

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

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

**Wednesday, December 14, 2016  
4:30 p.m.  
Cellular One Classroom, Environmental Education Center  
Kennekuk County Park  
Danville, IL**

President Myers called the December 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  
Charles B. Schroeder

Trustee(s) Absent: B. Dirk Porter

In attendance were Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director and Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary.

Staff members present included Lara Darling, Susan Biggs Warner, Mike Kotcher, 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.

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 November 9, 2016, Regular Meeting.

*Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the November 9, 2016, Regular 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.

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 November 2016 in the amount of \$8,281.55, which included check #'s 36318 -36341; the Manual Checks for December 2016 in the amount of \$46,615.71 which included check #'s 36199 – 36204, 36206 – 36208, 36233 – 36241, 36267 – 36283, and 36307 – 36312; the General Journal Entries for November 30, 2016; and the November 2016 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.*

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

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

The vote was 4 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item number seven e. In the absence of Executive Director Konsis, Associate Director Pasquale reported the grand total of cash and investments as of December 7, 2016, was \$936,355.00. This compares to the grand total of \$720,725.00 December 2015 He asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the accounts or investments.

President Myers commented that the Federal Reserve Bank has increased interest rates by .25%, which is good news.

There were no other comments or questions.

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

Item eight a. Open and Approve Bids for Worker's Compensation Insurance. Associate Director Pasquale stated that two bids for annual coverage were received. The first from Illinois Public Risk Fund was \$13,516.00 through Dimond Brothers Insurance. This will include a grant for \$1,475.00 to be used for employee safety. The other was from Wiedeman Insurance for \$18,178.00 total, to be prorated at \$16,634.00.

The bids were given to the trustees for review. After previewing and agreeing that all specifications were met, *Trustee Jaynes moved to accept the bid for Workers Compensation Insurance from Illinois Public Risk Fund for \$13,516.00 annual premium for 2017. 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
Trustee Schroeder	-	yes
President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 4 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Item eight b. Further Discussion of Proposed Bond Issue: Ordinance. President Myers stated that the Board has been discussing general obligation bonds, alternate revenue source for a principal amount not to exceed \$1,000,000. Approval of this ordinance does not obligate us to issue the bonds, but does open a 30-day public comment period as a formality.

President Myers asked the Board if they wished to pursue this, and opened the floor for discussion.

It was noted that the special event contract from Progressive Innovation, LTD was now null and void; the bond issue was discussed previous to the knowledge of the projected revenue from this event.

President Myers stated that he must abstain due to his career in financial securities.

With no further discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the ordinance authorizing the issuance by the Vermilion County Conservation District, Vermilion County, Illinois, of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for land conservation purposes. 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
Trustee Schroeder	-	yes
President Myers	-	abstain

The vote was 3 – 0 in favor, 1 abstention. Motion carried.

President Myers commented that the process will continue, updating the project list, and we will get everything needed in place.

Item eight c. Approve 2017 User Fee Schedule. The proposed 2017 schedule, with no increase, was given to the Trustees in advance. President Myers stated that in 2016 there was an overall raise of 10%. He asked the Board recommendation for 2017.

Associate Director Pasquale stated that the District Staff had no recommendation for increase this year.

The Trustees were in agreement; *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the 2017 User Fee Schedule as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item eight d. Approve 2017 V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees Board Meeting Schedule. This was given to the Trustees in advance.

With no discussion, *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the 2017 V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees Board Meeting Schedule as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item eight e. Discuss/Approve Request for Downtown Danville TIF District. President Myers recognized David Schnelle, Director of Engineering & Urban Services with the City of Danville.

David stated the City of Danville has been working with Downtown Danville Inc. and Vermilion Advantage investigating the creation of a new TIF district in the downtown area. This would include Main St. to Seminary St. and Franklin St. to Washington St. He provided the Trustees with a map of the proposed area. He explained that TIF areas have been successful tools used in other parts of the community.

All taxing bodies will participate in the approval or denial of the TIF District, but before the city gets to that point, there needs to be a general consensus to create the TIF before engaging a consultant. Property values may go up within the TIF, but the TIF recaptures the increase in property values and the taxing bodies give up that increase for a period of 23 years.

Trustee Cooke asked if this would decrease the revenue the District receives now.

David answered that it would not. The existing tax revenues do not change, they remain stable. There will be more information the District will receive after March 17<sup>th</sup> regarding a decision.

The Board was in agreement to support the proposed TIF District. David will take this information to his committee.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. Associate Director Pasquale had no report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. With no representative present, Amy Steeples gave a report. At the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, all but two Directors were reappointed to their 3-year terms. Doug Quick and Jonathan Myers resigned. Two Associate Directors, Rick Strebing and Michael Puhr, were appointed to serve on the Board of Directors. A new Associate Director, Lloyd Randle was appointed. The current officers were retained in their respective offices.

The Foundation was offered an opportunity to be a recipient of a percentage of proceeds from a Gun Banquet/Show at the Gao Grotto in January, but the Foundation declined the offer. The Foundation is still planning their annual Sportsman's Banquet for March, but a date has not been set at this time.

Several Directors volunteered at the V.C.C.D. Holiday Open House on December 9, telling people about the Foundation and giving out brand new Foundation brochures. Brochures were given to each Trustee. Lara will explain more about the Open House.

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

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Associate Director Pasquale noted that the Trustees had been given a copy of the 2016 Research Findings for W-2 & Revenue Analysis for the V.C.C.D., with Statewide Comparisons. There was nothing else to report.

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing/Expense Reduction Committee Report. President Meyers had nothing new to report.

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. Gary Wilford reported that over the past six months family health issues have separated him from his duties at the District. Fortunately, Lara Darling, Susan Biggs Warner and Amy Steeples have been picking up duties so there have been no issues with the daily operations.

Outdoor School is in its 45<sup>th</sup> year with 100% participation; 14 schools and 28 classes attending this spring at both parks. Spring Day Visits will be scheduling soon as well as winter Maple Syrup Day Visits at Forest Glen and Traveling Naturalist programs at the schools.

Special events included Thanksgiving at the Cabin, Vermilion Dark Skies, and Holiday Open House. The education staff is called upon to give special programs to organizations & clubs including antiquarians, women's clubs, Kiwanis, Danville Garden Club and more.

Traveling Naturalist programming begins in January and we already have 13 of the 21 schools scheduled. Topics this year are: Native Americans, Wildlife Investigations, and Unhuggables.

Summer programming includes: Summer Camps, Library Literacy, and our special events.

The Forest Glen Whitetail Archery Hunt is going well, with 19 deer harvested [9 bucks & 10 does]. The program is in its fourth year and was planned to run for five years. It is a great program because it gives a hunter the opportunity to hunt for one week in their own area with no other hunter competition.

Gary stated that when he began his career with the District 42 years ago, he was placed on a six month probationary period. At that time, he was brought before the V.C.C.D. Board and questioned how long he thought that he would stay with the District, since there had been issues with employee longevity. He believes he has been successful in his career longevity and hopes he has made a positive effect on the conservation efforts here in Vermilion County. He has enjoyed being given the opportunity, and thanked the people of Vermilion County and the administration over the years here at the District.

Gary presented his letter of retirement as Naturalist to President Myers dated for January 31, 2017.

President Myers thanked Gary for his 42 years of service with the District and congratulated him on the wonderful work he has done over his career. He commented that it is a tremendous loss for the District.

This concluded the education staff report.

Agenda item twelve: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported the Kennekuk Woodshop is almost completed. The Forest Glen telephone system fiber optic line installation is completed, and Gibson Teledata Inc. will be installing the new system next week. Deicers have been placed at Lake Vermilion, for the first time, on the new dock system. Duck hunting is still in season and hunters are taking full advantage of the water.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item thirteen: Report From Executive Director. In the absence of Executive Director Konsis, Associate Director Pasquale gave the report.

The contract with Progressive Innovation Inc. is void. The District fulfilled all of our duties, but after further negotiations with the current Board in Chillicothe, Ian Goldberg has decided to stay in Chillicothe, IL. This represents a great loss of revenue for the District.

The Champaign County Forest Preserve side of the Kickapoo Rail Trail should be complete in April 2017 with a grand opening in May 2017. This portion is from Walmart in Urbana to Main Street in St. Joseph. There is a tour for the Trustees planned for January, weather permitting.

Lara Darling was recognized and gave a brief presentation for the Duathlon scheduled for June 17, 2017, a fundraiser for the Kickapoo Rail Trail. Help is needed in the form of sponsorships and volunteers.

Work continues on gaining a secondary access road for Kennekuk County Park. Executive Director Konsis has been in contact with a surveyor regarding property lines of the Snyder Corner Rd.

Lara Darling noted that Friday, December 9 was the V.C.C.D. Holiday Open House from 2 – 8 p.m. with approximately 200 people attending. There were \$55.00 received in donations. Foundation Directors staffed the Atwood Home and the Print Shop.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Wednesday, January 18, 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 extended an invitation to Executive Director Konsis to attend a January Kiwanis meeting to accept the pledged donation toward the Kennekuk Education Center display area. The meetings are held each Thursday at noon at the Old National Bank community room located on the second floor.

Trustee Cooke had no comment.

Trustee Schroeder had no comment.

President Myers had no comment.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.*

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