

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

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

**Wednesday, May 18, 2016  
4:30 p.m.  
Kennekuk Education Center  
Kennekuk County Park  
Danville, IL 61834**

A public hearing was conducted for the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, Ordinance #137, 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 2016 and on public display.

Under the Corporate Fund, Capital Improvement expense decreased by \$2,000 to \$86,400 due to the Homestead Barn roof repair at Forest Glen. The \$2,000 was placed under Seasonal Staff for the salary of a seasonal at Forest Glen, previously cut.

Total expenditures were reduced to \$1,169,000 from \$1,186,500 due to a double expense recorded under 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary expense.

Total revenue is now \$1,092,000; estimated cash for expenditures is \$1,688,880; total estimated expenditures described in Section B is \$1,169,000. New total estimated cash balance on March 31, 2017 will be \$519,880.

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

President Myers asked for adoption of Budget and Appropriations Ordinance No. 137. *Trustee Cooke moved to adopt Ordinance No. 137 as amended. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

President Myers asked for a roll call vote.

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

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 137 passed with a 3 – 0 vote.

President Myers called the May 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, 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.

President Myers requested agenda items eight a. Presentation by Eco Justice Collaborative changed to eight b. and eight b. Discuss/Approve Proposal for Engineering Serves become eight a.

Executive Director Konsis asked to table agenda item six a. Special Presentation. Doug Ireland was not present.

*With no other corrections, 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 May 4, 2016, Special Meeting. President Myers asked for any corrections to the minutes.

*With no corrections, Trustee Cooke moved to approve the May 4, 2016, 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.

President Myers questioned check #35238 to Ameren for \$2,300.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that was for electrical service to the wood shop at Kennekuk. This was paid through dedicated funds, a private donation.

*With no other questions or comments, Trustee Cooke moved to approve the Current List of Bills from April 2016 in the amount of \$12,964.27, which included check #'s 35301 -35325;*

*the Manual Checks for April 2016 in the amount of \$56,957.14 which included check #'s 35141 – 35154, 35176 – 35187, and 35234 – 35251; the General Journal Entries for April 30, 2016; and the April 2016 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. Executive Director Konsis reported the grand total of cash and investments as of May 18, 2016, was \$563,535.00. This compares to \$500,285.00 from the previous year. He asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the investments.

*With no discussion, Trustee Cooke moved to approve the May 18, 2016 Report on Cash and Investments as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

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

Item eight a. Discuss/Approve Proposal for Engineering Services for Willow Creek Pond Emergency Overflow. Executive Director Konsis reported that if the emergency overflow erosion problem is not repaired, Willow Creek Pond is in jeopardy. He stated that \$10,000 of this project will be funded through a grant, \$3,000 is budgeted.

The Trustees had received the engineering proposal from Farnsworth Group, Inc. in their packets for review. Professional fees stated in the proposal were:

Emergency Overflow Project:	\$9,200.00
Reimbursable expenses:	200.00

President Myers asked if the total cost to repair the overflow is known.

Executive Director Konsis responded it was not; engineers need to assess the condition first.

*With no other questions, Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the proposal for engineering services from Farnsworth Group, Inc. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item eight b. Presentation by Eco Justice Collaborative – Dynegy Coal Ash Pits. Executive Director Konsis introduced Lan & Pam Richart, Co-Directors. Their presentation included a power point and oral program. In 2011, Dynegy closed its power plant on the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River. Dynegy still owns 3.3 million cubic yards of toxic coal ash in the floodplain of the Middle Fork, Illinois' only National Scenic River. Two of Dynegy's coal ash pits are leaking deadly water into the groundwater and river. The Middle Fork also is cutting into the banks of the coal ash pits, raising concerns over their

long-term stability. If any of these pits breaks, millions of gallons of toxic coal ash containing arsenic, lead, and heavy metals will flow into the river.

The Vermilion County Conservation District approved a resolution in June 2014 concerning this environmental issue, and the Collaborative is asking for an updated resolution for the current administration. They also provided a sample letter to be sent to Governor Bruce Rauner, asking that Dynegy-Midwest Generation's take full responsibility for these three coal ash pits in their closure plan, so it does not become the responsibility of the State of Illinois or the taxpayers of Illinois.

After discussion and a question and answer period, President Myers asked Executive Director Konsis to review the 2014 resolution and present an updated one for the Board's approval at the next meeting.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President Jamie Pasquale had no report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. V.C.C.F. Director Myers had no report

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis had no report.

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing/Expense Reduction Committee Report. President Meyers had no report.

Agenda item nine e: Health Insurance Committee Report. Chairman, 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 Supervisor. Gary Wilford reported that the last day of the spring session of Outdoor School is tomorrow. The program went very well. Day Visits are even more popular this year and have already started. The Education Staff is very busy!

Conservation Olympics was held Friday, May 13 with six schools bringing eleven teams. It was a great day with one of the two Salt Fork team taking overall honors. He thanked Trustee Jaynes for sponsoring the Olympic Medals and presented him with the highest rank, a gold medal.

The Forest Glen Hunting program packets are presently in production to send out to the previous hunters. We expect a good response. As part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, a raffle with five prizes is offered. This information will also be sent in the hunter packets this year, with one of the prizes of great interest to them; a 4 day, all-inclusive special hunt. These are sold for \$10/ticket.

This concluded the report.

President Myers attended the entire Conservation Olympics, and presented the students with their medals. He commented that it was a wonderful event that touches so many students.

Agenda item twelve: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that the “new” used boat house constructed for Lake Vermilion is nearing completion. The most important function of this structure is for storage of a patrol boat for the lake.

The construction of a new wood shop at Kennekuk will begin soon, thanks to the pledge of \$12,000 per year from a private donor, a previous volunteer, with a maximum value amount of \$50,000.

The Lake Vermilion Boat Ramp concession building will be open beginning Monday, May 23. Vermilion County Sheriff’s Department lake patrol will begin Memorial Day Weekend. The spring turkey hunting season is over, usually 2 – 3 birds are harvested, he has no official report yet.

Ribbe Trucking has been contacted and the District is quoted at \$24,000.00 for the Kennekuk entrance road to the Visitor Center. The entrance road is the widest road in the road system and this works out to a cost of approximately \$21,800.00 per mile. The other District roads are not as wide, therefore will cost less per mile to redo. The V.C.C.D. will be responsible for fixing potholes.

President Myers commented that the road systems will be key in regard to the tax levy and other funding sources.

Trustee Jaynes reported that he attended an event and fielded seven questions regarding road repair at the parks.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that with the amount budgeted for roads, when the Kennekuk entrance road is done, that should satisfy some concerns.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item thirteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began with the Kickapoo Trail; informal groundbreaking is Sunday, May 22, 3 p.m. at the East Urbana Industrial Park. V.C.C. Foundation Chairman, Gordon Thoennes and he will attend, if any Trustees wish to go, please let him know.

The V.C.C.D. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend will begin on Friday, June 10, with an astronomy program at the Kennekuk Education Center. Following at the David Palmer Arena on Saturday, June 11 is the conservation exhibits from 1 -4 p.m., with the celebration banquet at 6 p.m. Doors open for ticketed banquet entry at 5:30 p.m. There should be about 20 organizations with displays there. The commemorative book should be ready any day. The slide/video presentation is in its final week of production. This will tell “a story of the District’s first 50 years. Park Open Houses are finalized. The advertising for ticket sales is now “heavy”. The deadline to buy tickets is June 2.

Hob Nob Market will not return next year due to lack of internet service. They will move to Effingham. The attendance over the two day period was 6,500; and they were charged \$2,200.

The only upcoming event is Saturday and Sunday, May 21 – 22. Forest Glen will host an Anglo-Scandinavian Living History program at the Homestead Cabin area.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 15, 2016; 4:30 p.m.; Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve.

There were no other questions or comments.

Agenda item fourteen: President's and Trustee's Comments. President Myers stated that he met with County Board Chairman, Mike Marron regarding the financial state of the V.C.C.D. Mike agrees that the District is an asset and supports us fully. The Vermilion County Board agrees and wants to see the District move forward. President Myers plans to continue meeting with Chairman Marron.

Trustee Cooke had no comment.

Trustee Jaynes commented that the Noon Kiwanis awarded their pledge to Executive Director Konsis at their March Meeting.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Cooke moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation. Meeting adjourned.*

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

ATTEST:

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