

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

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

**Wednesday, April 15, 2015
4:30 p.m.
Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Bogart called the April 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: Nikki A. Bogart
Allen E. Cooke
Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers

Trustee(s) Absent: B. Dirk Porter

In attendance were Ken Konsis, Executive Director; Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director and Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary.

Staff members present included Kim Fox, Lorna Konsis, Mike Kotcher, Charlie Rhoden and Gary Tyrl.

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

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

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the March 18, 2015, Regular Meeting. President Bogart asked for any corrections to the minutes.

With no corrections, Trustee Cooke moved to approve the March 18, 2015, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item number six a. Audience Comments. There were no comments.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report. President Bogart 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 March 2015 in the amount of \$10,343.13, which included check #'s 33091 - 33114; the Manual Checks for March 2015 in the amount of \$31,349.27 which included check #'s 33009 – 33026 and #'s 33052 - 33073; the General Journal Entries for March 31, 2015; and the March 2015 Budget Report; manual ck #39246 from February 2015 Manual Check Listing and ck#32946 from March 2015 Manual Check Listing . This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers.*

With no more questions, President Bogart requested a roll call vote. The results:

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Myers	-	yes
Trustee Cooke	-	abstain
President Bogart	-	yes

The vote was 3–0, with 1 abstention. Treasurer's Report, items seven: a – d were approved. Motion carried.

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported the grand total of cash and investments as of April 15, 2015, is \$568,020.00, which compares to \$446,560.00, at the same time last year.

With no discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the April 15, 2015, Report on Cash and Investments as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke.*

President Bogart requested a roll call voice vote. The results:

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Cooke	-	yes
Trustee Myers	-	yes
President Bogart	-	yes

The vote was 4–0. Treasurer's Report, item seven e was approved. Motion carried.

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

Item eight a. Presentation From First Midstate Inc. Executive Director Konsis introduced Dave Pistorius, Senior Vice President, First Midstate Inc., Bloomington, IL. Dave stated that First Midstate is an investment banking firm, with over 50 years of experience, specializing in customizing, formulating, voting and marketing of Illinois municipal bonds. He gave the Trustees a folder of information and explained bonding options and debt certificates. Included in this packet were the V.C.C.D. tax rates by fund, for the last three years. First Midstate Inc. offers guidance with market timing and project deadlines.

After the presentation, Trustees asked questions and were given appropriate answers. Questions on how the District would be issuing payments, pledging, and type of projects were addressed. The Trustees thanked Dave for his presentation and will continue to consider bonding.

Agenda item eight b. IMRF Long Term Care Outreach and Education Program. Executive Director Konsis gave details regarding an optional long-term care insurance program offered to IMRF members and retirees. This program pays for services not typically covered by traditional health insurance or Medicare. It is at no cost to the employer, paid for by the employee only.

After a brief discussion, *Trustee Cooke moved to opt-in to the IMRF Long-Term Care insurance program and offer it to V.C.C.D. employees at their cost. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item eight c. Discussion of Crappie Catch Limits and Size Limits. Executive Director Konsis stated that this change was brought to the District's attention to increase crappie population; after meeting with local fishermen, their recommendations were to decrease crappie creel limit from 25 to 12, and increase size limit from 9" to 10".

Executive Director Konsis had presented the recommendation to Mike Garthaus, District Fisheries Biologist. Mike was in favor of reducing the limit to 10 or 15 per day, keeping the 9" limit. The Division would never approve a 12 per day creel limit, suggesting a 10 or 15 creel limit. However, 10 per day could upset people because that would drastically reduce their harvest. The V.C.C.D. Board needs approve any regulation, which Mike would submit for internal review. Any administrative rule change needs to be submitted by May 15, and if approved, the regulation would start the next April 1.

The trustees discussed this at length.

With no further discussion or questions, *Trustee Jaynes moved to change the V.C.C.D. crappie creel limit to ten (10) per day, with a 9-inch limit. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor, motion carried.*

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President Jamie Pasquale reported the next meeting of the IACD is April 16, 2015; Starved Rock State Park. He and the Executive Director Konsis are too busy to attend, but plan to be present at the July meeting.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis reported the Foundation appointed Heather Wheaton to finish the 3-year term vacated by Cheryl Vergin. Heather served on the Sportsman's Banquet Committee.

At the April meeting, Foundation Directors voted to increase the size of their Board of Directors from twelve to no more than seventeen. New worthy applicants will be asked to attend regular meetings and participate in Foundation activities for a period of at least six months. These applicants will be "Associate Directors" in the interim.

The Foundation voted to apply for an Illinois Clean Energy (ICE) grant that is only available to 501 (C) 3 organizations, previously in receipt of ICE funding. This would pertain only to the Busby-Meyer Wildlife Area. The grant is a 3 – 1 match funding up to \$21,000. If awarded, the grant would be used for: prairie burns, herbicides, contracted mowing, and

drainage upgrades. It cannot be used for equipment, but the Foundation portion of funds may.

The Foundation will have a table at Saturday's Volunteer Fair.

The Sportsman's Banquet financial report was included in the Trustee's notebook. Net profit was \$22,030.35, dedicated to the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.

Trustee Myers added that the Foundation Board thoroughly deliberated changing the Board size. There were four applicants for one vacancy, and in the end, did not wish to discourage anyone. Therefore, the Associate Director title was added.

This concluded the V.C.C.F. Report. There were no questions.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis stated that the 37th Annual IAPD Legislative Conference information was included in the Trustee's notebooks. Currently, IAPD is concerned with fund sweeps, minimum wage proposal, amendment of the Forest Preserve and Conservation District Act, and a Local Government Consolidation Bill proposed by Representative Franks from McHenry County.

This concluded the IAPD Report. There were no questions.

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing Committee Report. Trustee Myers reported that the committee met on April 8, 2015, at 4:30 p.m.; they adopted a committee goal: Revenue Producing & Expense Reduction. Sixteen ideas were brought to the meeting and discussed. Five solid recommendations will be determined and brought before the V.C.C.D. Board. Committee members Lara Darling, Kim Fox, Jamie Pasquale, Trustee Jaynes, Susan Biggs Warner, Gary Wilford, and Trustee Myers will be meeting once a month, one week prior to the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees Meeting.

The Trustees were presented with a V.C.C.D. Prioritized Capital Purchase and Project List; 1 – 30 items. President Bogart asked that the Trustees be given dollar amounts for each individual item. The list was reviewed by the Trustees.

Road repair was the number one item; Trustee Jaynes remarked that repairs to the Willow Creek Dam Spillway at Forest Glen were of great concern to him. Trustee Myers added that the dam could be lost with a couple of major rain events. Superintendent Charlie Rhoden stated that beavers create a plug for the spillway, which raises the pond water level. It does take a few days for the water level to decrease; if we would get 2 -3 inches of rain during this period, we would lose the dam and pond.

Trustee Jaynes inquired if the Willow Creek project could be moved up.

Executive Director Konsis replied that it could. Associate Director Pasquale remarked that the top ten items were of major importance. Item ten, the Lake Mingo spillway gates had been on the priority list for many years too.

Trustee Jaynes suggested distributing this list to the public to see if someone would want to sponsor a project or purchase.

Trustee Myers plans to bring this list to the V.C.C. Foundation to sponsor or a fundraising project. At this time, the main focus of the Foundation is completion of Phases I and II of the Kennekuk Education Center; but some of the projects \$10,000 or less could be considered.

Trustee Cooke mentioned roofing projects.

Discussion ensued.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Agenda item twelve. Report From the Education Supervisor. Amy Steeples began by reporting that Outdoor School is halfway through. Susan Biggs Warner is filling in as an Outdoor School Instruction due to Mike Kotcher's promotion to Park Superintendent at Kennekuk.

Executive Director Konsis introduced Mike Kotcher as the Kennekuk Park Superintendent; and Gary Tyrl the Kennekuk Park Foreman, who were in the audience.

Amy then invited the Trustees to attend the Outdoor School program, Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at either park.

There were no other questions or comments from the Trustees; this concluded the report for the Education Supervisor.

Agenda item thirteen: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that four employees have accepted new positions within the District. Besides Mike and Gary Tyrl, Jeremy Parish is Forest Glen Park Foreman, and Jeff Lete is the Superintendent for Heron and Lake Vermilion County Parks. It is a busy time of year, preparing for the recreational season.

Turkey hunting season has begun at Kennekuk. The park allows both turkey and mushroom hunting, with no problems.

The Lake Vermilion Docks have ice damage. Associate Director Pasquale is seeking estimates.

Trustee Cooke has received complaints regarding the Lake Vermilion outhouse smell and condition.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that they pump the outhouses there three times per year, but it is still a problem that they are overused. He will report this to Jeff Lete, new Superintendent.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item fourteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began with the Kickapoo Rail Trail update. A meeting was held March 24th with Fehr-Graham, IDNR, IDOT, and CCFPD. Differences between IDOT and IDNR have been resolved and Fehr-Graham is contracted for design. IDOT will handle the letting and bid award. Construction now will not take place until 2016.

Base cabinets are installed at the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center. The building continues to be used as a meeting place for several organizations; a Volunteer Fair will be held here on April 18th. Building hosts for weekend staffing of the Bunker Hill Area buildings, the Kennekuk Education Center, Forest Glen Nature Center and Homestead Cabin are needed, as well as other areas.

The meeting with Terrapin Productions has been rescheduled for May 5th and 6th.

Special events include: WWII Reenactment on May 2 – 3 at Kennekuk, Hob Nob Market will take place May 8 – 9 at the Bunker Hill Historic Area.

The District accepted a donation of a golf cart from Gordon Thoennes, to be used at special events, Michael Reddy Arboretum, and the V.C.C. Foundation Memorial Forest, etc.

Recent memorials in honor of Doris Heiser will be dedicated to the renovation of the “House in the Woods”, at Forest Glen. Once completed, this will be used as a rental building for hunters and families overnight.

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 20, 2015; 4:30 p.m.; Kennekuk Environmental Education Center. Agenda items will include approval of the 2015-2016 budget.

There were no questions or comments.

Agenda item fifteen: President’s and Trustee’s Comments.

Trustee Myers had no comment.

Trustee Jaynes had no comment.

Trustee Cooke had no comment.

President Bogart has no comment.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Cooke moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. Meeting adjourned.*

Perry A. Jaynes
Secretary
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees