

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

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

**Wednesday, May 20, 2015
4:30 p.m.
Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

A public hearing was conducted for the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, Ordinance #134, at 4:30 p.m. The Executive Director presented the final budget. He noted the following amendments from the first draft of the tentative budget which was approved in March 2015 and was on public display.

Under the Corporate Fund, Revenue – Cash balance on April 1, 2015 has been increased by \$49,640.

Other Income increased by \$1,000 to \$2,200 due to planned sale of a dump truck.

Kickapoo Rail Trail Leases increased by \$500 to \$5,500 for expected adjusted rent calculated from Consumer Price Index Card.

Total revenue is now \$1,042,000; estimated cash for expenditures is \$1,574,200; total estimated expenditures described in Section B is \$1,042,000. New total estimated cash balance on March 31, 2016 will be \$532,200.

Expenditures – Kennekuk Seasonal Staff salaries were decreased by \$3,000 to \$12,500 due to hiring a part-time Outdoor School Instructor for fall semester, rather than a maintenance person for six months.

Capital Improvements –

- Forest Glen increased by \$2,000 for road repairs to \$5,000.
- Kennekuk decreased by \$9,040 for Lake Mingo gate maintenance to \$8,540; addition of \$2,000 for road repair for a total of \$2,000.
- Lake Vermilion increased by \$1,000 for road repairs for a total of \$1,000.

New grand total estimated expenditures are \$1,042,000.

Executive Director Konsis stated that the Insurance Fund revenue shows an increase of \$4,440 due to the balance in the HRA account. Thus, a new cash balance on April 1, 2015 is \$5,065. The new fund balance on April 1, 2015 has a reduced deficit balance of \$21,310 from \$26,375. New total estimated cash available for expenditures is \$333,785 from \$329,340. The new estimated cash balance has been increased to \$16,085 as of March 31, 2016.

The Corporate Fund cash balance has been increased to \$532,200 from \$482,560. The Insurance Fund cash balance was increased to \$5,065 from \$620.

Trustee Myers inquired as to why revenue dollars were so much less than the previous year.

Executive Director Konsis answered that CPPRT is down, along with some other income. Also, there is no Phases of the Moon event, which accounted for \$50,000 last year.

Discussion ensued regarding the tax levy, estimated assessed valuation, and allocation of funds for revenue.

Trustee Cooke is concerned with the decrease in manpower.

Executive Director Konsis stated that part-time employees will be hired for now. There are currently 14 full-time employees.

There were no other comments from the Trustees or the audience.

President Bogart asked for adoption of Budget and Appropriations Ordinance No. 134. *Trustee Cooke moved to adopt Ordinance No. 134 as amended. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

President Bogart asked for a roll call vote.

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

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 13 passed with a 4 – 0 vote.

President Bogart called the May Regular Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order at 4:46 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 and Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary.

Staff members present included Lorna Konsis and Gary Wilford.

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

Trustee Myers recommended the addition of the report of the Health Insurance Committee as an item on this month's and all future agendas. This will be under Representative Reports.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the agenda as amended. 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 April 15, 2015, Regular Meeting. President Bogart asked for any corrections to the minutes.

President Bogart asked that on page three, paragraph four, the fourth sentence be changed to read, "The V.C.C.D. Board needs to approve any regulation..."

With no other corrections, Trustee Myers moved to approve the April 15, 2015, Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. 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 April 2015 in the amount of \$15,979.54, which included check #'s 33174 - 33204; the Manual Checks for April 2015 in the amount of \$35,577.65 which included check #'s 33074 – 33090 and #'s 33115 - 33152; the General Journal Entries for April 30, 2015; and the April 2015 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.

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

Trustee Myers	-	yes
Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Cooke	-	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 May 20, 2015, is \$500,285.00, which compares to \$373,575.00, at the same time last year.

With no discussion, Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the May 20, 2015, Report on Cash and Investments as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers.

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

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Myers	-	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. Continued Discussion of Possible Bond Issue. Executive Director Konsis recapped the presentation made by First Midstate Inc. at the April meeting. He spoke with Dave Pistorius, Senior V.P. of First Midstate, Inc. and was quoted on a \$1,000,000 bond at 4.5%, an estimated annual payment of \$80,000.

Trustee Cooke asked if the amount of \$1,000,000 was the estimated total of the Capital Project “wish list” expense.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that he estimated the project list at approximately \$880,000.

Discussion ensued.

It was the consensus of the Trustees to have First Midstate, Inc. come to the June meeting and explain in depth about the Alternate Revenue Source Bonds. Executive Director Konsis will contact them to return to next month’s meeting, placing them on the June agenda.

Trustee Jaynes proposed procuring good numbers for each project on the “wish list” so that the District would know how much to bond.

Associate Director Pasquale and Executive Director Konsis will prioritize and obtain approximate costs for each project.

President Bogart stated that it was suggested at a past board meeting to approach the V.C.C. Foundation for funding a few of these projects.

The Trustees discussed the District’s cash position, currently and for the future. Executive Director Konsis reminded the Trustees that \$140,000 of the income is from the Wagner Estate and restricted to the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center account.

In the audience, Bob Arnholt was recognized and commented that before a tax referendum, the District needs to work on high visibility projects. The public will take notice and appreciate what the District is accomplishing and be more willing to help out monetarily. He also suggested putting some of the items on the list out to the public, who may be willing to attach their name to completing a job.

Discussion ensued on cutting expenses and getting projects completed.

The Trustees asked that the “wish list” be prioritized with figures, and distributed to each of them.

Agenda item eight b. Approve Specifications for Farm Lease. The Trustees received a draft copy of the cash rent lease in their packets. The term of the lease is from March 1, 2016 to February 29, 2019, with the exception of Tract #803 which will be renewed on an annual basis. Total acreage is 184.25, divided among four tracts and an additional five fields.

Trustee Myers inquired about any additional acres that could be utilized for farmland.

Executive Director Konsis stated it had been discussed; with some acreage at Forest Glen. It is not tillable at this point, stating that it would need to be cleared.

Gary Wilford added that the land is located east of the Forest Glen entrance, on the main road. There are approximately 40 acres.

It was the consensus of the Trustees that these, and possibly even more acreage should be added.

Trustee Jaynes moved to accept the cash rent lease contract as presented with the possibility of additional acreage. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke.

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

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

The vote was 4–0. Cash Rent Lease was approved. Motion carried.

Agenda item eight c. IDNR Fisheries Biologist Suggestion for Creating a Quality Crappie Fishery. Executive Director Konsis referenced the email from Mike Garthaus, District Fisheries Biologist, with his recommendation for Lake Vermilion. Mike’s recommendation is for a creel limit of 10 fish under 10”, and 10 fish over 10”. This would reduce the harvest of the larger crappie, but allow anglers to remove the larger number of smaller crappie.

Discussion ensued.

With all in agreement, Trustee Cooke moved to approve a new crappie fishing creel limit of 10 under 10” and 10 over 10” for Lake Vermilion. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor motion carried.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President Jamie Pasquale had nothing to report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Trustee Myers had nothing to report.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis presented information about the IACD Boot Camp for Board Members. Trustee Cooke requested more information.

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing Committee Report. Trustee Myers reported the committee met May 13th. Members present: Trustee Jaynes, Gary Wilford, Kim Fox, Associate Director Pasquale, and himself. Those present focused on the expense side. It was a very positive meeting with many items of interest to consider. A list will be compiled and he stated that these committee members are committed to see the parks succeed.

Executive Director Konsis stated that he would like to offer a section of the Tree Research Area for weddings. There is unlimited parking, and all the District would be responsible for mowing the specified area. The area is already mowed, and would be mown as to the renter's requirements. Tents and toilets would be the responsibility of the persons using the area. He asked for guidance as to a fee schedule.

After discussion, it was suggested that the fee should not be any less than \$100. Weddings are already an additional fee of \$100, therefore the fee should be at least \$125.

Executive Director Konsis reported that the Forest Glen "House in the Woods" renovation would begin soon. This is the district house located on the northern boundary of the park.

Gary Wilford stated that the house is "rough", and renovations this year include cleaning and redoing the bathroom. His recommendation for fee would be \$50 - \$60 per night.

Associate Director Pasquale added that utilities should be taken into consideration since we do not typically heat and cool that building.

The Trustees directed the staff to work together to set the fees.

There was no report from the Health Insurance Committee.

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 Outdoor School Spring Session will end tomorrow. The Staff utilized a part-time school teacher for one week. He has been asking teachers during this session, if they know anyone interested in working as a part-time outdoor school instructor. He has several who responded positively.

Conservation Olympics was May 8th, and was a great success, as usual. All District Staff helps prepare for and run this important educational event. Lara Darling created a "gofundme" account online and collected about \$200 for this program, but sponsorship is still needed.

He reiterated the importance of natural and conservation education to our youth. Many times children are not allowed the opportunity of an outdoor experience at the parks. Schools, working with the District, introduce children to the outdoor world so they can appreciate and care for the environment.

Box turtle research is ongoing, and Dr. Matt Allendar and crew were at both parks this past week. This is one of the leading research projects in the nation, and is happening right in our parks. They gave a wonderful presentation to the students during the Outdoor School program. This research team is the top in this field, we are very fortunate to have them here.

The Forest Glen Archery Hunt 2015-16 advertising has begun. A mass mailing to all previous participants is planned for early June.

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 reported that Lake Mingo Dam inspection field work has been completed. There were only minor repairs necessary. Since the inspection, with the excessive amount of rain, Associate Director Pasquale discovered that the cables used to raise and lower the gates have broken brackets. At this point, it is not an emergency since the water will go over the gate. To repair this, the water level at the lake will have to be lowered by eight feet, and now is not the best time to do this. This will be monitored for the summer, possibly to be repaired in the fall.

The recent 5" rain also caused some flash flooding and Knapp Pond's dam at Kennekuk was washed away. This was a retention pond for sediment before emptying into Lake Mingo. It is not crucial to replace the pond, so it will only require some dirt work.

Trail work on Lake Mingo Trail was previously done by a volunteer crew. Due to health concerns and age, this crew has retired, so we are now looking for a new group to take this over. Associate Director Pasquale and Larry Gilliland are now mowing this trail.

The Lake Vermilion dock concession walkway has been repaired. Eventually, plans are to build a new concession building on land. Current concession building is open and functional. He is still waiting to receive a quote for new docks.

The water pump seals at the Kennekuk Education Center failed, causing the building to be without water for a few days. The pump seems to run too often, causing the seals to fail. Associate Director Pasquale will be monitoring this issue.

The Vermilion County Highway Department is patching some rough spots in the Kennekuk Park road system. They plan to also do some work at Lake Vermilion and Forest Glen. The District has paid for the material; and the Vermilion County Highway Department is using their own equipment and manpower.

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. He attended meetings with Farnsworth, IDOT and the East Portal Fundraising Committee. The match funds from IDNR have not yet been released. A large donation from The Anderson's grain company has been received.

Executive Director Konsis met with Terrapin Ridge Productions on May 6th. They toured Kennekuk Park for two hours. The new head of operations and logistics, Nate Pinger, liked the park and gave many suggestions for a future event. On May 18th, Barry Shear contacted Executive Director Konsis stating that he would like to amend the contract to keep everything in force for 2016. This included making a payment of \$5,000.

Special events held included: WWII Reenactment on May 2 – 3 at Kennekuk with good weather & average attendance. Hob Nob Market took place May 8 – 9 at the Bunker Hill Historic Area, and brought around 5,500 people to the park. Future events include: The 40th anniversary of Little House on the Prairie will be celebrated in Danville with an

autograph signing on October 17th in the Bunker Hill Historic Area. The Volunteer Dinner is scheduled for May 26th, Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen at 6:00 p.m. All Trustees are invited, please RSVP to Lara Darling.

The Lake Vermilion Cleanup Day is Friday, May 29th, 8:00 a.m. Meet at the Lake Vermilion parking lot.

V.C.C.D. Staff orientation is scheduled for June 2, Kennekuk Education Center. This is an annual meeting required by Illinois Public Risk and OSHA. Mike Kotcher will present topics on overall safety, hearing protection, use of chemicals, and seasonal worker orientation. Associate Director Pasquale will review our lock out/tag out procedures.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 17, 2015; 6:00 p.m.; Gannett Outdoor Education Center. There is no picnic planned, so the Trustees agreed to changing the meeting time to 4:30 p.m. Announcement will be sent to the media.

There were no questions or comments.

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

Trustee Jaynes had no comment.

Trustee Myers had no comment.

Trustee Cooke had no comment.

President Bogart had no comment.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Jaynes moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers. Meeting adjourned.*

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