

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

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

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018
4:30 p.m.
Environmental Education Center, Cellular One Classroom
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Myers called the May 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 present.

Trustees Present: Perry A. Jaynes
Randy Johnson
Shelley K. McLain
Jonathan A. Myers
Charles B. Schroeder

Trustee(s) Absent: None

In attendance were Interim Executive Director Pasquale, and Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary.

Staff members present included: Susan Biggs Warner, Lara Darling, Kim Fox, Mike Kotcher and Gary Tyrl.

A public hearing was conducted for the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, Ordinance #145, at 4:30 p.m. The Interim Executive Director presented the final budget. He noted amendments from the first draft of the tentative budget which was approved in March 2018 and placed on public display.

Corporate Fund: The cash balance on April 1, 2018 has been adjusted to \$538,770; thus decreasing the new estimated cash balance on March 31, 2019 to \$548,340. Total revenue was decreased to \$1,333,245 from \$1,343,560. Total estimated cash for expenditures was decreased to \$1,872,015 from \$2,019,415. Total estimated expenditures was reduced by \$46,790 to a new balance of \$1,335,585.

Capital Improvements: There were decreases in the amount of \$89,500 in total due to Kennekuk County Park, Heron County Park and the General Fund expenses moved to Division VII Capital Projects Fund.

Insurance Fund: The cash balance on April 1, 2018 was adjusted to the actual balance, a decrease of \$3,662.

IMRF: The cash balance on April 1, 2018 was adjusted to the actual balance, an increase of \$11,444.

Audit Fund: The cash balance on April 1, 2018 was adjusted to the actual balance, a decrease of \$149.

Social Security Fund: The cash balance on April 1, 2018 was adjusted to the actual balance, an increase of \$4,970.

Debt Service Fund: A new fund, this was added for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The beginning cash balance on April 1, 2018 was \$0.

Revenue increased \$123,315 due increase in Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax. Expenses increased \$123,315 due to \$85000 increase in bond Payment – Principle and \$38,315 increase in Bond Payment – Interest.

Capital Projects Fund: This fund was added to the budget. The cash balance on April 1, 2018 was increased by \$187,360.

Revenue increased \$200 due to increase in Interest. Expenses increased to \$187,560 due to items listed in Corporate Fund Capital Projects and Bond Projects moved to the Capital Projects Fund.

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

President Myers asked for adoption of Budget and Appropriations Ordinance No. 145.

Trustee Jaynes moved to adopt Ordinance No. 145 as amended. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.

President Myers asked for a roll call vote.

Trustee Jaynes	- yes
Trustee Schroeder	- yes
Trustee McLain	- yes
Trustee Johnson	- yes
President Myers	- yes

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 145 passed with a 5 – 0 vote.

The public hearing was closed.

President Myers welcomed the newly appointed Trustee Randy Johnson. He is a lifelong resident of Vermilion County and has expertise in building trades.

First order of business, agenda item number seven, was the Adoption of, or Amendments to the Agenda.

President Myers asked for amendments to the agenda. He stated that the numbering of the items on the agenda mailed to the trustees was incorrect; and item number eight should state "May 8, 2018, Special Meeting". These errors were corrected and the copy is now before them.

With no other amendments, *Trustee McLain moved to approve the agenda as amended and currently presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number eight the Approval of the Minutes from the May 8, 2018, Special Meeting.

With no corrections, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the May 8, 2018, Special Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number eight a. the Approval of the Minutes of the May 8, 2018, Executive Session.

With no corrections, *Trustee McLain moved to approve the Minutes of the May 8, 2018, Executive Session. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item number nine. Audience Comments. President Myers stated each person has a maximum of three minutes, total maximum of 30 minutes for audience comments.

Jim Britton was recognized. He asked if there were plans to repair the potholes in the Lake Vermilion Parking Lot.

Interim Director Pasquale responded that resurfacing of the lot was actually scheduled for last year, but had to be postponed; the project requiring more work regarding drainage repair issues.

Hearing no more, public comments were closed.

Agenda item number ten, 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 April 2018 in the amount of \$13,714.27, which included check #'s 38475 -38498; the Manual Checks for April 2018 in the amount of \$57,571.60 which included check #'s 38349 – 38358, 38360 – 38369, 38413 – 38423, and 38450 – 38456; the General Journal Entries for April 30, 2018; and the April 2018 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
Trustee Johnson	-	yes
Trustee McLain	-	yes

President Myers - yes

The vote was 5 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item number ten e. Interim Executive Director Pasquale reported that the NOW checking account balance is \$119,860.00; Illinois Funds Investment Pool totaled \$133,810.00; the Illinois Funds Money Market balance is \$5,170.00. First Farmers Bank balance is \$200,170.00; and Central Illinois Bank has a balance of \$200,060.00. The HRA has a balance of \$3,790.00. First Savings Bank account balance is at \$199,430.00.

The grand total of cash and investments less bond funds is \$697,326.16. This compares to \$609,175.00 in May of 2017.

President Myers asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the accounts or investments. There were none.

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

Item eleven a. Creation of Environmental Education Center Phase II and III Feasibility/Research Committee. President Myers stated that he was in agreement with Vermilion County Board Chairman Mike Marron's statement that a feasibility study was in order regarding building and maintaining Phases II and III of the education center. President Myers suggested breaking the committee into two; feasibility for the economics and construction for design.

With no discussion or comments, Trustee Johnson moved to approve and support the creation of a Feasibility/Research Committee for purposes of completing the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center Phases II and III. This was followed by a second from Trustee McLain. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

President Myers stated that ideally, he would like the committee chairs to reach out to experts in the community in these fields.

Item eleven b. Approve/Deny lease contract with Serenity Base Fest (Tranquility Launchpad Inc.). Interim Executive Director Pasquale gave the latest update. There was an update received since the contract was sent to the Trustees in their packets. The District has not heard back from them. John Beardsley, VCCD Attorney has contacted the Serenity Base attorney asking them to discontinue ticket sales until a contract is signed.

President Myers briefly reviewed the timeline of events leading up to this point. He asked the Trustees to weigh the pros and cons of this event in their decision to give them a deadline or deny the 2018 event.

Discussion ensued.

With no other comments or discussion, Trustee McLain moved to deny a 2018 lease contract with Serenity Base, Tranquility Launchpad Inc. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.

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

Trustee McLain	-	yes
Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Johnson	-	yes
Trustee Schroeder	-	yes
President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 5 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item eleven c. Discussion/Action on Legal Correspondence Received.

Trustee McLain moved to retire to executive session in conjunction with Illinois Open Meeting Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (C)(11) as stated. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.

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

Trustee McLain	-	yes
Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Johnson	-	yes
Trustee Schroeder	-	yes
President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 5 – 0 in favor, retired to executive session at 4:53 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 5:13 p.m. There was no action taken.

Agenda item twelve a: VCCF Report. Lara Darling reported that the next meeting of the Foundation will be June 8.

President Myers requested that a VCCD Board Trustee attend the meeting. Trustee Schroeder agreed to do so.

This concluded the VCCF Report.

Agenda item twelve b; IAPD Report. Interim Executive Director Pasquale had nothing new to report.

Agenda item twelve c: VCCD Education Report. The Trustees were provided with this report at this meeting. President Myers stated the Conservation Olympics event held May 11th was well done. Thank you to the education and maintenance staffs.

Agenda item twelve d: VCCD Maintenance and Land Management Report. The Trustees were provided with these reports at this meeting.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: Report from the Interim Executive Director. Interim Executive Director Pasquale began with the Kickapoo Rail Trail update. Late April, IDOT received bids for the specified portion of the project; Cross Construction was the low bidder at \$691869 which was almost 8% under budget. The bid will be verified, then Farnsworth and the VCCD will

meet regarding preconstruction. Construction may begin as early as June, with an 80 work day project time.

Champaign County Forest Preserve will be transferring approximately \$121,000 of funds that they have been holding for the Vermilion County side of the trail to us this week or next. There is \$15,000 held by the VCC Foundation and \$50,000 due upon groundbreaking, which is dedicated toward the match funding for the project. This Friday will be a KRT Steering Committee meeting, which Kim Fox, Lara Darling and he will be attending.

The description of the Education Staff Supervisor position is completed and he will announce that the position is open to current full-time staff. This is an in-house promotion only.

Construction of a block restroom facility has begun at the Busby-Meyer Wildlife Area, east of the Forest Glen Preserve entrance. A tank and concrete base has been placed. This will be funded by a \$5,000 grant procured from the VCC Foundation.

Pheasants Forever supplied seed, free of charge, for a pollinator plot in the one acre demonstration plot north of the Kennekuk entrance; and the five acres of farm ground not accessible by our current farmer.

The upgrade to the internet service at Forest Glen is still in progress. Midwest First Inc. purchased Neubert Communications who the District had been working with regarding service. He explained the current internet service at Forest Glen, and since a great deal of the preparatory work to upgrade can be done by Interim Director Pasquale, the cost will be reasonable to upgrade.

The Lake Vermilion Boat Ramp Concessions opened this week. The annual Lake Vermilion Cleanup will be Friday, May 25th, beginning at 8:00 a.m. This is sponsored by Aqua Illinois, Lake Vermilion Water Quality Coalition and the VCCD.

The next VCCD Board Meeting will be Wednesday, June 20, 2018; 4:30 p.m., Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve. This will be Trustee Jaynes last meeting, his term fulfilled.

Trustee McLain stated that she will be out of town that date.

Trustee Schroeder asked if gasoline is available now at Lake Vermilion.

Interim Executive Director Pasquale answered that it is.

There were no other comments or questions.

This concluded the Report of the Interim Executive Director.

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

President Myers reiterated that the VCCD Board is committed to Phases II and III being completed in a holistic way. We, as trustees, wish to maintain full oversight and will continue to be involved in the process so that everyone visiting will feel ownership.

Trustee Jaynes commented that he was informed of compliments given to the VCCD Board from a trades meeting regarding the education construction project.

Trustee McLain commented she attended the Volunteer Dinner, and it was wonderful. Lara Darling gave a great presentation on the Kickapoo Rail Trail.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *Trustee McLain moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation.*

V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees