

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

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

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023
4:30 p.m.
Kennekuk Environmental Education Center
Cellular One Classroom
Danville, IL 61834**

First Vice President Johnson called the July Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order and called for the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Agenda item number six, Roll Call indicated the following:

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

Trustee(s) Absent: None

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

Staff members present: None.

First order of business, agenda item number seven, 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 July 19, 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 eight. Approval of the Minutes from the May 17, 2023, Regular Meeting. Trustee Augustson noted that the Pledge to the American Flag occurred twice in the minutes. The second sentence will be removed. *Trustee Gast moved to approve the May 17, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arbuckle. All in favor by acclamation, motion to approve the minutes carried.*

Item number nine. Audience Comments. There were none.

Agenda item number ten, the Treasurer's Report. First Vice President Johnson asked if there were any questions on items ten a through f. This included bills, checks and budget report.

Trustee Gast questioned check #42683 in the amount of \$73,482.16, to Birkey's for a Kubota F2690 and a Kubota M7060.

Executive Director Pasquale responded that a mower and tractor were purchased.

Trustee Gast asked about check #42696 in the amount of \$4,831.18 to Vermilion County Treasurer for property taxes.

Executive Director Pasquale explained that farm ground the District owns is not tax exempt. There was a parcel of land given to the District by the Foundation that should have been tax exempt. The property is currently going through the tax-exempt process.

Question regarding check #42712 in the amount of \$24,413.60 to Hendricks Warner Contracting; check #42719 to Play Power LT Farmington in the amount of \$19,626.50; check #42720 in the amount of \$4,903.50 to Sugar Bush Supplies.

Executive Director Pasquale responded that check #42712 was for field tile at Kennekuk; check #42719 for playground equipment will be reimbursed by the VCCD; check #42720 was for the new evaporator and Sugar Bush Building remodel. The new evaporator creates more steam; therefore, a better system needed to be implemented to prevent water-steam damage to the building. There are more improvements planned for the Sugar Bush. The new evaporator is much more efficient and the current building does not allow for that to escape.

Trustee Gast inquired as to three separate checks, #42753, #42754, and #42755 to Moreman and Son Construction for campground asphalt.

Executive Director Pasquale responded that the District usually breaks down work by project and how the work was done. Sometimes after work is completed, a decision is made to do more.

With no other comments or questions, Trustee Arbuckle moved to approve the Manual Checks dated May 2023 in the amount of \$114,456.11, which included check #'s 42649 – 42665, and 42679 – 42696; Voucher Checks dated June 22, 2023 in the amount of \$13,920.37, which included check #'s 42722 – 42744; Manual Checks dated June 2023 in the amount of \$241,494.97, which included check #'s 42697 – 42721, and check #'s 42745 - 42757; Voucher Checks dated July 20, 2023 in the amount of \$13,988.20, which included check #'s 42790 - 42797. 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 to approve Treasurer's Report carried.

Agenda item number ten g. Report on Cash and Investments. Director of Administration and Personnel Fox was not present. Executive Director Pasquale stated that the report will be read aloud at this meeting and all future meetings. He reported as of July 19, 2023, the NOW checking account balance is \$208,219. Illinois Funds Investment Pool balance is \$242,689. The Illinois Funds Money Market Fund balance is \$245,292. First Farmers Bank Money Market Passbook account balance is \$248,623. Central Illinois Bank Money Market passbook account balance is zero. The Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) balance is \$6,845. First Saving Bank NOW account balance is \$249,021. The NOW account at Catlin Bank [now bought by Fisher National Bank] balance is \$246,759. The 3 mo. CD [Whittaker Funds] at Iroquois Federal at 3.0% interest balance remains at \$20,562; and the 3 mo. CD at Iroquois Federal at 3.03% interest is \$226,683. The 13-mo. CD at Illinois National at 4.02% interest is \$150,000; 2-year CD, with 6-month option acquired at Illinois National Bank is now \$100,000. Longview Bank 3-mo. CD at 4.25% has a balance of \$250,000.

The grand total of cash and investments for May 17, 2023: \$1,583,405. This compares to \$1,779,230 in May of 2022.

Central Illinois Bank funds were moved to Old National Checking Account; Catlin Bank is now Fisher National Bank. The first Real Estate Tax Allocation, \$759,240.35, was received on July 3, 2023. These funds were disbursed to Illinois Funds Money Market, First Saving Bank, Fisher National Bank, and

Longview Bank in a CD. Illinois National Bank CD matured on July 12, 2023 and was moved into two CD's: 13 months and 24 months. The Iroquois Federal CD matured and was renewed for another 3 months.

There were no questions or comments.

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

Item eleven a. Election of VCCD Board of Trustees Officers for 2023-2024. First Vice President Johnson stated that the election occurs at the next Board Meeting after the term of a Trustee ends in June. However, a new Trustee to fill Doug Staske's vacancy has not been appointed by the Vermilion County Board. Officers may be elected now, or after a new Trustee has been appointed.

After a brief discussion regarding past history of office rotation, it was the consensus of the Board to elect officers today. The current slate of officers: First Vice President Johnson, Second Vice President Augustson, Secretary Gast, Treasurer Arbuckle.

Trustee Gast moved to elect Randy Johnson as President; Jessica Augustson as First Vice President, Michael Gast as Secretary, Mike Arbuckle as Treasurer, leaving the office of Second Vice President open.

Randy Johnson agreed to accept the office of President; and the others agreed as stated.

This was followed by a second from Trustee Augustson. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

There was no executive session.

Agenda item twelve. Report from the Executive Director. Executive Director Pasquale reported the Dynegy Consent Order Settlement Award contained \$200,000 to be paid to the VCCF, expensed at Kennekuk County Park only. He met with Vermilion County State's Attorney Jacqueline Lacey and VCC Foundation Directors regarding the next step required to obtain these funds. The funds will be paid to the Vermilion County Conservation Foundation. Executive Director Pasquale submitted a prioritized project list for the expenditure of the award. The list was given to the VCCF Directors, and included in the VCCD Board of Trustees packet. The six projects: installation of solar power generating systems; purchase of no till seed drill; remodel Kennekuk Education Center Storage Room into a display room; install EV charging station; Bunker Hill Historia Area Building repairs; purchase of a commercial playset with amenities. *See attached.*

Executive Director Pasquale explained details and answered the Trustee's questions about the projects. Since the settlement was due to EPA violation, he focused mainly on environmental projects. This list was given to Dynegy, who wrote up the proposal which would be submitted to the State's Attorney and Attorney General for approval. The Prairie Rivers Network will also receive a copy. It is assumed that once approved, the VCCD will purchase and bid out for approval the select project(s). A summary of expenses will be given to the VCCF for reimbursement.

Work at the Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center continues, preparing for demolition. The furnace was removed and much interior material was salvaged. The District is working around Thomas Excavation's schedule regarding the demolition date.

Damage from the June 29, 2023, storm was great with regard to trees and trails, with Forest Glen and Kennekuk sustaining the most. Staff worked approximately 350-man hours clearing debris, cutting trees, and clearing trails. These hours will be turned in as a storm debris removal claim to insurance. Unfortunately, the trees cannot be used for firewood, there isn't enough staff to cut and split it, and the District cannot offer it to the public due to insurance liability issues.

The fleet vehicles are still not here. However, there is a production date of the second week of August for 2 of the electric trucks, with one on material hold. They may be here in September. The 3 gas models have no production date, so are still pending. Fleet orders are done through "Sourcewell". They perform all the bidding so the VCCD doesn't have to go through a long bidding process.

The second set of playground equipment was delivered to Forest Glen. He had hoped to construct it by the end of July, but the storm and damage took priority and pushed the project back.

The Forest Glen campground asphalt project is finished. The next project will be laying asphalt on the drive at the Ranger Station Office as well as the parking lot there.

This year's Holiday Lights at Kennekuk will not include the displays with music synchronization. Staff was not able work with the programmer and Rita Brooks. The District was allowed to keep some of the lighted displays, but they will not be synced to music as before. Those were given back to Rita Brooks. Executive Director Pasquale has been purchasing new ones to add for this year's display and Holiday Open House.

The Forest Glen Whitetail Archery Hunt drawing was held July 17th. Tickets are purchased at \$75 apiece for a one-week hunt in one of the four designated zones. There were 52 spots available and 37 tickets were sold. Open spots are available after the draw for \$100 each. There are two sealed bid zones inside the park available for three prime hunting weeks during the season. The final dollar total collected was \$13,542.00.

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

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

Trustee Arbuckle inquired about the KRT River to Rail event.

Executive Director Pasquale responded that it will be the same routes as the previous year, except the start will be at the White Oak Barn, Kennekuk.

Trustee Gast asked about the Meteor Shower Viewing event at Forest Glen.

Amy Steeples explained that it was a free event, open to the public to come and go, 9 p.m. – 11 p.m., Meadowlark Shelter, Forest Glen. Brenna Karcher will be there to give programs on constellations, and a telescope will be available for viewing.

Trustee Augustson had no comment.

First Vice President Johnson asked about the *Cheeseburgers and Fun* even that used to be in August.

Executive Director Pasquale replied that the Foundation Directors decided it was too much work for the benefits. They did not make enough money to justify having that type of event.

This concluded President & Trustee Comments.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *Trustee Arbuckle moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Augustson. All in favor by acclamation, meeting adjourned.*

Michael H. Gast
Secretary
VCCD Board of Trustees