake Vermilion parking lot to Songer Pavilion. The road and parking lot were so bad that they had to apply an asphalt undercoat and then a double coat of oil and chips. The ramp to the concession building will be milled to take out the hump and then have a new section of asphalt. We are still waiting for a quote to slope the parking lot for drainage.

We are also working on the Forest Glen Willow Creek Pond Spillway project. The best solution is to pour a concrete floor and then lay yard block along the sides, then slope it with riprap. The spillway will then be the overflow for the pond and not the drop tube.

Ameren should have a quote for the three phase power by the next board meeting and it will be good for 90 days. The plan is to go down 2200 North Road and then go underground into Kennekuk.

Trustee Arnholt asked if we will need easements. Associate Director Pasquale answered that we will need five easements from residences.

There were no further questions from the Trustees. This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item twelve: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis reported that he contacted Carl Gunter. He did not have time to act on the contract yet. He said that he will get on it, but also needs the legal description of the .6 acre of the donated parcel so all this can happen at the same time. John Beardsley, District Attorney, got the legal description from Rick Knight, the surveyor. When doing the title search, it wasn't clear that Carl owned that parcel. It may be the Illinois Division of Waterways.

The newest development with the Kickapoo Rail Trail is that the federal government is going to require a new Environmental Survey Report (ESR) because the delay in construction has gone past five years. There was an article in today's News-Gazette. Associate Director Pasquale and he met with the CCFPD staff (Mary Ellen Wuellner and Jon Hasselbring) and discussed some of the problems that they encountered during their Phase I construction. We then toured our proposed Phase I-b (2.2mile) section.

This past Monday, Executive Director Konsis met with the Danville Regional Trail Extension Committee. That consists of Diane Banta from the National Park Service (Chicago); Chris Milliken and Tyson Terhune, Danville City Planners; Logan Cronk, Vermilion Advantage; Mary Ellen Wuellner and John Hasslebring, Champaign County Forest Preserve District; Louis Yockey, IDNR; and Jeanie Cooke, DACVB.

The regional trail system will connect Danville to the KRT via the CSX line that parallels Route 150. It will begin at Avenue A and connect to our property at the fairgrounds. This will also include the IDOT bridge over Interstate 74 which is very important because that would be the only crossing over I-74. The committee is seeking \$10,000 in funding to split the cost with CSX for a joint appraisal. There are two options from Avenue A, going through Ellsworth Park or building a bridge to cross the North Fork River. Then, this would lead to the Riverfront Development. The City is currently constructing a boardwalk on the trail at the Riverfront. Monday, some of the committee members had a luncheon at Café 13 with Mayor Eisenhauer and County Board Chairman Marron to bring them up to date on the regional trail system.

Executive Director Konsis attended the DACVB Board Meeting today at newly opened Red Door Cakes. The mayor and County Board Chair were also there and the KRT was again discussed.

A request has come from Aqua Illinois to amend our 25 year lease with them.

Amendments include:

- a. No houseboats or other watercraft to be used for habitation on the lake.
- b. No commercial boats for recreational purposes.
- c. Establish a horsepower limit.
- d. No permanent gasoline tanks, except for the V.C.C.D.'s.

There is concern about the HP limit because some of the bass boats have 250 HP or more, but are not used during the same time that recreational boats are present. He recommends leaving that one alone.

The Trustees agreed. This will be an agenda items for November's meeting.

IDNR Fisheries Biologist, Mike Garthaus is suggesting that we eliminate the 9.9HP limit on Lake Mingo, and instead, have a "No Wake" rule. This seems to work at Dawson Lake. This will also be placed on the November agenda.

Some of the past events that were held since the last board meeting were:
The Revolutionary War Reenactment/Pioneer Craft Day, September 23-24. The weather was hot and the crowd was down by a third from last year.

Civil War School Day, September 29. There were 700 school children from county schools in attendance. The weather was good and all went well.

Hayrides at Forest Glen are now done for the season.

Star Party, astronomy program, at the Kennekuk Education Center on October 5. Focus was on the Harvest Moon, but overcast skies prevented sky views.

Meetings attended, not reported earlier:

- Kickapoo Rail Trail fundraising committee, September 26 at Danville American Legion. Trustee Arnholt is the co-chair of that committee.
- Land Restoration Committee, September 27. Cole Craft is the Chairman. The goal is to bring all staffs together to discuss mowing options, habitat restoration, etc.
- Vermilion Advantage Special Meeting, September 28, Old National Bank. Sheriff Hartshorn gave a presentation about the drug scene in Vermilion County along with MEG officers.
- October 6, along with Gordon Thoennes, met with Jim Anderson and Janet Payne from Vermilion County Healthcare Foundation to discuss the \$50,000 grant proposal with them. This will now be presented before their board. This is for construction of the Kickapoo Rail Trail.
- Illini Radio Network, Champaign Studio, October 10, for a New Business Meeting. Executive Director Konsis taped three radio segments.
- The V.C.C.F. Regular Meeting, October 13. It was a wrap-up meeting for the Cheeseburgers and Fun event and the Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center Dedication.
- Cole Craft, Nick Jeurissen and the Executive Director Konsis attended a joint Illinois/Indiana Walnut Council field day on October 7, at the Bob Chenoweth property, north of Bismarck.
- National Walnut Council Foundation meeting in Springfield yesterday. As Vice President, he ran the meeting in the president's absence.
- Scheduled to attend the Vermilion Advantage meeting, October 19, but will instead attend the IACD Meeting at Starved Rock State Park.

Julius Hegeler will be funding the new V.C.C.D. concession building at Lake Vermilion for \$18,000.

October 21, is Haunted Happenings at Kennekuk County Park. There are comp tickets in the Trustee's notebooks. The next special event is Thanksgiving at the Cabin on Sunday, November 5, at the Pioneer Homestead Cabin, Forest Glen Preserve.

The next V.C.C.D. Board Meeting will be Wednesday, November 15, 4:30 p.m., Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park. Agenda items will include approving the work comp and employee medical insurance and the Lake Vermilion and Lake Mingo items.

This concluded the Report of the Executive Director.

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

President Myers had no comment.

Trustee Schroeder had no comment

Trustee Arnholt had no comment.

Trustee Jaynes had no comment.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *Trustee Jaynes moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt. All in favor by acclamation.*

Robert W. Arnholt
Secretary
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees