

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

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

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019
4:30 p.m.
Environmental Education Center, Cellular One Classroom
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Schroeder called the November 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.

Agenda item number three, Roll Call showed the following to be present.

Trustees Present: Michael P. Arbuckle
Randy A. Johnson
Shelley K. McLain
Charles B. Schroeder
Doug R. Staske

Trustee(s) Absent: None

In attendance were Executive Director Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director of Administration and Personnel Kim Fox, and Recording Secretary Amy Steeples.

Staff members present included Cole Craft, Lara Darling and Gary Tyrl.

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

President Schroeder asked for amendments to the agenda.

Trustee Johnson moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee McLain. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number five. Approval of the Minutes from the October 16, 2019, Regular Meeting.

With no corrections, Trustee Arbuckle moved to approve the October 16, 2019, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Johnson. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

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

Lara Darling wished to thank the trustees for attending the KRT at Sleepy Creek fundraiser. They don't have final numbers yet, but consider it a success; great joint effort of Urbana Park District, Champaign County Forest Preserve District and VCCD.

Pam Reichert, representative from Eco-Justice Collaborative, and Kristin Camp from Citizens to Protect the Middlefork groups were recognized. Pam presented a PowerPoint presentation update on the coal ash pits located along the Middlefork of the Vermilion River; Illinois' only National Scenic River. Pam and Kristin answered questions and presented facts regarding the Dynegy/Vistra property. The initial plan submitted by Dynegy was withdrawn after it was met with disapproval. They will be submitting another plan using something called a "green infrastructure",

Progress has been achieved regarding future coal ash issues; Illinois has passed a Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act.

Eco-Justice Collaborative wants the current company to remove the coal ash and move it away to another property owned by the company; well away from the river. They want to keep the current issue in the spotlight and make sure those accountable are kept involved. In 1992, a Corridor Management Plan was designed so that IDNR can manage and be responsible for protecting the Middlefork National Scenic River. With this plan, a review committee was set up to evaluate how the river is doing; quality, issues, project that needs to be considered. This committee is required to meet at least once per year. Pam is not certain this has been done.

The group wants to resurrect the Federal Review Committee. There is also an Advisory Committee with members of the community serving. She invited Executive Director Pasquale and any VCCD Trustees who want to want to be appointed.

Executive Director Pasquale and Trustee McLain agreed to serve on this committee

The VCCD Board thanked Pam and Kristin for their informative presentation.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report. President Schroeder asked if there were any questions on items seven a through d. This included the bills, checks and journal entries for October 2019.

Trustee McLain questioned a computer purchase \$648.11 on page 4, microwave purchase and mushroom program \$100 on page 3.

Executive Director Pasquale responded that the microwave went to Forest Glen.

Lara Darling responded that Kennekuk Superintendent, Gary Tyrl needed a computer and she needed a newer one; hers was given to Gary and a new one was ordered for her. A fall mushroom Id and hike program was offered at Forest Glen in October by Andrew Miller, mycologist. His fee was \$100 and 20 participants were charged \$5 each.

Trustee McLain inquired about the following Profit and Loss Budget Performance balances:

Income from Summer Camps was \$4,300; well over budget expectations of \$1,200-this is amazing!

Page 3. Printing costs for education and program expense was \$2,376, well over YTD budget of \$800.

Associate Director of Administration and Personnel Fox will review, attributing the overage to Outdoor School Workbooks. The workbook expense will be moved to dedicated funds which will be mostly reimbursed by the VCCF, Middlefork Chapter of Audubon, and Pheasants Forever.

Trustee McLain stated that she is fine with receiving her board information via email, to help save postage costs.

With no other questions or discussion, *Trustee Staske moved to approve the Current List of Bills from October 2019 in the amount of \$9,310.22, which included check #'s 40456 – 40472; the Manual Checks for October 2019 in the amount of \$61,537.32 which included check #'s 40329 - 40342, 40363 – 40402, and 40424; electronic funds transfer of IMRF contributions for October and the General Journal Entries for October 31, 2019. This was followed by a second from Trustee McLain.*

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

Trustee Staske	-	yes
Trustee McLain	-	yes
Trustee Arbuckle	-	yes
Trustee Johnson	-	yes
President Schroeder	-	yes

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

Agenda item number seven e. Report on Cash and Investments. Associate Director of Administration and Personnel Fox reported that as of November 20, 2019, the NOW checking account balance is \$94,512; Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance is \$247,720, the Illinois Funds Money Market Fund totaled \$5,350. First Farmers Bank Money Market Passbook account balance is \$247,705; Central Illinois Bank Money Market passbook account balance is \$248,845. The Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) balance is \$6,735. First Saving Bank NOW account balance is \$248,455; the NOW account at Catlin Bank remains at \$150,000. The 7 mo. CD at Central Illinois Bank at 1.95% interest balance remains at \$102,250; 3 mo. CD [Whittaker Funds] at Iroquois Federal at .70% interest balance is \$102,919; the 3 mo. CD [Wagner Funds] at Iroquois Federal at .70% interest has a balance of \$141,420. A new 3 mo. CD was taken at Catlin Bank at .65%; insurance check for hail damage to the roofs.

The grand total of cash and investments for November 20, 2019: \$1,713,576., less bond funds of \$2,601.33 remaining is \$1,701,974.67. This compares to \$1,414,256. in November of 2018.

President Schroeder asked if there were any questions regarding the Budget Reports for November 2019. There were none.

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

Item eight a. Approve 2020 VCCD User Fee Schedule. Executive Director Pasquale clarified the changes for 2020: ten dollar increase annual boat decal fee, one dollar

increase for any watercraft daily fee, and fifty dollar increase in group campground rental for 401 to 500 campers. For building and shelter rentals: ten dollar increase for Audubon Barn for first two tiers, twenty dollar increase for third tier; fifty dollar increase in first tier, fifty-five dollar increase second and third tiers, sixty dollar increase in fourth tier, and forty dollar increase in fifth tier. The dining car fee was eliminated.

Executive Director Pasquale explained there were plans to build flush toilet restroom building for the White Oak Barn, therefore the larger increase in rental fee.

President Schroeder asked about individual fees for a boat sticker and trailer sticker.

Executive Director Pasquale responded the boat decal fee includes both. The trailer sticker aids in determining who does not have a boat decal.

With no other questions or comments, *Trustee McLain moved to approve the 2020 VCCD User Fee Schedule as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Johnson.*

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

Trustee McLain	-	yes
Trustee Johnson	-	yes
Trustee Arbuckle	-	yes
Trustee Staske	-	yes
President Schroeder	-	yes

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

Item eight b. Approve VCCD Board of Trustee Regular Meeting Schedule. Executive Director Pasquale stated that this schedule follows previous years schedules; the third Wednesday of each month, at 4:30 p.m.

At this time, the December 18th 2019 meeting date was discussed. The VCCD Regular Meeting for December was rescheduled to December 11, 2019, same time and location.

Trustee Johnson moved to approve the 2020 VCCD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Schedule as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arbuckle. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight c. Approve hail damaged roof replacement specifications. Executive Director Pasquale stated that bidding will be done on each building roof individually. It is stated that the VCCD will purchase materials needed. Metal will be used for replacement roofs. The specifications were mailed to each trustee in advance.

President Schroeder asked for any comments or discussion.

Trustee Johnson noted that the specifications did not include any requirement parameters regarding a contractor possessing a commercial roofing license. Trustee McLain stated that needed to be included in the specifications, along with the latest international building code standards.

Trustee Johnson moved to approve the roof replacement specifications for the hail damaged roofs as amended. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arbuckle.

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

Trustee Johnson	-	yes
Trustee Arbuckle	-	yes
Trustee McLain	-	yes
Trustee Staske	-	yes
President Schroeder	-	yes

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

Agenda item eight d. Discuss potential land donation of VCCD owned property in Muncie. Executive Director Pasquale provided the Trustees with a map of the property in question. He proposed donating the small lot, or a lease agreement option with Muncie.

Discussion ensued.

Executive Director Pasquale recommends approaching Muncie with the donation of the lot. If they want it, he will contact the District Attorney to draw up an agreement.

All Trustees were in agreement with the proposal.

Agenda item eight e. Discuss future use of train car, Kennekuk Bunker Hill Historic Area. Executive Director Pasquale reported that originally the O’Leary’s Dining Car was moved to the site to be used as a rental for meetings and small gatherings. Unfortunately, it didn’t catch on and was not popular. Over the years, it has fallen into disrepair and it was the consensus of the board to phase it out as a rental. It is only used occasionally as a dressing area for weddings. He is looking for ideas as to what to do with it now.

Ideas brought up by the Board were: selling or donating; salvaging and selling interior furnishings. These ideas must be fully explored before scrapping the car. The Monticello Trail Museum would be a good place to start.

Agenda item nine a. VCCF Report. Amy Steeples reported that the next Foundation Meeting is December 6, 9 a.m. New officers will be elected, new director will be appointed to bring the board up to twelve and an update on coal ash will be presented.

This concluded the VCCF report.

Agenda item nine b. VCCD Education, Maintenance and Land Management Report. The reports were mailed with the Trustee’s packets.

President Schroeder inquired about the inspection of the drive through culvert in the bridge at Lake Vermilion.

Executive Director Pasquale responded that the Farnsworth inspection was needed per the City of Danville so the VCCD provided a boat. There are actually two culverts and both needed inspection.

There were no other comments. This concluded VCCD Education, Maintenance and Land Management Reports.

Agenda item nine c. Kennekuk Environmental Education Center Phase II and III Feasibility Study Committee. Trustee Staske reported that he had spoken with President Schroeder and Executive Director Pasquale during his investigations of an official feasibility study or survey regarding the need for a large conference building at Kennekuk. He had found no study, no budget. His recommendation is to start over regarding an addition or renovation to the current building; beginning by talking with staff. After acquiring as much information as possible, he would suggest removing this item from the agenda and make a formal statement or draft a resolution regarding the addition or renovation of the Kennekuk Education Center for the record.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: Report from the Executive Director. Executive Director Pasquale reported that he attended the following meetings: IACD at Rock Island; IDNR regarding Lake Mingo (regarding previous federal funding); Kickapoo Rail Trail, Rep. Marron's Office, Springfield.

The first section of the KRT is complete, as of today. There will not be a dedication until spring or summer, even though it is being used now. Executive Director Pasquale is pleased with the work and overall look of the trail.

He spoke with Lewis Yockey, IDNR, regarding the IDNR section. Cross Construction was awarded the road construction at Kickapoo and the KRT trail head project. The plans have been emailed to Executive Director Pasquale.

Executive Director Pasquale congratulated Trustee McLain on being named, "Catlin Citizen of the Year". This was met with a round of applause.

The next VCCD Board of Trustees Meeting will be Wednesday, December 11, 4:30 p.m.; Kennekuk County Park.

Agenda item ten a. Report from the Director of Administration and Personnel. Associate Director of Administration and Personnel Fox had nothing to report.

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

President Schroeder thanked everyone for the great job making the KRT at Sleepy Creek such a nice event.

Trustee Johnson was thankful for the coal ash presentation. It was very informative.

Trustee McLain had no comment.

Trustee Staske had no comment.

Trustee Arbuckle had no comment.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *Trustee Staske moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Johnson. All in favor by acclamation.*

Shelley McLain
Secretary
VCCD Board of Trustees