

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

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

**Wednesday, March 18, 2015
4:30 p.m.
Gannett Outdoor Education Center
Forest Glen Preserve
Westville, IL**

First Vice President Myers called the March 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: Allen E. Cooke
Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers

Trustee(s) Absent: Nikki A. Bogart
B. Dirk Porter

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

Staff members present included Lorna Konsis, 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 Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the February 18, 2015, Regular Meeting. First Vice President Myers asked for any corrections to the minutes.

With no corrections, Trustee Cooke moved to approve the February 18, 2015, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item number six a. Audience Comments. Jim Knoblauch was in the audience, and had no comment.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report. Vice President Myers asked if there were any questions on items seven a through d. There was one expenditure item from Cooke which required removal from the manual check listing. This is due to Trustee Cooke's vote abstention regarding conflict of interest, and there are three trustees present.

With no other questions or comments, *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the Current List of Bills from February 2015 in the amount of \$8,665.80, which included check #'s 32027 - 33051; the Manual Checks for February 2015 in the amount of \$72,138.86 which included check #'s 32944, 32945 and 32947 – 32960 and #'s 32992 - 33008; the General Journal Entries for February 28, 2015; and the February 2015 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

With no more questions, First Vice President Myers requested a roll call vote. The results:

Trustee Cooke	-	yes
Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
First Vice President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 3–0. Treasurer's Report, items seven: a – d were approved. Motion carried.

First Vice President Myers asked for a motion to table agenda item number seven b. 1. Approval of manual ck #39246 from February 2015 Manual Check Listing.

Trustee Jaynes moved to table agenda item number seven b. 1. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported the grand total of cash and investments as of March 18, 2015, is \$596,020.00, which compares to \$488,190.00, at the same time last year.

With no other discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the March 18, 2015, Report on Cash and Investments as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke.*

First Vice President Myers requested a roll call voice vote. The results:

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Cooke	-	yes
First Vice President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 3–0. Treasurer's Report, item seven e was approved. Motion carried.

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

Item eight a. Approve Tentative Budget For Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Executive Director Konsis presented Ordinance #134, which had been included in the Trustees' mailing. Executive Director Konsis stated that the estimated Corporate Fund beginning balance on April 1, 2015 is \$482,560; Revenue at \$1,040,500. He added that Corporate Personal Property Tax (CPPRT) is really an unknown due to newly elected Governor Rauner, and will not be identified until July 2015.

Expenditures are represented as balanced at \$1,040,500. He then asked for questions from the Trustees.

First Vice President Myers asked what was planned if CPPRT is cut.

Executive Director Konsis responded that fund balances will go back up, mainly the Insurance and Social Security Funds. Then, the District will cut other expenses back further.

First Vice President Myers clarified that the District will be meeting expenses, but this will cause problems for the future. He stated his concerns over high motor fuel and electricity expenses.

Executive Director Konsis stated that lighting could be addressed, and deferred other electricity expenses to Associate Director Pasquale.

Associate Director Pasquale affirmed that the Kennekuk Visitor Center electricity costs are high, mainly due to the electric furnace; the District has many buildings which are heated and cooled.

First Vice President Myers asked if the Act on Energy Grant outlay of capital would be too much. Executive Director Konsis concurred.

Executive Director Konsis responded that the District had met with someone from Ameren regarding energy use and the solution was to invest in a GeoThermal system, which would be much too expensive.

Trustee Cooke commented that Ameren was consulted at their offices, and one of the suggestions was to replace current lighting with T8 bulbs and fixtures. They changed the ballasts and bulbs at a very reasonable rate. He would be willing to contact Walker Electric to investigate cost.

Trustee Jaynes added that school districts receive this service for free; the District may qualify for at least a discount.

The Trustees stated that some capital projects need to be done, and cited the Executive Director's office deficient of air conditioning.

Bonding was suggested and discussed. Rates are favorable at this time, and savings could be realized. It was the consensus of trustees present that a presentation regarding bonding be placed on the April agenda.

Trustees requested a copy of the District's Capital Project "wish list", with a projected plan over a 5 – 7 year period.

With no more questions or comments First Vice President Myers asked for a motion to approve the tentative budget; *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

First Vice President Myers asked for a roll call voice vote. The results:

Trustee Cooke	-	yes
Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
First Vice President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 3-0. The tentative budget for 2015-2016 passed and will be displayed for public review for 33 days at each park and on the District website.

Agenda item eight b. Discuss/Approve Release of Executive Session Minutes From February 19, 2014 and January 21, 2015. Executive Director Konsis explained that government regulations state that the Board is required to review executive session minutes every six months. Copies were sent in the Trustees' mailing.

With no more discussion, Trustee Cooke moved to approve the release of the Vermilion County Conservation District Executive Session Minutes from February 19, 2014 and January 21, 2015. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President Jamie Pasquale reported the next meeting of the IACD will be April 16, 2015; Starved Rock State Park.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis reported the Sportsman's Banquet to benefit the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center was successful, with approximately 270 in attendance. There were 75 sponsors pledged at \$250 each. There is no profit estimate at this time.

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

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

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 reported that Susan Biggs Warner and Lara Darling gave excellent programs for the Traveling Naturalist program, which is now ended. The Traveling Naturalist Program provides a great opportunity for our education staff to reach teachers and remind them of the outdoor education resources we have locally for their students.

Monday, March 23 is the beginning of nine weeks of the spring session of Outdoor School. The educators are: Lara Darling, Jeremy Parish, Susan Biggs Warner and himself.

Trustee Cooke asked about the maple syrup production. There have been a few maple syrup day visits for students, but the weather has not cooperated for sap collection. We are making syrup, but it has been sporadic.

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

Agenda item thirteen: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale stated that the batwing mower was procured, and a used finish mower was also purchased. The finish mower will reduce mowing time and the area will look better.

Park visitation is increased with the better weather.

The Kennekuk turkey hunting draw will be March 21, 9 a.m., at the Kennekuk Education Center. There are five seasons, four zones with two hunters per zone. The average harvest is two or three turkeys per season, with the most at five harvested.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item fourteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began with the Kickapoo Rail Trail update. The next meeting with Fehr-Gram, IDNR, CCFPD is March 24, and will cover fencing and bollards which IDOT requires. The IDNR match fund grant of \$658,000 is currently on hold per Governor Rauner. We feel confident these funds will be released eventually since similar grant awards have been released.

The East Portal Committee meeting was held February 25, at the Kennekuk Education Center. Items included grant application submissions, Champaign County donations which will be directed toward the Vermilion County construction, and digital billboard advertising. The next meeting is April 8.

Trustee Cooke inquired as to the estimated cost for the Vermilion County section.

Executive Director Konsis answered that the total for construction and design will be approximately \$2.1 M for the first three miles to Oakwood.

The Maple Syrup Open House was held March 15. Attendance was excellent, serving 808 people. Visitors were shuttled to the Gannett Outdoor Education Center this year, due to the muddy parking conditions. This event utilized 90% of our staff, plus 25 volunteers. Tours of the Sugar Bush and Pioneer Homestead were given, and the Sycamore Hollow Nature Center was open to the public. Syrup production was poor this year, only producing enough syrup to serve for the dinner. Maple syrup revenue is normally around \$3,000.

The eCivis Grants Professional Services hiring was approved by the V.C.C. Foundation and Associate Director Pasquale and Lara Darling have completed the orientation. Associate Director Pasquale found the service very professional and was encouraged by the information provided.

Terrapin Productions, formally Phases of the Moon Music & Art Festival organizers, sold half of their company and are financially back on their feet. Barry and Sam Shear are serious about coming back to Kennekuk with a similar event in 2016.

Cheeseburgers and Fun event plans are on track. There are four live bands scheduled to appear. Total cost to the Foundation for music this year will be less than \$5,000.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 15, 2015; 4:30 p.m.; Kennekuk Environmental Education Center. Agenda items will include policy changes to fisherman limits and boat sticker purchase discussion.

There were no questions or comments.

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

First Vice President Myers stated that the V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing Committee will meet on April 8, 4:30 p.m. at the Kennekuk Education Center. Committee members include: Trustee Jaynes, Associate Director Pasquale, Gary Wilford, Lara Darling, Kim Fox and himself. He affirmed that we want to take good care of the parks.

Trustee Jaynes commented that at their last meeting, the Danville Noon Kiwanis approved a \$1,000 donation toward the exhibit area at the Kennekuk Education Center.

Trustee Cooke commented that he was resolute to address the District's Capital Project List.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Cooke moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. Meeting adjourned.*

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