

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

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

**Wednesday, September 17, 2014
4:30 p.m.**

**Kennekuk Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Bogart called the September Regular Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order at 4:44 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
Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers

Trustee(s) Absent: B. Dirk Porter

In attendance were Ken Konsis, Executive Director; Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director; Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary. Also present: Jeannie Cooke, Danville Convention and Visitors Bureau; Sheriff Pat Hartshorn, Vermilion County Sheriff's Department; and John Hott, IDNR.

Staff members present included Susan Biggs Warner, Lorna Konsis, Charlie Rhoden, and Gary Wilford.

President Bogart stated that she misspoke at the August meeting regarding the date of the appointment of a new trustee to the V.C.C.D. Board. The new trustee could be chosen at the October 14th Vermilion County Board Meeting and could attend the Vermilion County Conservation District October 15, 2014 Regular Board Meeting.

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

Trustee Myers moved to add items 6a. Audience Comments and 6b. Phases of the Moon Discussion. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion to approve the agenda as amended carried.

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the August 20, 2014, Regular Meeting. President Bogart asked for any corrections to the minutes

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the August 20, 2014, 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. President Bogart invited those present to address the Board.

John Hott, Kickapoo Land Manager, commented that during the Phases of the Moon event he observed, "Not that much damage". Some of the overflow campers when they closed Kennekuk that came to the Kickapoo campgrounds to spend the night, and the park was actually cleaner when they left! He also attended the festival and found that festival goers were friendly and polite. He lives approximately a mile from Kennekuk, and could hear the music, but it was not obnoxious. As a land manager he heartily supports the event and hopes to see it continue.

Jeannie Cooke, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, added that she wanted to commend the area officials on how the lines on Henning Road were handled. The Sheriff's Department, Mayor Eisenhauer maintained order, and got communications up and buses running to take care of the traffic problem.

Area resident, Marley Capello was recognized and acknowledged that she was not happy with the event held at Kennekuk and during the Wednesday and Thursday traffic lines on Henning Road. She lives two miles south of the entrance and was bothered by the music heard throughout the night; and the festival goers waiting to get in used her yard as a garbage can and bathroom. They also were "partying on the road, music blaring, drinking and smoking". She stated there were issues traveling to her home, she felt disrespected and these issues should have addressed prior to the event, it was a major inconvenience. Once Henning Road was cleared, there were no issues.

President Bogart addressed Ms. Capello and apologized.

Jeannie Cooke sympathized with her circumstances and stated that the organizers are working on the problems for the future.

President Bogart asked about a second entrance for Kennekuk. Executive Director Konsis responded that is being discussed.

Sheriff Hartshorn stated that when people from all across the country converge in a strange place only to find that they cannot get in, they do not know what to do. An emergency plan for rain should have been put together to solve the Henning Road traffic jam. It was an unfortunate situation brought on by the rain. He reported that there were no accidents and no one operated a vehicle drunk. No drunk driving arrests were made, nor even reports of people driving drunk. There were some other arrests made, however.

Ms. Capello asked what the District received from this event, what did they have to pay for?

Executive Director Konsis answered that the District received \$50,000, plus rock that was brought in and per contract, organizers are responsible for paying to repair roads and grounds.

Sheriff Hartshorn responded that Phases promoters also paid for county deputies' duty, which was actually less than expected; and there was no cost to the county for their services. They had private security who handled minor issues. In regard to medical services, approximately 200 people were treated of which a dozen were transported to the hospital.

Trustee Jaynes commented that Red Lobster reported this festival was good for their business.

Bob Arnholt, in the audience, remarked that this was one of the few festivals held here where businesses were really positively impacted economically.

President Bogart appreciated the type of music the festival offered, and would like to see this genre continue.

John Hott mentioned the Vermilion County Speedway noise causes campers to leave his campground.

In conclusion, President Bogart thanked everyone for their time and comments; they will be taken into consideration. She will be reviewing the disaster plan for Phases of the Moon.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report. President Bogart asked if there were any questions on items seven a. through d.

Trustee Myers questioned manual check #32567 for \$70,960.18 to Dimond Bros. for IPARKS Commercial pkg. renewal.

Executive Director Konsis answered that was for General Liability Insurance for the parks.

President Bogart inquired about manual check #'s 32505, 32506, 32507, and 32508 written to the four bands scheduled for the Cheeseburgers & Fun event.

Executive Director Konsis responded that the Foundation does not have the money up front until the event concludes, so the V.C.C.D. pays and the Foundation reimburses the District. He suggested to Trustee Myers that money be taken from investments so that the District does not have to pay the bands, who expect payment the day of the event.

Trustee Myers understands the situation and will address this issue, but does question what is to be done with farm income, to the Foundation securing notes for example to Kickapoo Rail Trail? If we do not have a reciprocal agreement, does that hamper what the Foundation is able to do for the District? The "agreement" seems to be acceptable to go from the Foundation to the District, but not the District to the Foundation.

President Bogart reiterated that she does not like Foundation expenses paid by the V.C.C.D. then reimbursed back to them by the Foundation. The District money is taxpayer dollars.

Discussion ensued.

Trustee Myers will present this issue at the October Foundation meeting.

With no other questions or comments, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the Current List of Bills from August 2014 in the amount of \$16,736.85, which included check #'s 32591 - 32624; the Manual Checks for August 2014 in the amount of \$429,020.57 which included check #'s 32493- 32514 and #'s 32554- 32577; the General Journal Entries for August 31, 2014; and the August 2014 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers.*

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

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|------------------|---|-----|
| Trustee Jaynes | - | yes |
| Trustee Myers | - | yes |
| President Bogart | - | yes |

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

Trustee Myers asked if it had been considered to record the budget to establish a monthly variance number; instead of comparing year-to-date to amount budgeted. Could it be broken down to what we expect to spend up to a given date?

President Bogart responded that while she would also be glad to see it done that way, due to the seasonal environment, it would be very difficult.

Agenda item number seven e. The grand total of cash and investments as of September 17, 2014, is \$413,115.00, which compares to \$483,140.00, at the same time last year.

President Bogart asked the Trustees to review the report and gave time for questions.

With no questions, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the Report on Cash and Investments for September 17, 2014. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers.*

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

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|------------------|---|-----|
| Trustee Jaynes | - | yes |
| Trustee Myers | - | yes |
| President Bogart | - | yes |

The vote was 3–0. Treasurer's Report, item seven e was approved. Motion carried.

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

Item eight a. Open Sealed Bids for 2014-2015 CPA Services. Executive Director Konsis sent specifications to two CPA firms that were interested in bidding last year. One bid was received.

The bid from Crowder CPA's Ltd. bid a range of \$5,400 to \$5,950 as a base; plus any extra work, such as a field work assistant \$55/hr.; field work manager \$60/hr., supervisor \$70/hr., and partner \$85/hr.

Brief discussion ensued.

President Bogart affirmed that the budgeted amount was \$6,000.

With no more discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve and accept the bid as presented from Crowder CPA's Ltd. for audit services for 2014-2015. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers.*

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

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|------------------|---|-----|
| Trustee Jaynes | - | yes |
| Trustee Myers | - | yes |
| President Bogart | - | yes |

The vote was 3–0. CPA service bid was approved.

Agenda item eight b. Approve Engineer Specifications for Kickapoo Rail Trail. Executive Director Konsis explained that because of the \$2.2M grant, services must be bid. This is the same as Champaign County Forest Preserve has done.

John Hott was recognized and reported that IDNR has found dollars that can be used for a connecting trail from Kickapoo to Kennekuk. Currently, the plan does *not* include this connection.

Trustee Myers moved to approve the engineering specifications as presented for the Kickapoo Rail Trail. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.

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

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|------------------|---|-----|
| Trustee Myers | - | yes |
| Trustee Jaynes | - | yes |
| President Bogart | - | yes |

The vote was 3–0. Kickapoo Rail Trail engineering specifications were approved.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President, Jamie Pasquale reported that the next IACD Meetings would be October 16, 2014, at Starved Rock State Park.

This concluded the IACD Report. There were no questions.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C.D. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that the next meeting will be October 3rd, 9:00 a.m., at the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.

There were no questions.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis had nothing new to report.

Agenda item ten: There was no executive session.

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

Agenda item twelve. Report From the Education Supervisor. Gary Wilford reported that the Outdoor School program began September 15th at Forest Glen, September 16th at Kennekuk and presented the trustees with a copy of the workbook.

He commented that while Phases of the Moon was good for the County and profitable for the District, he wanted the V.C.C.D. Board to stay focused on what a conservation district is supposed to do. He believed that manpower and resources should be used mainly for the betterment of the land and the public's access to nature. He hopes that the District does not spend a large amount of time preparing for events and festivals such as Phases of the Moon. It does get people to the park to enjoy, but may not be in the same way a conservation district was meant to be used. District land is where people come to learn about nature and this land needs to continue to be conserved for natural areas.

Many research projects continue in the parks, and he reported on the study of Snake Root plant and its effect on local dairy farm products.

Executive Director Konsis added that some areas were exempt from use by the festival organizers, and the areas that were used were carefully prepared and delicate areas were conserved.

Gary's main concern is the grassland habitat for snakes, turtles, frogs, etc. He explained that some of the areas will benefit from the management exercised in preparation for the festival.

There were no more questions from the Trustees; this concluded the report from the education supervisor.

Agenda item thirteen: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that along with preparations for Phases of the Moon, Kennekuk is getting ready for waterfowl hunting season. The drawing for this will be later this month. This concluded the Associate Director's Report. There were no questions.

Agenda item fourteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis reported that preliminary attendance records indicated that there were 7,500 paid ticket holders and approximately 10,000 people on-site for Phases of the Moon festival. He was impressed with the festival and type of entertainment offered. As discussed previously the

rain was the major problem. Clean up operations are ongoing, with trash pick-up, stage and sanctuary area removal just about completed. The organizers have contracted repair work on the road shoulders, rock removal, and rut fill-in and area re-seeding.

Upcoming events will be Pioneer Craft Day on September 19th at Forest Glen; Civil War Days on September 25-26 at Kennekuk; and Haunted Happenings at Kennekuk on October 25th.

Executive Director Konsis will speak at the Business Women of Vermilion County on September 18; attend the Oakwood Village Council Meeting on October 13; and attend the IACD Meeting on October 16th.

The next V.C.C.D. Board Meeting will be held October 15, 2014, 4:30 p.m. at the Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve.

Trustee Jaynes asked if there were informational signs for Phases of the Moon on Interstate 74. If so, that may have alleviated some traffic problems.

Executive Director Konsis didn't know, but could bring that to the attention of the organizers at an assessment meeting.

President Bogart commented that communications put out through Face Book helped.

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

Trustee Myers stated that there should be a cohesive understanding of the V.C.C.D.'s Mission Statement. A cost benefit analysis of some kind should exist; how do we measure outcomes? Most measure Phases of the Moon as a great benefit to all, but at what costs?

Trustee Jaynes added that perhaps Trustees could attend some of the meetings, not to micromanage, just to be informed.

The Directors present were in agreement, and pledged to look into designing a policy addressing this concern regarding future event inquiries.

President Bogart was grateful to the District Staff; during her attendance at the event, no one she encountered was rude – nothing but polite. She thought that District Staff handled the event well.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Jaynes moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Myers. Meeting adjourned.*

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