

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

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

**Wednesday, November 15, 2017
4:30 p.m.
Kennekuk Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Myers called the November 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
Jonathan A. Myers
Charles B. Schroeder

Trustee(s) Absent: Perry A. Jaynes

In attendance were Executive Director Konsis, Associate Director Pasquale, and Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary.

Staff members present included Nick Jeurissen Mike Kotcher, Charlie Rhoden, and Gary Tyrl,

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 Arnholt 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 October 18, 2017, Regular Meeting.

Trustee Arnholt moved to approve the October 18, 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 Arnholt moved to approve the Current List of Bills from October 2017 in the amount of \$9,098.72, which included check #'s 37847 -37866; the Manual Checks for October 2017 in the amount of \$339,189.36 which included check #'s 37691 – 37704, 37706 – 37720, 37773 – 37791, and 37821 - 37831; the General Journal Entries for October 31, 2017; and the October 2017 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.

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

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

The vote was 3 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported that the checking account has a balance of \$159,640.00. Illinois Funds totaled \$45,400.00 and there is no activity on the Illinois Funds Money Market. First Farmers Bank and Central Illinois Bank each have a balance of \$249,700.00. These are bond funds. The HRA has a total of \$5,000.00. First Savings Bank account balance is \$194,000.00; Bank of Catlin account has only \$16.00 and will be closed at the end of this month.

The grand total of cash and investments less bond funds is \$714,466.49. This compares to \$839,015.00 of last year. We have not received our 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. Approve 2017 Employee Medical Insurance Policy. Executive Director Konsis stated that Dimond Brothers Insurance representative, Gordon Thoennes, could not be present. The bid for Health Alliance POS 6000c Silver Emb Rx2 with a \$6,000/\$12,000 deductible 12/1/17 through 11/30/18 is \$14,558.91. The benefit parameters for the employees will remain the same as the previous year.

President Myers stated that putting the medical insurance out for bid would not be worth the time, since the District is very satisfied with the current company. All Trustees were in agreement. They do not like the 23% increase, but all agents offer the same or larger premiums.

Therefore, Trustee Arnholt moved to accept the bid for the 2017-2018 Employee Medical Insurance from Dimond Brothers Insurance in the amount of \$14,558.91 with the same benefits for the employees as the previous year. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.

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

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

The vote was 3 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Item eight b. Open/award sealed bids for Worker’s Compensation Insurance for 2018. Executive Director Konsis stated that only one bid was received. It was from Illinois Public Risk for \$12,609.00 through Dimond Brothers Insurance. Last year’s premium was \$13,516.00.

President Myers asked if the District still would receive the “grant” related to this policy as in previous years.

Associate Director Pasquale reported that a grant of \$1,475.00, would be issued by Illinois Public Risk to the District to be used for safety equipment or related items.

The trustees reviewed the quote.

Trustee Schroeder moved to accept the bid for the 2017-2018 Worker’s Compensation Insurance from Illinois Public Risk in the amount of \$12,609.00. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt.

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

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

The vote was 3 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Item eight c. Approve Aqua America proposed lease amendments. The trustees were provided with a copy of the proposed amendment in their packets. The District would agree to: not allow houseboats, floating structures or any structure designed for habitation on Lake Vermilion; not allow commercial boats or boats converted from commercial used on Lake Vermilion; not allow any permanent gas tanks or underground storage tanks to be installed along Lake Vermilion not already existing and those shall be properly maintained.

The Trustees inquired if there were any current commercial entities that could be affected by this amendment.

Associate Director Pasquale and Executive Director Konsis both stated, “No”.

With no other questions from the Trustees, *Trustee Schroeder moved to approve the amendment to lease between Aqua Illinois, Inc. and the Vermilion County Conservation District as contained in the presented document. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item eight d. Discuss/approve IDNR Fisheries recommendation to abolish horsepower limit on Lake Mingo in favor of “No Wake” restriction. Executive Director Konsis explained that Mike Garthaus had posed the idea of having Lake Mingo go to an unlimited HP motor restriction with no wake; stating this has worked at Lake Dawson for 10 years and had actually increased users to the lake.

Trustee Arnholt asked if there had been any complaints regarding only small HP motors allowed on Lake Mingo.

Executive Director Konsis responded there had not been any inquiries about permitting larger HP motors on Lake Mingo.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding pros and cons.

President Myers’ recommendation was to keep Lake Mingo at the current rule of 9.9 HP or less, and adding a no wake policy.

The trustees concurred due to public safety. There was no motion regarding the addition of an unlimited horsepower/no wake policy made at this time.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. Associate Director Pasquale had no report. Executive Director Konsis added that he attended the meeting on October 19, Starved Rock State Park to discuss the upcoming “Strengthening Conservation through Partnerships” annual conference scheduled for February of 2018. This is open to all employees of members and potential members of IACD. There are new park districts joining the IACD so this conference is beneficial.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis reported the next meeting will be Friday, December 8, 9 a.m., at the Kennekuk Education Center.

This concluded the VCCF Report.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis stated that the IAPD needed delegate names soon to attend the IAPD conference in Chicago, scheduled for January 20. It is very costly to attend, but if any trustee is interested, please let him know.

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. The report was mailed with the Trustee’s packets. There were no questions.

Agenda item nine f: V.C.C.D. Maintenance. The Forest Glen and Kennekuk reports were mailed with the Trustee’s packets. There were no questions.

Agenda item nine g: Internet Access Committee. Trustee Arnholt reported that he has been in contact with Preston Neubert, Neubert Communications. Preston could use the

existing tower at the Kennekuk Visitor Center and add hot spots in specific areas. This could not only boost internet service, but improve phone service in areas.

President Myers asked if the landline at the Atwood House could be canceled, since it is very costly.

Executive Director Konsis stated that phone is there for emergency situations since cell phones do not work in that area.

J.D. Lugoski, in the audience, was recognized and commented that landline service is reliable, whereas cell and Wi-Fi service could be interrupted by power outages, weather disturbance, etc. If the reason is for safety, then a landline would be most dependable mode of communication.

Trustee Arnholt stated that Preston would not be available to work with the District for three to six months.

Associate Director Pasquale stated that the District should determine how much coverage is needed and wanted. What is our goal? What does the District wish to attract and accomplish with Wi-Fi coverage and services?

Executive Director Konsis clarified that the Bunker Hill Historic Area is the main area to be covered.

Discussion ensued.

Executive Director Konsis asked Trustee Arnholt to schedule Neubert Communications for a V.C.C.D. Board presentation as soon as possible – if this is something the District wishes to plan for; it needs to be included in the budget for next year.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale has been working at Forest Glen Preserve on the Willow Creek Pond Spillway Project. Several concrete blocks, total weight of approximately 190,000 pounds have been moved from Georgetown to Forest Glen to be used in the project as walls. Fourteen yards of concrete has been laid for the spillway so far. This accounts for one-third of the total project.

The used equipment bid auction concluded today and was successful. There were twenty-two items for sale; two had no bids. There were 53 bidders and twelve winning bids for a total of profit of \$17,959.38 to the District. Associate Director Pasquale was very pleased.

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

Agenda item twelve: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis reported that John Beardsley, V.C.C.D. Attorney, has been trying to secure the title for the .6 acres

that Carl Gunter wishes to donate to the District. In his search, it seems that the property is owned by the IL Division of Waterways. If true, we will approach them for a lease, donation, or sale. If not, they need to repair the culvert to it so it is passable for vehicles. This happened during the reservoir days when all of these entities were buying up property and then sorting it out later.

The District received clearance for Cultural Resources and now only need a preliminary environmental survey assessment (PESA) as an update on the phase I of the Kickapoo Rail Trail, which is the 2.2 miles from the IDNR property line to Pierce Racing outside of Oakwood. The cost of the PESA is \$8,500 and total cost with Frehr-Graham will be \$20,000. Hopefully this will allow us to plan on a bid letting in January with a hopeful construction start in June. The V.C.C. Foundation was awarded the \$50,000 grant from the Vermilion Healthcare Foundation and will be payable in one lump sum when construction begins.

Costs:

\$750,000	construction
<u>\$100,000</u>	engineering
\$850,000	total cost
\$170,000	local match

Match Funds:

\$120,000	available from CCFPD
\$ 50,000	VHCF
<u>\$ 10,000</u>	VCCF
\$180,000	total

<u>\$ 25,000</u>	pledged
\$205,000	New Total

A Farnsworth engineering contract is in the works. The Danville Rail trail Extension Committee has been renamed to the Kickapoo Rail Trail Committee and has requested a resolution from the City of Danville to get the CSX line railbanked. Danville plans to apply for an ITEP grant for \$3M for the CSX trail put getting a bike path to Lake Vermilion along with the riverfront development to the CSX line.

On Saturday, November 18, a Trails for Illinois Meeting will be held in Danville. This organization hosts meetings throughout Illinois to assess trail needs. Executive Director Konsis will be in attendance to give a report on the Kickapoo Rail Trail, Vermilion County side.

Executive Director Konsis attended a memorial hosted by the Audubon Society for Marilyn Campbell on Saturday, October 28, at the Gannett Outdoor Education Center. There is another memorial scheduled for Friday, November 24, also at the Gannett Center, from 1 – 4. He is considering renaming the Sycamore Hollow Nature Center for Marilyn.

The winter issue of *The Conservationist* is distributed online only, therefore there will be an abbreviated front and back page only and the District will save the spring issue to honor Marilyn.

October 21, was Haunted Happenings at Kennekuk County Park with around 920 in attendance, slightly less than last year. The weather was good, and the event went well; projected profit of \$4,000.

Thanksgiving at the Cabin was held Sunday, November 5, at the Pioneer Homestead Cabin, Forest Glen Preserve. The weather was terrible with intermittent rain and the event had to be held exclusively inside the cabin. Only about 60 people attended.

The next event will be the Bunker Hill Historic Area Holiday Open House from 2-8 p.m., December 3. The holiday lights will be turned on nightly from 4 – 8 p.m. until New Year's Eve.

Executive Director Konsis handed out the Forest Glen campground statistics and precipitation records for 2016. He apologized for the lateness of the reports.

The next V.C.C.D. Board Meeting will be Wednesday, December 6, 4:30 p.m., Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park. Agenda items will include approving the 2018 user fees and the 2018 board meeting schedule.

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.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *Trustee Schroeder moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 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