

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

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

**Wednesday, February 15, 2023  
4:30 p.m.  
Kennekuk Environmental Education Center  
Cellular One Classroom  
Danville, IL 61834**

First Vice President Johnson called the February Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order.

Agenda item number three, Roll Call indicated the following:

Trustees Present: Michael P. Arbuckle  
Jessica Augustson  
Michael H. Gast  
Randy A. Johnson

Trustee(s) Absent: Doug R. Staske

In attendance were Executive Director Jamie Pasquale and Director of Administration and Personnel Kim Fox.

Staff members present: Gary TyrI

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

First Vice President Johnson asked for amendments to the agenda.

*Trustee Arbuckle moved to approve the February 15, 2023 agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Augustson. All in favor by acclamation, motion to approve the agenda carried.*

Agenda item number five. Approval of the Minutes from the December 6, 2022, Rescheduled Meeting.

*With no comments or corrections, Trustee Gast moved to approve the December 6, 2022, November Rescheduled Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arbuckle. All in favor by acclamation, motion to approve the minutes carried.*

Item number six. Audience Comments. There were none.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report. First Vice President Johnson asked if there were any questions on items seven a through i. This included bills, checks and journal entries for November 2022, December 2022, and January 2023.

*With no comments or questions, Trustee Arbuckle moved to approve the Voucher Checks dated November 2022 in the amount of \$21,959.94, which included check #'s 42456 – 42465; the Voucher Checks dated January 19, 2023 in the amount of \$4,130.36, which included check #'s 42486 – 42499; the Voucher Checks dated February 16, 2023 in the amount of \$10,895.21, which included check #'s 42529 – 42538; Manual Checks dated November 2022 in the amount of \$90,366.19, which included*

check #'s 42391 – 42408, and 42420 – 42433; Manual Checks dated December 2022 in the amount of \$207,824.96, which included check #'s 42434 – 42455, and #'s 42466 – 42471; the Manual Checks dated January 2023 in the amount of \$157,588.01, which included check #'s 42472 – 42485, and check #'s 42500 - 42517; the Budget Report and General Journal Entries through November 30, 2022. This was followed by a second from Trustee Gast.

First Vice President Johnson called for a roll call vote. The results as follows:

|                              |   |     |
|------------------------------|---|-----|
| Trustee Arbuckle             | - | yes |
| Trustee Gast                 | - | yes |
| Trustee Augustson            | - | yes |
| First Vice President Johnson | - | yes |

The vote was 4 – 0. Motion carried.

Agenda item number seven e. Report on Cash and Investments. Director of Administration and Personnel Fox reported that, as of February 15, 2023, the NOW checking account balance is \$214,359; Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance is \$226,275; the Illinois Funds Money Market Fund balance is \$93,408. First Farmers Bank Money Market Passbook account balance is \$249,293; Central Illinois Bank Money Market passbook account balance is \$246,103. The Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) balance is \$7,156. First Saving Bank NOW account balance is \$49,017; the NOW account at Catlin Bank balance is \$249,695. The 3 mo. CD [Whittaker Funds] at Iroquois Federal at .05% interest balance is \$20,562; the 3 mo. CD [Wagner Funds] at Iroquois Federal invested at .05% interest balance .00; 3-month certificate of deposit at Longview Bank at .15% interest remains at \$250,000. The 2-year CD, with 6-month option acquired at Illinois National Bank remains at \$250,189.

The grand total of cash and investments for February 15, 2023: \$1,856,057. This compares to \$1,841,580. in February of 2022.

No comments or questions.

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

Item eight a. Discussion/approval of Fishery Management Agreement between IDNR and VCCD.

Executive Director Pasquale reported a new agreement with Illinois Department of Natural Resources needed to be signed. This was mailed to the Trustees for review. The agreement enables IDNR to work with the VCCD for the enhancement of public sport fishing. The District bodies of water included in the agreement are: Adrian's Pond, Campground Pond, Highland Pond, Horseshoe Pond, Lake Mingo, Nature Center Pond, Lake Vermilion, Visitor Center Pond, and Willow Creek (Lake).

An agreement has not been signed since the 1980's, and the previous agreement did not include the ponds at Forest Glen Preserve.

Trustee Gast inquired about the paragraph in the agreement concerning the fee for fishing; does this impact the VCCD Boat Decals?

Executive Director Pasquale responded the VCCD decals are required for boats, canoes, kayaks, and jet skis, there is no specific fishing fee for District waters.

First Vice President Johnson commented on the stocking of ponds and lakes; the biologists research the fish by shocking the water. The number of pounds of fish in an acre are determined before stocking the pond/lake.

With no other questions or comments, *Trustee Arbuckle moved to approve the Cooperative Fishery Management Agreement between Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Vermilion County Conservation District. This was followed by a second from Trustee Gast. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item eight b. Presentation of preliminary Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 tentative budget. Executive Director Pasquale gave the highlights of the preliminary budget verbally to the Trustees. At the March 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees Meeting, the budget will be presented to the Trustees to approve to go on public display for a 30-day period.

Revenue budgeted is \$3M; expenses \$\$2.5M; capital improvements \$800,000. There are five trucks on order from 2022, for a total of estimated \$218,000, which explains the deficit budget. There is \$1M in dedicated KRT funds that has not been invoiced from IDOT that will be reimbursed by IDNR.

Major capital improvement expenditures may include: additional vehicles, mowers, road and parking lot work, moving the Kennekuk Visitor Center Display Room to the Education Center, demolition of the Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center, replacement of Heron County Park Boardwalk decking, replacement of the remaining old docks on Lake Vermilion, Forest Glen Observation Tower repairs, new well at Forest Glen Preserve, more funds toward the Gannett Outdoor Education Center remodel, and metal siding at the Laury Barn – Kennekuk.

The income budget figure is difficult to project, recently due to Illinois Personal Property Replacement Tax Allocation collections.

Executive Director Pasquale increased the tax levy allocation for the Audit Funds.

There were no comments or questions from the Trustees at this time.

There was no executive session.

Agenda item nine. Report from the Executive Director. Each Trustee was given a copy of the VCCD Fuel Report for January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022. The total fuel usage for both diesel and unleaded for the District was 11,298.559 gallons. It was detailed down by vehicle, including mowers and tractors.

The Trustees also had a traffic and people counter report for May 2021 – January 2023. The Forest Glen, Lake Vermilion and Kennekuk data represents vehicles; Heron and Kickapoo Rail Trail data represents people. Executive Director Pasquale interpreted the data and explained that the Lake Vermilion counts for June – August 2021 were skewed due to the placement of the counter. It picked up traffic from Denmark Road in addition to Lake Vermilion Park.

Each Trustee was given Forest Glen Maple Syrup. The trees were tapped toward the end of January, and staff has been very busy collecting sap and making syrup. There were about 470 spiles placed. Approximately 50 gallons has been made so far; the record for one year is 158 gallons. The new fuel oil evaporator is very efficient, processing batches in 3 hours. The original wood fire evaporator took about 7 hours; the old evaporator transitioned to fuel oil took 4 hours.

There will be a maple syrup event, Maple Syrup Fest, this year on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Due to the Gannett Outdoor Education Center remodel, there will not be enough seating for everyone. This year's event is renamed "Maple Syrup Fest" and will feature a French toast and sausage basket with 6 sticks of French toast, 3 sausage links and a 2-ounce portion cup of Forest Glen Maple Syrup for \$6.00. Activities will be offered free of charge, including a guided hike, tapping activity, and Sycamore Hollow Nature Center activities for children. The Sugar Bush will be processing sap and the Pioneer Homestead Cabin will also be open. This event requires less volunteer help and is expected to be more efficient regarding logistics. Paper products used will be made of compostable plant-based material.

Gannett Education Center remodel updates included: construction of the outside walls, trusses completed, roof decking, synthetic felt installation, and most of the metal roof is on; wall sheeting is on and the next step will be wrapping.

First Vice President Johnson asked about the window installation.

Executive Director Pasquale answered that Nick Jeurissen and Justus Newman removed several replacement windows from the Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center that will be used in the Gannett remodel. They will need to have frames built but will save several thousand dollars.

Associate Director of Administration and Personnel Fox reported that the VCCF Sportsman's Banquet will be Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, the evening before the Maple Syrup Fest.

Executive Director Pasquale invited the Trustees to attend with a guest, the VCCD will pay for their tickets.

Staff Reports will be sent to the Trustees.

There were no more questions. This concluded the Report from the Executive Director.

Agenda item ten. President's and Trustee's Comments.

Trustee Arbuckle asked for the KRT updates.

Executive Director Pasquale did not have any updates, except there has been a new state grant manager assigned.

First Vice President Johnson queried about the Champaign County side of the KRT.

Executive Director Pasquale stated that they received approval to cross the tracks at St. Joseph. The Ogden section is completed.

Trustee Augustson had no comment.

This concluded President & Trustee Comments.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *Trustee Gast moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. All in favor by acclamation, meeting adjourned.*

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Michael H. Gast  
Secretary  
VCCD Board of Trustee