

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

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

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017
4:30 p.m.
Kennekuk Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Myers called the April 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 physically present at said location.

Trustees Present: Allen E. Cooke
Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers

Trustee(s) Absent: B. Dirk Porter
Charles B. Schroeder

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

Staff members present included Susan Biggs Warner, Lara Darling, Nick Jeurissen, Charlie Rhoden, and Gary Tyril.

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 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 March 15, 2017, Regular Meeting, which included a public hearing concerning the issuance of General Obligation Bonds.

Trustee Cooke moved to approve the March 15, 2017, 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. 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 Cooke moved to approve the Current List of Bills from March 2017 in the amount of \$12,947.46, which included check #'s 36783 -36808; the Manual Checks for March 2017 in the amount of \$35,599.02 which included check #'s 36662 – 36670, 36689 – 36695, 36709 – 36714, and 36734 – 36748; the General Journal Entries for March 31, 2017; and the March 2017 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.

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

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

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

Agenda item number seven e. Associate Director Pasquale reported the grand total of cash and investments as of April 19, 2017, was \$668,475.00. This compares to the grand total of \$645,445.00, April 2016.

President Myers noted that the NOW Account at First Midwest Bank of Danville included the amount of \$141,015.75, the First National Bank of Catlin Certification of Deposit which had matured and has not been reinvested, pending hopes of finding a higher interest rate.

He 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. Tentative Budget Update. Associate Director Pasquale reported that since the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, we have more definite figures.

CPPRT allocation was budgeted with the 23% payback to the state to reimburse them for overpayment due their error. However, the District received the 2017 estimate and the payback is only 11%.

The Willow Creek Dam Spillway repair expense of \$10,000 under grants was deleted, due to excessive permit costs related to the grant.

The Corporate Fund estimated end of year balance was \$476,118. It was actually \$476,679 [gain of \$561]. Overall, the Corporate Fund gained \$15,860 and has a new total of \$1,317,250, not including the \$1,000,000 bond.

Now we are keeping the tentative budget estimate for disbursements at \$1,189,470. This raises the positive budget balance to \$127,780.

The Insurance Fund estimated end of year balance was \$70,345, and was actually 478,125, primarily due to a reduction in general liability insurance, plus staff reductions for medical insurance and the employee participation for medical insurance.

IMRF was estimated to be \$109,140, and it was actually \$111,510. Actual expenses are \$52,000, so consideration should be made as to reducing the tax levy this year to \$25,000, thus freeing up more dollars for the Corporate Fund.

The Social Security Fund end of year balance was estimated to be \$16,645, in actuality was \$17,920. The 2018 estimate cash balance is \$12,940, but this is also dependent on the amount of seasonal staff that are hired this year.

There were no questions.

Item eight b. Ordinance Expressing Official Intent Regarding Certain Capital Expenditures to be Reimbursed From Proceeds of an Obligation to be Issued by the District.

President Myers announced that the District has developed a list of capital projects for which it reasonably expects to reimburse itself for the expenditures related thereto with the proceeds of an obligation and the the Board of Trustees would consider the adoption of an ordinance expressing its official intent with regard to such expenditures.

Whereupon President Myers presented and the Secretary read by title an ordinance as follows, included with these minutes, a copy of which was provided to each member of the Board of Trustees prior to said meeting and to everyone in attendance at said meeting who requested a copy. *See attached.*

Trustee Cooke moved to approve Ordinance expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by the Vermilion County Conservation District, Vermilion County, Illinois. Trustee Jaynes seconded the motion as presented and read by title be adopted.

There was no discussion. President Myers called for a roll call vote. The results:

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

The motion passed with a vote of 3 yes; 0 no. President Myers declared the motion carried and said ordinance adopted, approved and signed the same in open meeting and directed Secretary Cooke to record the same in the records.

Item eight c. Approve Bond Reimbursement Ordinance. Item previously acted upon.

Item eight d. Approve Kickapoo Adventures Lease Agreement. This agreement had been given to the Trustees in their board packets for review. Trustee Cooke asked Associate Director Pasquale if he had any comments.

Associate Director Pasquale stated that Kickapoo Adventures is a public business, charging for their services, and everything seems to be in order. They are properly insured.

With no further discussion or comments, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the operating agreement with Kickapoo Adventures regarding canoe, tube and kayak excursions as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. Associate Director Pasquale reported Executive Director Konsis will be attending the IACD meeting in Springfield, IL tomorrow, April 20. This concluded the IACD report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. President Myers recognized Gordon Thoennes, V.C.C. Foundation Chairman.

Gordon reported that the Foundation's Sportsman's Banquet was very successful netting a little over \$20,000. They are looking for a larger venue for the future.

The Cheeseburgers & Fun event now has its own standing committee of only Foundation Directors. The cost of the bands, now three instead of four, has been reduced along with other expenses.

Gordon had a special request for of the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees' consideration. At the February 2017 Foundation meeting, the Board planned a memorial to honor Lorna Konsis, and wishes to obtain permission from the V.C.C.D. Board regarding the dedication of the current Forest Glen Staff Office to be renamed in honor of Lorna Konsis, along with a memorial area. If permission is granted, plans will proceed with the decision for the name, tree planting and landscaping area, signage, and formal public dedication day. A tentative project budget of \$3,500 was already approved by the Foundation Board, and the landscaping project will be turned over to Charlie Rhoden and his staff for the actual planning. Funds will be set aside by the Foundation for future maintenance of the landscaped area.

The V.C.C.D. Board is in agreement to proceed, and would like to be informed of the building title for approval.

Plans would be for a fall season dedication, and at this point, the Foundation is asking for authorization to proceed with planning, and will come to the Board with a final presentation for their approval.

Gordon plans to meet with the Forest Glen staff to discuss plans. Tentatively, a Sunday in August before Labor Day would be chosen for the dedication.

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

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Associate Director Pasquale reported that the Annual IAPD Conference will be May 2-3 in Springfield.

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: Health Insurance Committee Report. Trustee Jaynes had no report.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven. Report from the Education Staff Representative. Both Susan Biggs Warner and Lara Darling were present, and each gave a report.

Lara introduced Nick Jeurissen, new educator, as of April 1, 2017.

Nick gave his background and work history, and stated that he “loves it here”, teaching Outdoor School and learning about the District. He has had the opportunity to shadow the teaching styles of Susan, Lara, and Mollie so far and will be following Gary Wilford during the last week of Outdoor School May 15 – 18.

The Trustees welcomed him to the V.C.C.D. family.

Lara continued, reporting her work with V.C.C.D. Volunteers, Outdoor School, and the many outreach programs she attended and gave to local groups. She is currently working on Conservation Olympics scheduled for May 12th, and invited the Trustees to attend the event at Forest Glen. This is her first Conservation Olympics, taking over the program from Gary Wilford.

She coordinated Americorps volunteers to work on the Heron County Park boardwalk, to powerwash and seal it, but it was too wet to do so.

Susan reported that she began co-teaching Outdoor School with Nick in April, and has presented Day Visits as well. She has several outreach programs coming up in May, and is planning the World War II Remembrance Days at Kennekuk for May 6-7, with an educational military caravan to Danville Junior High and High schools on May 5.

The turkeys' in the pen at Forest Glen are sitting on 16 eggs; this has been a great educational experience for the Outdoor School students.

Trustee Cooke commented that he has eight turkeys at his residence. He also has seen white pelicans on Lake Vermilion this spring.

Trustee Jaynes asked Lara if volunteers from the Bismarck Key Club, Jeff Bugleman's group, could be used for labor at the boardwalk. He offered a monetary donation for sealant from the Noon Kiwanis Club. He requested Lara to contact him with figures for supplies.

Lara stated that she would contact Jeff to see if they would be interested, she has worked with them for Haunted Happenings with great results. She will contact Trustee Jaynes regarding the boardwalk sealant cost.

This concluded the education staff report.

Agenda item twelve: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale began with an update on the WHIP at the Jordan Creek property. This is the last year for plantings. One hundred acres have been mown, 50 acres burned; 50 acres sprayed; and with help from Charlie Hiedrick, 30 acres of trees leveled. There are still 30 acres more to spray and plant before the June 6 deadline. There has been an amazing transformation in the property and it has been a very good project.

Trustee Cooke asked if a tour of the property could be arranged.

Gordon Thoennes answered that Mark Pittman would be the one to contact; he is knowledgeable on the history and would be a great tour guide.

Maintenance staff at the parks have been mowing and preparing for the summer season as early spring weather has allowed. Park visitors have been out to the parks in large numbers.

Associate Director Pasquale has tried to contact Ribbe Trucking regarding the Lake Vermilion parking lot repair, but he has not heard back from him at this point. He has also been procuring equipment quotes from the capital project list, bond purchase. Trucks have been ordered from the state: four ½ ton trucks, one ¾ ton truck, and an F550 dump truck.

Trustee Cooke commented that he read an article concerning some repair work done by Ameren along the Middle Fork Scenic River.

The damage to the river was from leakage from the Dynagy coal ash pits. Staff was unfamiliar with the article or repair, but this could only be a “band aid” and is still an issue.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item thirteen: Report From Executive Director. In the absence of Executive Director Konsis, Amy Steeples gave his report. The V.C.C.D. Staff Retreat will be held this Friday, April 21, at the Kennekuk Education Center. This is the annual business meeting and includes reports from staff and educational speakers.

The survey from the secondary access road area has been completed, and copies are in the Trustee’s notebooks. Amy referenced the map as she pointed out the two properties the District does not own and the District’s portion.

Farnsworth and Associates has completed the Ameren application to obtain a cost estimate to supply three phase power to the Kennekuk Education Center; more information to follow.

Illinois Public Risk agent, Bill Bloch came on March 23 for the annual inspection. There were no losses this year. He will take part in staff orientation/training day on June 6, which will include fire extinguisher training and a defensive driving course.

Executive Director Konsis has estimates on six replacement windows at the Kennekuk Visitor Center and five at the Hideaway for a total of \$6,975.

He has attended the following meetings: Illinois Walnut Council with Cole Craft, March 28; INPS/Middlefork Audubon with Lara, March 30; SIU Dean of Agriculture Tour of Kennekuk, April 9th; Eco-Justice Collaborative at the Danville Library, April 13; Champaign County Forest Preserve District KRT with Associate Director Pasquale, April 13; and Danville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, April 19.

Upcoming meetings include: Noon Rotary, May 1; St. James Methodist Church Men's Club, May 3; Leadership Tomorrow Class, May 5; and Kickapoo Rail Trail East Portal, May 10. Upcoming V.C.C.D. events: Earth Day Celebration on April 22, Kennekuk Education Center (Lara Darling); World War II Remembrance Days, May 6-7, Bunker Hill Historic Area, Kennekuk; Mushroom ID 101, May 6, Kennekuk Education Center; and Conservation Olympics, May 12, Forest Glen. Amy asked if Trustee Jaynes would be available to hand out the medals at the award ceremony.

Trustee Jaynes answered that he thought that he could be there.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Wednesday, May 17, 2017; 4:30 p.m. at the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center. This meeting is very important and there must be a quorum to approve the final bond documents and budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.

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

President Myers stated that he is sorry to see Trustee Cooke resign after the May 17, 2017 meeting. He thanked him for his service on the Board.

Trustee Cooke affirmed that he has enjoyed serving on the Board, and is looking forward to retirement in North Carolina. The District Staff is great and always does wonderful things.

Trustee Jaynes stated that at the May meeting of the Noon Kiwanis, Executive Director Konsis will be handed a check for their pledge for the Kennekuk Education Center display area.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.*

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