

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

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

**Wednesday, November 9, 2016  
4:30 p.m.  
Cellular One Classroom, Environmental Education Center  
Kennekuk County Park  
Danville, IL**

President Myers called the November Regular Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order at 4:40 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: Charles B. Schroeder  
B. Dirk Porter

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

Staff members present included Lara Darling, Susan Biggs Warner, Kim Fox, Lorna Konsis, Mike Kotcher, Jeff Lete, and Gary Tyrl.

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 October 19, 2016, Regular Meeting.

*Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the October 19, 2016, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five a. *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the November 2, 2016, Special Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five b. *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the November 2, 2016, Executive Session Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item number six a. Audience Comments. There were none. As per new policy, there is a three minute limit per person; comments shall not exceed thirty minutes of the agenda for the board meeting.

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 October 2016 in the amount of \$12,676.12, which included check #'s 36209 -36232; the Manual Checks for October 2016 in the amount of \$445,141.77 which included check #'s 36056 – 36072, 36100 – 36111 36141 – 36148, 36150 – 36162, and 36192 – 36198; the General Journal Entries for October 31, 2016; and the October 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 November 9, 2016, was \$839,015.00. There was no report found from the previous year at this point. He asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the accounts or investments.

There were no comments or questions.

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

Item eight a. Approve 2017 Employee Medical Insurance Policy. President Myers recognized Gordon Thoennes, representative from Dimond Brothers Insurance. Gordon stated that the premium for the Health Alliance POS 6000a Silver Plan came in at \$13,952.62 per month. The HRA has proven to be successful. The difference in this plan from last year is the deductible is up \$1,000 from \$5,000 to \$6,000. This will not affect the District's expense due to the fact that the employee will absorb the increase of the first \$1,000 of the \$6,000 deductible and the rest is paid from the HRA. If approved this evening, the policy will go into effect December 1, 2016.

President Myers stated that the proposal from the Trustees was that the employee's portion of the premium remains the same. Employees who have dependents will continue

to pay 10% of the premium. However, the employee portion of the deductible will increase from \$500 to \$1,000. All Trustees were in agreement.

*Trustee Cooke moved to approve the Health Alliance POS 6000a Silver Plan with a front loaded deductible of \$1,000 paid by each employee/dependent, and 10% of the dependent policy paid by the employee; from Dimond Brother Insurance for a premium \$13,952.62 per month. 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.

Item eight b. Approve Special Event Contract From Progressive Innovations, LTD. The Trustees were provided with a contract copy for review. President Myers stated that this contract was sent with corrections via email from the District attorney. Executive Director Konsis met with representatives from Progressive Innovations to discuss District concerns. After V.C.C.D. Board approval, the contract will go to Progressive Innovations for review.

With no comments or questions, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the special event contract with Progressive Innovations, LTD. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke.*

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

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

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

Executive Director Konsis stated that the Board would need to adopt Resolution No. 16-4 Authorizing the Lease of Kennekuk County Park Premises as presented. This gives Executive Director Konsis the authority to act in the District's best interests for terms listed in the contract agreement previously approved.

*Trustee Jaynes moved to adopt V.C.C.D. Resolution 16-4 Authorizing the Lease of Kennekuk County Park Premises. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

President Myers stated that the V.C.C.D. has been in negotiations with Progressive Innovations, LTD to bring a music festival similar to Phases of the Moon to Kennekuk County Park. Attendance is expected to be 15,000+. The District has taken into account what was learned from the last event, and logistics should be much improved. The District should receive additional revenue of approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000 from this event, annually from this three year contract. Throughout the entire process, the District has been impressed with their level of preparedness; they have 16 years of experience. This will be a positive for the entire community.

Executive Director Konsis added that the contract with Phases of the Moon has been severed amicably; they were just not able to fulfill their portion of the contract.

President Myers and the Board are excited after meeting with community leaders and the Vermilion County Sheriff Department that this is an excellent opportunity to showcase our park and surrounding community. The revenues from this helping us to achieve our mission of keeping the parks open and assure access to our outdoor heritage for the future.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. IACD President Jamie Pasquale reported he and Executive Director Konsis attended the IACD meeting at Starved Rock State Park on October 20. New officers were elected, and Paul Marien was elected to serve as the new IACD President. The next quarterly meeting is in January 2017; plans continue for the IACD Conference held February 16-17.

This concluded the IACD Report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Gordon Thoennes, Chairman of the Foundation, reported that a tour to Jordan Creek Wildlife Preserve is scheduled for Friday, November 11, 9:00 a.m., led by Mark Pittman. The Foundation was contacted a few days ago by a group offering a fundraising opportunity for the Kennekuk Education Center through a gun show/banquet scheduled for January 28-29, 2017 at the Gao Grotto.

He reported that the farmland at Jordan Creek was now enrolled in a Federal Program [CRP & Pollinator acreage] that should net us almost double the income as a farm ground lease. These funds will be used toward payment of the loan balance of the Busby-Meyer Wildlife Area. Once again, the Foundation is here to support the efforts of the V.C.C.D. in whatever way they can.

This concluded the VCCF Report.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Nothing new to report.

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing/Expense Reduction Committee Report. President Meyers stated that he would like to start meeting after the first of the year. With the subjects of the bonding issue and a list of capital projects in place.

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 for executive session.

Agenda item eleven. Report from the Education Supervisor. In Gary Wilford's absence, Susan Biggs Warner reported that Outdoor School will conclude tomorrow, November 10, with the Rossville-Alvin classes. The weather has been great for School Day Visits, too.

Thanksgiving at the Cabin attendance on Sunday, November 6, was very high, over 350 people. There was a great article in the News Gazette advertising the event, and there were many new visitors that had never been before.

This concluded the education staff report.

Agenda item twelve: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that he and Gary Tyrl attended a Pollinator Program Workshop today at the Farm Bureau in Champaign. He has been working at the Jordan Creek property mowing preparing for planting in accordance with the WHIP. The seed mix is provided through the program.

A large water leak at Forest Glen has been isolated to a 400 foot area; still working to repair it. While looking for the leak, a breach in the campground dump station leech field was discovered.

The Kennekuk Wood Shop is about 95% complete. The fiber optic line for the new phone system at Forest Glen was delivered yesterday; trenching work may begin so the system may be installed before the end of the year.

Last week Associate Director Pasquale assisted the Vermilion County Sheriff's Department with their training exercises on-site at Kennekuk.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item thirteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis has contacted Dan Olson regarding a tour of the Kickapoo Rail Trail, but has not heard from him.

The wetland/culvert replacement at the Busby-Meyer Wildlife Area estimate was \$20,000. The Illinois Clean Energy Grant has only \$12,000 remaining, so only the wetland will be constructed there, severing the culvert replacement there from the plan for now.

The Willow Creek Dam Project at Forest Glen Preserve will need to be scaled back due to IDNR grant restrictions. Plans for an access road to the base of the dam, from the campgrounds will be the new arrangement at an estimated cost of \$3,000. This will allow equipment access so that some work can be done. This remains a top priority. Executive Director Konsis commented that concerns regarding duckweed control on the pond are ongoing. Several different ways to eliminate the duckweed have been tried, to no avail. It is due to field run-off and farm ground fertilizer is the main reason. It is the hope that repairing the dam as it should be will help control the duckweed growth.

Gordon Thoennes, speaking on behalf of the Foundation, asked if fixing the Willow Creek Dam problems all at once would be advantageous.

Executive Director Konsis responded that it would not; it can be done in stages.

Haunted Happenings attendance on October 22 was estimated at 900 people. There were no major problems; weather was good with no wind. Financial figures are not complete.

Thanksgiving at the Cabin was held November 6 with an estimated attendance of over 350 people!

The annual Bunker Hill Historic Area Holiday Open House will be held on Friday, December 9, 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Executive Director Konsis gave the Trustees a new updated V.C.C.D. Capital Project List. New project are continually added, such as the need for a new sanitary field at the Laury Barn restrooms, new leech field for Forest Glen campground dump stations, and a new AC unit at the Gannett Outdoor Education Center. Associate Director Pasquale and he are working on cost estimates.

David Hall, Security, was able to procure the donation of a club car from Bunge for the District. It will be located mainly at Forest Glen.

The Vermilion County Highway Department has completed the road patching at Forest Glen Preserve. This was done at Kennekuk in 2014.

The official tax levy certificate from the Commercial News will be filed tomorrow, November 10, 2016.

The Forest Glen Archery Hunt harvest, to date, has been 6 does and 6 bucks.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Wednesday, December 14, 4:30 p.m. at the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.

There were no other questions or comments.

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

Trustee Jaynes noted that the Kiwanis Pancake Day was successful. He invited Executive Director Konsis to come to the next meeting to accept the next installment of their pledge toward the display area.

Trustee Cooke attended Thanksgiving at the Cabin at Forest Glen and it was delightful. He was surprised at the number of people that he spoke with that had never been to Forest Glen. He asked what the schedule of the Christmas lights at the Bunker Hill Historic Area were this year.

Executive Director Konsis responded that the lights will be lit nightly 5 – 8 p.m. beginning Friday, December 9.

President Myers stated that it is never easy to discuss difficult issues regarding health insurance, salaries, special events and others. As stewards of the park, the Board has been entrusted with making decisions that are not always easy. The Board has a long range vision and this is not a responsibility that the Board takes lightly.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Jaynes moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation. Meeting adjourned.*

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