

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

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

**Wednesday, June 14, 2017
4:30 p.m.
Gannett Outdoor Education Center
Forest Glen Preserve
Westville, IL**

President Myers called the June 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: Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers
Charles B. Schroeder

Trustee(s) Absent: Allen E. Cooke
B. Dirk Porter

In attendance were Executive Director Konsis; Associate Director Pasquale and Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary.

Staff members present included Susan Biggs Warner 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 amendments, Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the May 17, 2017, Regular Meeting.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the May 17, 2017, 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. 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 May 2017 in the amount of \$18,194.91, which included check #'s 37092 -37124; the Manual Checks for May 2017 in the amount of \$306,070.41 which included check #'s 36893 – 36913, 36939 – 36946, 36977 – 36999, and 37068 – 37078; the General Journal Entries for May 31, 2017; and the May 2017 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.*

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

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

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

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported the bond fund amounts were listed here in detail, and which accounts were affected. A new account, NOW checking at the First National Bank of Catlin, was set up at .1% interest. The grand total of cash and investments as of June 14, 2017, was \$1,153,401.00; less bond funds, this amount was \$659,401.00. This compares to the grand total of \$445,255.00, June 2016.

President Myers 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. Approve Prevailing Wage Ordinance. Executive Director Konsis presented Ordinance No. 142 for approval. Included with the ordinance was the list of current prevailing wages. There were no changes in the ordinance language since the previous year.

With no questions, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the Ordinance No. 142, the Vermilion County Conservation District prevailing wage for the period covered Jun 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor, motion carried.*

Item eight b. Approve specifications for General Liability Insurance. Executive Director Konsis explained that the District wants the exact same coverage as previous years; Associate Director Pasquale had included all the equipment purchases to date.

President Myers asked that these specifications included everything the District has currently.

Associate Director Pasquale concurred.

President Myers asked if there were any other questions.

With no questions, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the specifications for the General Liability Insurance for the District. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item eight c. Approve specifications for road re-sealing. Executive Director Konsis stated that this does not include everything stated in the budget, only estimated at 50%. Maps of the intended areas of repair, at each park, were included in the Trustee's Board packets. He explained each map legend. Some portions of the roads will need double or triple coating, to be determined by the contractor.

Associate Director Pasquale reported that he estimates that approximately 75,000 square yards will be re-sealed. Roads vary in width, but it is thirteen miles of road to be covered.

President Myers noted that there are gravel roads located in Kennekuk that are planned for paving with a base coat and sealing. Also, with the new resurfacing machine, these roads will be easier to maintain now.

With no other questions or comments, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the specifications and bid for road re-sealing as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item eight d. Request from V.C.C.F. to rename Forest Glen Staff Office Building for Lorna Konsis. President Myers recognized V.C.C.F. Chairman, Gordon Thoennes.

Gordon gave a brief update as to how the idea of renaming the office building for Lorna Konsis had progressed. After meeting with Executive Director Konsis and Forest Glen Staff, then bringing the idea before the Foundation Board and asking for approval of a \$3,000 budget for a memorial landscaping & formal building dedication. With that go-ahead, he is now here to ask for approval to rename the current Forest Glen Staff Office building, "Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center".

The next step, for the Board's information only, is for a Foundation to be set up for maintenance and care of the landscape area and building. The Lorna J. Konsis Foundation will be governed by members of her family.

The Trustees were in agreement that this was a wonderful way to honor Lorna, an employee of the District since 1987, who passed away in February of 2017. Lorna was Executive Director Konsis' wife.

Gordon stated, "Lorna helped make this place (the District) what it is". He clarified that, if approved, the formal dedication, etc. will be at no cost to the District and will be funded by the V.C.C. Foundation and the Lorna J. Konsis Foundation.

After brief discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve re-naming the Forest Glen Staff Office Building, Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Gordon stated that a name change will be done at a formal public dedication to be held on Sunday, August 27, 1:00 p.m. at the Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center. Invitations will be sent as well as an announcement to the media, with light refreshments planned.

Executive Director Konsis added that at the dedication, he will be donating \$5,000 toward an area in the Michael G. Reddy Arboretum of native trees; sponsoring that area in Lorna's name.

Item eight e. Approve Emergency Response Plan for Lake Mingo Dam. The plan was included in the Trustee's Board packets. Executive Director Konsis explained the document was tailored after the Aqua Illinois plan, only on a much simpler scale. The objective was to define actions to be taken in the event of a pending flood event downstream of the Lake Mingo Dam, located in Kennekuk County Park. This will be updated on an annual basis.

With no comments or questions, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the Emergency Response Plan for the Lake Mingo Dam as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item eight f. Approve Purchase of 2014 Skid Steer. Associate Director Pasquale found the skid steer from Birkey's at a cost of \$57,500. The machine has not been fully cleared by Birkey's for sale, Associate Director Pasquale wanted to place the item on the agenda in the event it was the right equipment for the District.

President Myers asked the Board if they wished to approve an amount for a skid steer, so that when a suitable one was found, it would be approved for purchase.

Associate Director Pasquale stated that may not be necessary. A new one may be found through NJPA, if so, there would be no need for a motion for approval due to a new one found on the state bid list; therefore the equipment would be a part of our bond equipment purchase list.

President Myers asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the 2014 skid steer.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the purchase of a 2014 skid steer for up to \$57,500. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.

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

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

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

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. Associate Director Pasquale reported there had been no activity.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Chairman Thoennes reported that he had nothing further to report.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that the IAPD Leadership Classic Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, July 13; at Bensenville

Park District's White Pines Golf Club. Registration cost and information is found online at ILparks.org/events.

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.

Agenda item nine f: V.C.C.D. Education. It was determined the Trustees had not received the Education Staff Report with their mailing. Amy Steeples reported several highlights from the copy she had, including programs & special events; day visits; meetings attended and other. Summer Camps are just beginning, with front page newspaper coverage. The volunteer appreciation dinner was well attended with over 60 people; the Astronomy/Star Party also had a large crowd with approximately 70 people. Three Day visits were offered, and staff attended two V.C.C.D. meetings; an IACD Conference meeting and a Lorna Konsis Memorial Committee meeting. Other education staff tasks included trail & building repair and maintenance, cleaning of buildings, attendance of safety orientation, and box turtle research in the park, weekly summer library exhibit, planting of flowers at the Kennekuk Education Center and Kennekuk and Forest Glen gardens, and hosting a visiting educator from Boone County Conservation District for the V.C.C.D. Outdoor School program. Amy promised to email each Trustee their copy.

Agenda item nine g: V.C.C.D. Maintenance. The Trustees were provided with the District maintenance report at the meeting. There were no questions.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that Nick Jeurissen, newest education staff employee, has been working on trails both at Kennekuk and Forest Glen; concentrating on the Lake Mingo Trail at Kennekuk. The trail is 7.2 miles in length and Nick worked to prepare it for the Kennekuk Road Runner's race this past Saturday. Associate Director Pasquale was very impressed with the fact that Nick moved a 20 foot steel trail bridge back into place, by himself with a series of pulleys, ropes and cables!

Repairs to the dam at Horseshoe Pond, Kennekuk, have been done. The overflow tube in the current system was replaced by a new plastic system. Similar problems are occurring at the Willow Creek Pond, Forest Glen; Adrian's Pond, Kennekuk and are on the list for repair.

The seeding of the area at the Jordan Creek property is now complete. This fulfills the WHIP requirements and brings the Foundation up-to-date. Now all that would need to be done would be the routine mowing and burning.

The road patching machine arrived two weeks ago and training to use the machine will be scheduled soon. Patching will need to be done before resurfacing can begin. Associate Director Pasquale has been busy obtaining prices on equipment and is almost done with procurement of items listed on the capital project list.

President Myers requested a review of the items purchased with the bond money.

Associate Director Pasquale agreed, stating that will be arranged.

President Myers inquired about the culvert erosion at Lake Vermilion that was a concern.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that the area needed to be graded and repaired. Now that it is drier, work can be started. He plans to meet with T.J. Ribbe regarding this project.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

President Myers stated that Executive Director Konsis received a great honor at the Westville Alumni Banquet, June 10, 2017. He was inducted to be placed on the Westville High School Wall of Fame. Each year, for the past five years, three highly regarded Westville alumni are chosen to be honored at the High School for their leadership and contribution to society.

Executive Director Konsis thanked the Trustees.

Agenda item twelve: Report From Executive Director. There is good news on the Kennekuk northeast access project. Carl Gunter has agreed to donate .6 acres which included the portion of Lake Mingo Trail that is on his property, and the culvert stream crossing, with some stipulations as listed on a contract. Remaining roadway to the township jurisdiction will be a five year lease, payable at \$125 per year. The next step will be a draft of the agreement, written by the district attorney, land donation and final approval of said agreement by landowners.

The Astronomy Star Party held on May 31, was a huge success. Dr. Jeff Cooke, Father Sauppe' and Lara Darling gave presentations, along with telescope viewing.

The Illini Bass Club/D.A.R.E. Kids Fishing Derby was held June 3. There were 40 kids in attendance.

On June 6, V.C.C.D. Staff received seasonal orientation and safety training, including a defensive driving course from CCMSI.

Executive Director Konsis attended the following meetings: Danville Rail Trail Extension, May 19; Vermilion Advantage Orientation, June 1; National Walnut Council June 11 – 14, with Nick Jeurissen and Cole Craft. On June 8 & 9 Executive Director Konsis met with Mickey Latour, SIU Dean of School of Agriculture, and gave him a tour of Forest Glen Preserve. The purpose of his visit was to follow up on past graduates, Cole Craft and Executive Director Konsis.

The V.C.C.D. Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, May 23, had 60 people in attendance.

Upcoming V.C.C.D. presentations include Old Town Preservation, June 15; DACVB, June 21.

Catholic Heart Work Camp volunteers begin June 19 –22. Nick Jeurissen will lead the group on repairing and moving bridges and painting projects. The volunteers will take a pontoon ride on Thursday.

The next V.C.C.D. Board Meeting will be Wednesday, July 19, 4:30 p.m., Kennekuk Education Center.

President Myers commented that, at some point, Trustee Cooke will resign from the V.C.C.D. Board.

Executive Director Konsis responded that he will need to submit a letter of resignation to the Vermilion County Board Chairman Mike Marron.

President Myers stated that he is receiving an increased amount of questions regarding the Kickapoo Rail Trail, Vermilion County side.

Executive Director Konsis stated that Federal Grant Funds in the amount of \$2.2M, require a 20% match which the IDNR has pledged, plus the extra amount for the decking of the trestle and the trail head. All totaled is \$658,000. The Vermilion County project cannot move until those funds are released. This amount of course is dependent on Illinois budget, which is now in its third year of a stalemate. This will not fund the trail entirely, so local fundraising will be necessary to complete the project.

President Myers asked what will be needed to raised privately.

Executive Director Konsis responded that amount is unknown, until bids are received.

This concluded the Report of the Executive Director.

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

President Myers had no comments.

Trustee Jaynes reported that Executive Director Konsis attended the Noon Kiwanis Meeting at Old National Bank, to accept their pledged check.

Trustee Schroeder commented on the Commercial News article on the Pioneer Kids Camp held at Forest Glen, conducted Susan Biggs Warner. Last week, Toddler Camp was highlighted in the News Gazette.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *Trustee Schroeder moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

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