

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

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

**Wednesday, January 18, 2017
4:30 p.m.
Cellular One Classroom, 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
Charles B. Schroeder

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 Susan Biggs Warner, Mike Kotcher, and Charlie Rhoden.

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 Schroeder 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 December 14, 2016, Regular Meeting.

Trustee Cooke moved to approve the December 14, 2016, 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.

President Myers questioned the increase of repairs over budget for vehicles and equipment. Do we need to be proactive at this point?

Executive Director Konsis responded that the bond issue will hopefully solve these issues.

With no other questions or comments, *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the Current List of Bills from December 2016 in the amount of \$9,922.26, which included check #'s 36501 - 36523; the Manual Checks for December 2016 in the amount of \$121,375.54 which included check #'s 36313 – 36317, 36342 – 36347, 36410 – 36420, and 36429 – 36438; the General Journal Entries for December 31, 2016; and the December 2016 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.*

Trustee Jaynes arrived at 4:36 p.m.

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

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

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

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported the grand total of cash and investments as of January 18, 2017, was \$801,700.00. This compares to the grand total of \$659,095.00 January 2016. He asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the accounts or investments.

President Myers commented that he is reassured about going ahead with the bonding with the knowledge that the District has over half of the amount in cash and investments.

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

Item eight a. Approve Updated Vermilion County Conservation District Ordinance No. 89. Executive Director Konsis explained that Ordinance No. 89 had many amendments over the past few years, and he put them all into one document.

With no comments or discussion, *Trustee Cooke moved to approve Ordinance No.89 as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item eight b. Approve Staff Salaries for 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. President Myers asked for a motion to retire to executive session for deliberations concerning salary schedules for all employees of the District.

Trustee Cooke moved to retire to executive session pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (C)(2). This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor, motion carried.

The Board retired to executive session at 4:40 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 4:44 p.m. *Trustee Jaynes moved to adopt the 2017-2018 Salary Schedule for a 2% increase for all full-time employees recommended and presented by Executive Director Konsis. In addition, a \$1,000 discretionary bonus pool is allotted to be used at discretion of 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
Trustee Schroeder	- yes
President Myers	- yes

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

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. Associate Director Pasquale reported that he will be attending the quarterly meeting held January 25, 2017, at Starved Rock State Park.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. With no representative present, Amy Steeples gave a report. The next meeting will be February 10, 2017. Since the December 9th meeting, a membership renewal letter was sent and response has been good. A date for the Foundation Sportsman’s Banquet has been set for Saturday, March 4, 2017 at the Riggle Banquet Center.

Executive Director Konsis reported that Michael Puhr and Rick Strebing were appointed to a Cheeseburgers and Fun Committee that will be handling the entertainment and many of the event details. He has given them a chronological list for planning purposes.

The date for Cheeseburgers and Fun is the second Saturday of August; August 12.

This concluded the V.C.C.F. Report.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that the Annual Meeting, held in Chicago, is this coming weekend. There will be no one attending from the District.

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

Agenda item nine e: Health Insurance Committee Report. Trustee Jaynes had nothing new to report.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing else for executive session.

Agenda item eleven. Report from the Education Supervisor. In Gary Wilford's absence, Susan Biggs Warner gave the report.

The Education Staff helped take reservations at both parks on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. The Forest Glen phone system installation was postponed until after reservation day, and is in good working order.

The Traveling Naturalist program began January 10th, Lara Darling and she will be visiting nearly all Kindergarten through 3rd grade classes in Vermilion County. The program runs through March. Topics are: Native Americans, Wildlife Investigations, and Unhuggables. It is an excellent opportunity to promote the District's other programs throughout the year to new teachers as well as tenured staff.

President Myers stated that Gary Wilford's last day of employment is January 31, 2017; asked Susan if anything is needed from the Board.

She thanked him for the offer, and jokingly responded, "Perhaps some hand sanitizer for the Traveling Naturalist Program!"

A Naturalist Staff Meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2017, with Lara Darling, Susan Biggs Warner, Executive Director Konsis, and Amy Steeples.

This concluded the education staff report.

Agenda item twelve: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that the installation of the new phone system at Forest Glen is done and a payment to Gibson will be forthcoming. There are still some minor issues to correct.

Lake Mingo has been lowered by eight feet. There are temporary barricades installed in front of the middle gate. These practices help with vegetation control.

Ground conditions permitting, staff has been mowing and bush hogging areas in Kennekuk; Charlie and his staff finished up in the fall.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item thirteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis thanked the Board for all their help during Lorna and his medical issues.

The staff interviews scheduled for January 10-11 were canceled; will be rescheduled. During these, Executive Director Konsis will assign staff to capital projects for cost estimates, and make new job assignments. Work is continuing on capital projects for the bonding issue to decide amount available for budget purposes, and to prioritize projects with costs to fit the bond amount for this year.

Kennekuk infrastructure work updates include: survey on the secondary access; proceed with work on south access; a three phase power upgrade to the Kennekuk Education Center; research on reliable internet service for event area; increase electrical sites in event area; updated full park map that will be accurate; research grant opportunities to get

city water to Henning Road at the entrance; and locate an access for a sanitary dump station.

The V.C.C.D. Staff Retreat is scheduled for Friday, February 3, at the Kennekuk Education Center. The Education Staff was placed in charge of this required annual meeting. The retreat includes four speakers, business meeting and staff reports.

A Lincoln Heritage RC & D Workshop for landowners is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7 at the Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve.

Executive Director Konsis will attend his first meeting as a DACVB Board Member on Wednesday, February 15; Danville Civic Center.

Gary Wilford's vacancy has been advertised and several applications have been received. The position will begin April 1, 2017.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Wednesday, February 15, 4:30 p.m. at the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.

Trustee Cooke will not be in attendance on February 15.

Trustee Jaynes stated that the Kiwanis had just approved more funding for the Kennekuk Education Center, and invited Executive Director Konsis to a meeting to accept the check.

Executive Director Konsis noted the meetings and will attend as soon as possible.

There were no other questions or comments.

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

Trustee Cooke asked about the bond procedure.

President Myers answered that it is to be advertised in the newspaper; then a 60-day comment period. If there are no objections, then the bond underwriting process will be done. Once that is finished, there will be a hearing; then the Board formally passes an ordinance, possibly in May 2017.

A discussion ensued regarding the bond issue.

Trustee Jaynes had no comment.

Trustee Schroeder had no comment.

President Myers had no other comments.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.*

Allen E. Cooke
Secretary
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees