

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

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

**Wednesday, January 20, 2016
4:30 p.m.
Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Myers called the January 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 Susan Biggs Warner, Lorna Konsis, Mike Kotcher, Jeff Lete, Charles Rhoden, Gary Tyrl, and Gary Wilford.

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 corrections; *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the December 22, 2015, Regular Meeting. President Myers asked for any corrections to the minutes.

President Myers noted that the minutes should be corrected to reflect that the December 22, 2015 meeting was a special meeting, not previously scheduled.

With no more corrections, *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the December 22, 2015, Special Meeting Minutes. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. 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 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 December 2015 in the amount of \$6,807.87, which included check #'s 34845 -34860; the Manual Checks for December 2015 in the amount of \$30,065.57 which included check #'s 34688 – 34704, 34726 – 34728, 34750 – 34753, 34773 - 34776, and 34785 – 34792; the General Journal Entries for December 31, 2015; and the December 2015 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke.*

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

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

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

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported the grand total of cash and investments as of January 20, 2016, was \$659,095.00. This compares to \$716,035.00 from the previous year. He asked if there were any questions from the trustees regarding any of the investments.

With no further discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the January 2, 2016 Report on Cash and Investments as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

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

Item eight a. Approve Staff Salaries for 2016-2017 Fiscal Year. President asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

Trustee Jaynes moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Illinois Open Meeting Act 5ILCS 120/2 (C) (2) to deliberate salary schedules for all V.C.C.D. employees. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

The Board retired to executive session at 4:42 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 4:51 p.m. *Trustee Jaynes moved to adopt the 2016-2017 Salary Schedule for a 2% increase for all full-time employees recommended and presented by Executive Director Konsis. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke.*

President Myers requested a roll call vote. The results:

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

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

Agenda item eight b. Preliminary Report on Capital Projects for 2016-2017 Budget.

Executive Director Konsis provided a copy of the list to the Trustees. He gave details of the items on the list. Kennekuk was not listed and he added 1) a small mower, and 2) replacement of the carpet in the Hideaway. He stated that on the budget levy last year \$49,000 is earmarked for capital. Once we work all the other numbers for the budget, we will know how much will be allotted for capital projects. *Note: list is attached to these minutes.*

President Myers added that the Board may have more to add soon.

Associate Director Pasquale stated that Ribbe Trucking is usually the only one to bid for road projects. If the project is estimated under \$20,000, the District will not need to bid it.

Agenda item eight c. Amendment of V.C.C.D. By-laws for Provision of Removal of Officers.

President Myers stated that Resolution 16-1 was written to solve the problem with timely signature of official documents. Currently there are no provisions to address change of officers to solve problems that may arise. The District attorney reviewed information and found solutions.

The Trustees reviewed Resolution 16-1.

With no questions or comments, Trustee Jaynes moved to adopt Resolution 16-1 as presented. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

President Myers stated that Resolution 16-2 addresses the change which must also be made to the District By-laws.

The Trustees reviewed Resolution 16-2.

This was clarified to only affect a trustees' removal from a V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees Office.

With no further questions or comments, Trustee Cooke moved to adopt Resolution 16-2 as presented. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

President Myers reported that at the request of a V.C.C.D. Board Trustee, changes regarding the 2016 Regular Meeting Schedule date or/and time to accommodate attendance be discussed.

Moving the meeting time to 5:00 p.m. was discussed, and the Trustees agreed that a later time was not favored.

Discussion ensued.

The Trustees recommended keeping the current 2016 Regular Meeting Schedule, as presented and previously approved.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President Jamie Pasquale reported that Executive Director Konsis and he will be attending a quarterly IACD Meeting this Friday.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis gave the 2015 Cheeseburger & Fun event report. The net profit was \$3,562.64.

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 reported that the committee met Wednesday, January 13, 2016. Expense reductions were thoroughly discussed. The results of the discussion were given to the Trustees, Executive Director Konsis and Associate Director Pasquale. Seven recommendations were listed for the following areas:

Kennekuk Visitor Center: 1) Estimates to install geothermal HVAC 2) Hire professional firm to perform energy analysis.

Forest Glen Offices: 1) Hire professional firm to perform energy analysis 2) Determine feasibility of consolidating staff offices with Ranger Station.

District vehicles: Purchase smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles 2) Provide yearly compensation package statement for each employee 3) Form a park management committee to evaluate a position/take-home vehicle report for justification. *Note: See attached recommendations.*

President Myers stated that this committee is committed to making sure the parks are here, viable and doing well for a long time to come.

Agenda item nine e: Health Insurance Committee Report. Chairman, Trustee Jaynes, reported that he is having issues getting information from Coventry Insurance for the next plan year.

President Myers commented that the plan with a higher deductible was accepted with the idea of self-insuring the HRA.

Trustee Jaynes anticipates that an estimate of rates will be available by April. He does not have any concrete answers at this point.

This concluded Representative Reports.

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 Traveling Naturalists for K – 3rd grades are going out to the schools now through early March. This is also an excellent opportunity to make contact with teachers regarding other educational opportunities at the parks.

Maple Syrup season is almost here. Classes will be coming to Forest Glen for a Winter Maple Syrup program during late February through mid-March. The Maple Syrup Open House is scheduled for March 20, 2016. He explained the history of the maple syrup program and how production came to be.

The Outdoor School spring session will begin in April through mid-May. Conservation Olympics will be Friday, May 13, 2016. All Trustees are invited to attend and volunteer!

The Forest Glen Hunting Program is working. It is now in its third year with our main goal of reducing the population. Harvest for the first year was 29, second year 28, third year is 26. The average archery success rate for the state is 33%; ours is almost 40%. The white tail deer here only have two predators: man and coyote; however bobcat population is on the rise. Gary plans to have a financial report ready for the February meeting.

Gary stated that the main goal of the V.C.C.D.'s education programs is this, "Our County Parks teach invaluable lessons about our heritage, our history and us. In the past 50 years, our parks have become landmarks for recreation, preservation, and outdoor classrooms; examples of our county's great outdoor spaces and bridges connecting us to the natural world. However, if we want our parks unspoiled for another 50 years, we need to continue to educate the next generation to be good stewards of the land."

This concluded the report from the Education Supervisor.

Agenda item thirteen: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that Kennekuk Park's hours are now 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Forest Glen hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Insurance information for Lake Vermilion dock repair was given to the Trustees for review. Replacement cost value, less depreciation of \$11,430.75, is \$8,680.74; less a deductible of \$1,000.00 states a net claim of \$7,680.74. Net claim if depreciation is recovered is \$19,111.49. The work may be done this winter if the lake does not ice over, but if not, it will have to wait until Fall of 2016.

President Myers would like to see the Lake Vermilion Dock repair as an agenda item for February 2016.

A John Deere tractor was purchased for District and Foundation property use. This involved a District tractor trade-in valued at \$15,200 and \$30,000 financed by the V.C.C. Foundation. This was already used at the Jordan Creek Property, reseeding. This arrangement with the Foundation was greatly appreciated.

Gary Wilford commented that the Busby-Meyer Property needs attention this winter, mowing strips for fire lanes. Associate Director Pasquale agreed to meet regarding the property.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item fourteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis stated that the December and January reports will be given.

Kickapoo Rail Trail: two town meetings were held with good attendance at both; engineering meetings were held and presentations were given for organizations. IDOT documents were signed regarding final plans; Phase I section was pulled from the bid letting by IDOT due to the IDNR funding held up by the state budget impasse; CCFPD Phase I bidding coming in \$about \$400,000 over estimated cost. The next public meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, at Farnsworth Group offices, 5:30 p.m.

The Kennekuk Environmental Education Center private donations for 2015 totaled approximately \$75,000; including \$8,000 Westfall memorial, \$9,000 Herr Foundation grant, and annual payment of \$20,000 from Mark Orsulak. Executive Director Konsis met with a certified consultant regarding grant writing assistance. The Kennekuk Education Center continues to be a popular place for meetings.

V.C.C.D's 50th Anniversary.: meeting at least once per month to plan; Open House (parks) will be held at all parks Sunday, June 12 from 1 – 4 p.m.; video history with interviews is being compiled; contract for center use for June 11 with the Palmer Civic Center is signed.

Meeting with Illinois Public Risk Loss Control on Monday, January 25, 2016.

Special events: Haunted Happenings on Saturday, October 25, 2015 was successful netting around \$8,000. USMC fundraiser, Kickin It Country, will be held at Kennekuk this year on Saturday, July 23.

Skyweb Network has been contacted regarding internet service for both parks. They specialize in providing WIFI service in remote areas. Rossville TIF amount of \$1,493.95 has been received. The Collins Historic Site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

District Attorney, Gil Saikley retired on December 31, 2015. John Beardsley will be the new District Attorney.

Executive Director Konsis attended a City of Danville Wayfinding Meeting on December 2, to discuss signage in the community. There he discovered that the City of Danville plans to build a bike path to Lake Vermilion.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 17, 2016; 4:30 p.m.; at the education center.

There were no other questions or comments.

Agenda item fifteen: President's and Trustee's Comments. President Myers had no comment.

Trustee Jaynes reminded Executive Director Konsis that the Kiwanis have the next installment payment for the display area ready for him to pick up.

Trustee Cooke stated that the article in the News Gazette about the Laury Barn was very nice.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Cooke moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. Meeting adjourned.*

Nikki A. Bogart
Secretary
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

Allen E. Cooke
Second Vice President
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees