

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

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

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

President Myers called the July 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.

President Myers welcomed newly appointed V.C.C.D. Trustee, Chuck Schroeder to the Board.

Trustee Schroeder is retired after 41 years at D.A.C.C. as an Ornamental Horticulture Instructor. He added that several of his students went on to work for the Vermilion County Conservation District. He is looking forward to working with the Board.

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 Lorna Konsis, Mike Kotcher, 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 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 June 15, 2016, Regular Meeting. President Myers asked for any corrections to these minutes.

With no corrections, *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the May 18, 2016, Regular 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 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 June 2016 in the amount of \$21,131.16, which included check #'s 35653 -35662, 35664 -35680, and 35688; the Manual Checks for June 2016 in the amount of \$42,799.86 which included check #'s 35454 – 35460, 35491 – 35507, 35540 – 35544, 35546 - 35556, and 35590 - 35598; the General Journal Entries for June 30, 2016; and the June 2016 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

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

Trustee Schroeder	-	yes
Trustee Cooke	-	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 July 20, 2016, was \$357,585.00. This compares to \$348,480.00 from the previous year at this point. The District received the July installment of the Corporate Personal Property Tax. 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. Trustee Elections. Executive Director Konsis stated that the Trustees had been given the current list of officers.

President Myers asked for nominations for President of the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees.

Trustee Cooke nominated Jonathan Myers for President. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.

The nominations for President were closed. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

President Myers asked for nominations for First Vice President of the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees. *Trustee Cooke nominated Trustee Jaynes for First Vice President. This was followed by a second from President Myers.*

The nominations for First Vice President were closed. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

President Myers asked for nominations for Second Vice President of the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees. *Trustee Cooke nominated Trustee Schroeder. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

The nominations for Second Vice President were closed. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

President Myers asked for nominations for Secretary of the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees. *Trustee Jaynes nominated Trustee Cooke. This was followed by a second from President Myers.*

The nominations for Secretary were closed. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

President Myers asked for nominations for Treasurer of the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees.

After a brief discussion, the motion to elect Trustee Jaynes as First Vice President was rescinded.

Trustee Cooke nominated Trustee Jaynes for First Vice President and Treasurer. This was followed by a second from President Myers.

The nominations for First Vice President/Treasurer were closed. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight b. Presentation of 2016 Tax Levy Draft. Executive Director Konsis presented Ordinance #139 Annual Tax Levy Ordinance for 2016 taxes due in 2017. He stated that the Corporate Levy was increased by \$95,500 with the entire amount going toward road maintenance. The increase brings the corporate levy up to 8.9 cents. This is stated on page seven. This cannot exceed 10 cents.

The levy for the Insurance Fund remains the same, \$42,000.

IMRF is reduced to \$52,000 from \$91,000 due to the \$100,000 cash balance at the end of our fiscal year.

The Social Security Fund is levied for the same amount as the appropriation.

The aggregate sum of \$1,150,000 is hereby levied and assessed for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2016, and ending March 31, 2017, for corporate purposes. Executive Director Konsis added that a levy is not applicable on any fees the District charges. This levy may be tabled for further review by the Trustees.

Trustee Cooke has concerns regarding the employee health insurance costs. They are expecting an dramatic increase upon renewal. Trustee Jaynes concurred, stating that he and Gordon Thoennes both have tried to find out what the insurance renewal will be, but are getting no word from the companies. The cost will not be known until September or October.

Discussion ensued regarding insurance.

President Myers gave the Trustees a handout titled, "Improving Our Parks: A Three-tiered Approach for 2016-2017". He explained each of the three proposals: Alternate Revenue Bonds, Proposed Tax Rate Increase with Owner Occupied Exemption, and Expense Reduction. A short synopsis of each was recorded.

- 1) Alternate Revenue Bonds. The amount of the bond is determined by how much the District can pay back over the term. At the current rate of 3 – 4%, President Myers has determined that \$500,000 to \$1M would be feasible. The scope of the projects for which this income would be spent cannot be longer than that bond term that is set of three years. Once the District's credit rating is determined, the interest rate will be set.
- 2) Proposed Tax Rate Increase. The current rate at .1234 would be raised by 10% to .1358. President Myers estimates that this will bring an increase of \$95,000 to the District's budget.
- 3) Expense Reduction. The District's consumption/usage-based decrease in electricity, telephone, heating fuel, and motor fuel as listed; would save the District \$25,250. The bond money could be used for expense-reducing such as geothermal/HVAC improvements, efficient lighting, building improvements, and new construction.

President Myers summed up this proposal by stating that bonding of \$500,000 for 10-years at 4% would bring the District a net positive of \$59,506. He stated that he would not be comfortable with bonding unless some expense-reduction procedures are instituted. He wants Administration and Staff to work on these and decide which are best.

With no further discussion or questions, *Trustee Cooke moved to begin the underwriting process for potential future bonding. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

The bonding timeline was briefly discussed.

All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

The Board directed Executive Director Konsis and Associate Director Pasquale to update and reprioritize the current project list.

There was no further action taken on Ordinance #139.

Item eight c. Approve RFP for Employee Medical Insurance. President Myers explained that an RFP; request for proposal, a detailed specification of goods or services required by an organization, sent to potential contractors or suppliers would clarify what the District's for employee medical insurance entailed.

Trustee Jaynes stated that it wouldn't matter which carrier supplied the insurance, it would be an expected increase. He thought that the District should wait until September to accept bids, since no one seems to know costs now.

An insurance committee meeting should be scheduled soon, so that members of staff may have an opinion and help the Board make an informed decision. Trustee Jaynes asked Executive Director Konsis to set a meeting and he will attend.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. IACD President Jamie Pasquale reported that the next quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2016 at Starved Rock State Park. This concluded the IACD Report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis stated that sponsorships for Cheeseburgers & Fun are coming in. Anyone wishing to make a donation as a sponsor should act now.

This concluded the VCCF Report.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that IAPD plans an annual Legislative Awareness Picnic for August 27th in Joliet, IL.

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 reported that a meeting will be scheduled soon.

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 right now, Summer Programs are nearly over – being well received, but numbers of participants are down.

Trail work is ongoing, with trails being just as important as nice facilities. Nature education depends on going outside and exploring these paths into nature. Volunteers are needed and essential for keeping these trails useable. Outdoor School classes will be scheduling soon and the program begins in September. Instructors include Lara Darling and him, with part-time instructors, Mollie Pletch and Steve Sliva coming back to teach.

The Forest Glen Archery Hunt program draw was Sunday, July 17. There were 60 hunters drawn from a pool of 89 ticket purchasers. The auction hunts went well, and he gave the Trustees a preliminary financial report. While the main goal of this program is to reduce the herd, making a profit is beneficial as well. Almost 100 deer have been harvested over the past three years. He stated that Forest Glen Preserve is a little over 2,000 acres and has an estimate deer population of 200 deer. This is too high, since biologists recommend approximately 15 deer per square mile. Two thousand acres is about 3 square miles, telling us the population should be around 50! The program is making a difference, but probably not as quickly as needed.

This concluded the report of the education supervisor.

Agenda item twelve: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that energy efficient bulbs are replacing the mercury vapor ones currently in use. Temporary barriers have been installed at the Lake Mingo Dam. Volunteer divers came to

assist in location of the pockets to place the steel beams. Plans are to sandblast and repaint the gates as was done to the other.

Nothing new to report regarding the construction of the new Kennekuk wood shop. The entrance road has been oiled and chipped all the way to the intersection. The invoice for this was \$19,000, initial estimate of \$24,000. It is believed that Dan Ribbe donated the extra length.

A company from the Chicago area is interested in quoting the District's general liability insurance. Associate Director Pasquale is working with them.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item thirteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began with the Kickapoo Trail. The State's Stop Gap budget does not include the IDNR budget which is tied to V.C.C.D. funding. He observed a great deal of progress on the trail while driving on route 150 from Champaign.

County Board Chairman, Mike Marron, is proposing an initiative called, Vermilion River Country to showcase existing and new events county-wide with a brand name. Committee members include: Chairman Marron; Recorder Dave Stone; Chuck Nesbit, Adam Hart, President Myers, Doug Ireland, Lorna Konsis, and him. The first meeting was held June 29th; another is scheduled for August 10.

Catholic Heart Work Camp volunteer group worked at Kennekuk County Park July 5 – 8, 2016. This group of high school age kids painted, and cleaned buildings in the Bunker Hill Historic Area.

The Wagner Estate has been settled, with the V.C.C.F. receiving \$30,000 for the Environmental Education Center.

Fish stocking at Lake Vermilion was in part, paid for by Aqua Illinois, in the amount of \$15,000.

There has been no more progress with Richard Bridgman on the plan for a secondary entrance for Kennekuk. However, more research on boundaries and road is occurring.

Cheeseburgers & Fun event is Saturday, August 13. This is sponsored by the Vermilion County Conservation Foundation, Kennekuk Road Runners, and area car clubs. Executive Director Konsis included an event flyer as well as sponsorship information in the Trustee's notebooks.

The V.C.C.D. will have a wildlife and nature display at the Georgetown Fair August 7 - 12.

Executive Director Konsis' upcoming schedule includes: Lake Vermilion Water Quality Meeting, July 28; IACD meeting at Starved Rock State Park, July 28; area car club meeting, July 30; National Walnut Council Meeting, July 30 – August 3; V.C.C.F. meeting August 5; and interview with Linda Bolton on the Newsmakers Radio Show, August 10.

Presence USMC Foundation has reserved the area near Horseshoe Pond for their fundraiser, "Kickin' It Country", Saturday, July 23. There are 600 people expected. V.C.C.D. Staff serving on the planning committee are: Amy Steeples, Susan Biggs Warner, Lorna Konsis, Mike Kotcher, and Executive Director Konsis.

Plans continue for the Busby-Meyer Wildlife Area for a wetland to be added. Executive Director Konsis met with Brandon Lott, Farnsworth engineer regarding design. Waterway mowing there has been completed; cottonwood tree removal and plans to seed with a prairie plan mix will be next. This is paid by the Illinois Clean Energy Grant through the V.C.C. Foundation.

A site visit is scheduled tomorrow with Farnsworth engineer, Mike Bryant, for the Willow Creek Dam Project. A \$10,000 IDNR Clean Water Act Mitigation Grant will help fund this high priority project. This grant is not affected by the Illinois State budget impasse.

Other capital projects pending include: Forest Glen road patching by the Vermilion County Highway Department, Pioneer Barn roof replacement, Meadowlark Shelter roof replacement, Lake Mingo Dam repair, and the Forest Glen telephone system replacement.

The next meeting is Wednesday, August 17, 2016; 4:30 p.m.; Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park.

The August meeting agenda will include presentation of Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Audit and bid openings for General Liability Insurance.

President Myers commented that the Vermilion County Sheriff Department reported to him that the Lake Vermilion Patrol boat motor needed repairs.

Associate Director Pasquale responded this occurred on Memorial Day weekend, and has been addressed.

There were no other questions or comments.

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

Trustee Cooke had no comment.

Trustee Jaynes had no comment.

Trustee Schroeder had no comment.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Cooke moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation. Meeting adjourned.*

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