

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

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

**Wednesday, February 17, 2016
4:30 p.m.
Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Myers called the February 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: Allen E. Cooke
Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers

Trustee(s) Absent: Nikki A. Bogart
B. Dirk Porter

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

Staff members present included Lorna Konsis, Charles Rhoden, and Gary Tyrl.

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

President Myers asked for amendments to the agenda. With no corrections; *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the January 20, 2016, Regular Meeting. President Myers asked for any corrections to the minutes.

With no corrections, *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the January 20, 2016, Regular Meeting Minutes. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five a. was the Approval of the Minutes from the January 20, 2016, Executive Session. President Myers asked for any corrections to the minutes.

With no corrections, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the January 20, 2016, Executive Session Minutes. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. 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 Myers asked if there were any questions on items seven a through d.

With no questions or comments, *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the Current List of Bills from January 2016 in the amount of \$10,479.42, which included check #'s 34952 -34968; the Manual Checks for January 2016 in the amount of \$36,125.73 which included check #'s 34793 – 34818, 34839 – 34844, 34861 – 34876, and 34896 – 34900; the General Journal Entries for January 31, 2016; and the January 2016 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

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

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

The vote was 3 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported the grand total of cash and investments as of February 17, 2016, was \$700,050.00. This compares to \$612,483.00 from the previous year. He asked if there were any questions from the trustees regarding any of the investments.

Executive Director Konsis stated that, on the January 2016 Report on Cash & Investments, the CPPRT amount of \$30,000.00 received was omitted in error; now included in the February report.

The IPARKS dock damage funding from the insurance for \$7,680.00 is on this year's budget. The balance will be paid by the District, and then will be reimbursed.

With no further discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the February 17, 2016 Report on Cash and Investments as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

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

Item eight a. Consideration of Application for Alcohol Sales. Executive Director Konsis explained this was a request from Scott Snelling for the Hobnob Market event. The \$25 fee is paid.

With no discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the application for alcohol sales from Scott Snelling during the Hobnob Market event. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item eight b. Update on 2016-2017 Budget. On the revenue side, Executive Director Konsis reported that Real Estate Tax dollars will be \$49,000 over last year; totaling \$661,000.00. The CPPRT for the current year is estimated to be \$225,220.54, the budget is \$204,450.00. He plans a 10% increase here. Building rentals have increased, so a \$5,000.00 increase is planned for the next year. Camping revenue decreased, and boat decals are also down. Soft drink and concession sales are \$900.00 over budget. Gasoline sales at Lake Vermilion are \$1,800.00 short, due to pump breakdowns during several weekends last season. Special events are down \$5,200.00 from budget estimation, mainly due to bad conditions for maple syrup production. Hunting permits were \$3,000.00 over budget; and dedicated funds were \$3,000.00 over budget among other of revenue accounts.

Expense items of significance include salary budget up 3% from last year, or \$20,900.00 which includes the 2% salary increase for full time staff. Other department expenses are still a work in progress as Executive Director Konsis receives final reports.

A 2016-2017 capital project list was reported, this is dependent on available funds and amount of CPPRT revenue available. A key component will be allocations to insurance, IMRF, and FICA funds. These projects total \$77,500.00, compared to \$16,040.00 from the previous budget year.

President Myers stated that previous discussions indicate that the Board is very willing to allocate a little extra for capital improvements to the District.

Trustee Cooke asked the cost of repair and replacement for the dock system at Lake Vermilion.

Executive Director Konsis answered approximately \$21,000.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President Jamie Pasquale reported that Executive Director Konsis and he attended a quarterly IACD Meeting at Starved Rock. The main focus was planning for the IACD and Forest Preserve conference scheduled for February 25-26. Executive Director Konsis, Lorna Konsis, Lara Darling, Gary Tyrl and he will attend. This is the first conference of this type to occur. IACD would like to add Forest Preserve Districts to the organization.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that the VCCF Board decided to raise the cheeseburger meal price for Cheeseburgers & Fun from \$5.00 to \$6.00.

Amy Steeples added the Sportsman's Banquet, a fundraiser for the Foundation, is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 6:00 p.m. at the Riggle Banquet Hall. Tickets are \$35 per person, \$50 a couple. Tickets are available at the Visitor's Center.

The Foundation publicity /advertising committee is currently considering designs for a new logo, since dropping "District" from their name. No designs have been brought to the Board for approval. She invited the Board to visit the Foundation website and friend them on Facebook.

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

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing/Expense Reduction Committee Report. President Myers reported the committee continues to meet monthly. The focus is now on the revenue side. Recommendations discussed include increasing the tax levy, consideration of increasing V.C.C.D. farmland on a 20 – 50 acre parcel at Forest Glen Preserve, and a selective timber harvest at Forest Glen. These ideas are under consideration, still requiring more details.

Executive Director Konsis commented that a timber harvest in a secluded area of the park would be beneficial to encourage a healthier forest by eliminating a few trees, thus allowing regeneration.

President Myers continued, stating that evaluation of Executive Director Konsis' list of prioritized District projects be reviewed for a list of five attainable projects. Present this, with organizational help, to the Foundation for assessment.

The committee will continue to assess adding additional recreational adventure aspects to the parks, such as paintball, adventure course, zip lining, and a specific wedding venue at each park.

Information has been provided to the committee regarding energy usage, and work continues there.

Agenda item nine e: Health Insurance Committee Report. Chairman, Trustee Jaynes reported that the insurance "marketplace" reflected an increase this fall. He went on to explain the process and unfortunately, no more information is available at this time. No meeting has been scheduled. Executive Director Konsis added that we would be able to keep our present policy for just one more year.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven. Report From the Education Supervisor. Gary Wilford was not present, no report was given.

Agenda item twelve: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that he met with Gary Wilford regarding potential areas to open up for either farmland or public access at Forest Glen Preserve. The area in question has been neglected and needs to be mowed and conservation work done. Invasive species have flourished and need to be controlled. With the recent equipment purchase the District now has the ability to get much needed work done. Manpower and time continue to be an issue, but these areas will be addressed soon.

The Lake Vermilion Docks received the go ahead for insurance reimbursement for damages. The contractor will attempt to get work done this spring. The total estimated expense is \$26,000 which includes additional upgrades to prevent future damage. If the contractor's work is not done this spring, Associate Director Pasquale hopes to make the docks functional this season.

Associate Director Pasquale stated that the gas pump problem is finally fixed, hopefully for good. Average sales are 1,500 – 2000 gallons each year; this is a great convenience for the lake residents and the public.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item fourteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began with the Kickapoo Rail Trail. The V.C.C.D.'s Phase I has been pulled from the April bid letting. The plans have now been sent back to Fehr Graham for possible engineering changes. Foundation Chairman, Gordon Thoennes, and he will be attending the Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board Meeting February 18, in Urbana. At this meeting, they will decide to accept the low bid for construction. Cutting the trail short is not an option.

The V.C.C.D. 50th Anniversary book, first draft, is almost complete. It is the hope that printing cost will be covered with in-book advertising and sales. The video/slide show by Design Studio is also progressing. Executive Director Konsis explained the basic agenda for Saturday, June 11. It included: a free public organization fair, VIP reception room, buffet, program, and social. Sunday, June 12, all Vermilion County Parks will host open "houses".

Executive Director Konsis met with Illinois Public Risk Loss Control agent, Bill Bloch on January 25. The District had no workman's compensation claims, and Bill had no recommendations. A refresher course for use of fire extinguishers will be scheduled in June 2016.

Phases of the Moon will not be scheduled for 2016; the organizers are looking into 2017.

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 16, 2016; 4:30 p.m.; Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve.

There were no other questions or comments.

Agenda item fifteen: President's and Trustee's Comments. President Myers had no comment.

Trustee Jaynes had no comment.

Trustee Cooke had no comment.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Jaynes moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation. Meeting adjourned.*

Nikki A. Bogart
Secretary
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

Allen E. Cooke
Second Vice President
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees