

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

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

**Wednesday, February 22, 2017
4:30 p.m.
Cellular One Classroom, 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.

President Myers asked for a moment of silence and prayer in honor of Lorna Konsis, who passed away on February 2, 2017.

Roll call showed the following.

Trustees Present: Allen E. Cooke
Jonathan A. Myers
Charles B. Schroeder

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 Cole Craft, Lara Darling, Mike Kotcher, Jeff Lete, and Charlie Rhoden.

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 Schroeder 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 18, 2017, Regular Meeting.

Trustee Schroeder moved to approve the January 18, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number five a. Approval of January 18, 2017 Executive Session Minutes.

Trustee Schroeder moved to approve the January 18, 2017, Executive Session Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item number six a. Audience Comments. There were none.

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 2017 in the amount of \$7,972.03, which included check #'s 36601 -36618; the Manual Checks for January 2017 in the amount of \$79,690.26 which included check #'s 36439 – 36460, 36497 – 36500, 36524 – 36531, 36550 – 36566, and 36568 - 36570; the General Journal Entries for January 31, 2017; and the January 2017 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.

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

Trustee Cooke	-	yes
Trustee Schroeder	-	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 22, 2017, was \$698,970.00. This compares to the grand total of \$700,050.00 February 2016. Since the meeting is a week later than last year, it could be due to payroll disbursement. He asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the accounts or investments.

President Myers commented that he could find a better interest rate for the CD when it comes due.

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

Item eight a. Update on Prioritized Capital Projects and Cost Estimates. Executive Director Konsis referred to the Trustees' copy in their notebooks. He clarified that the proposal was a draft for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, not necessarily prioritized. It is based on \$500,000 bond spending for fiscal year budget purposes.

After reviewing the list, the Trustees discussed the projects.

It was the Board's consensus that more should be spent on the road systems. The suggested \$300,000.

Executive Director Konsis stated that to his understanding for the bond issue, all projects considered do need to be listed, but do not have to have a cost attached to them.

Discussion ensued over project priorities and how these projects will be completed. The bond timeline was discussed. The earliest to bond would be late April to early May. Executive Director Konsis asked for the V.C.C.D. budget to be passed before bonding.

Bob Arnholt, in the audience, was recognized. He asked for clarification of the bond.

President Myers suggested a 10-year \$1,000,000 bond with a 7-year call term; annual payments of \$85,000.

Bob was concerned with additional District expenses arising over the next 10 years, not taken into consideration; as well as the declining county population.

President Myers responded that the District plans to have the bond expense covered with the tax levy. He thanked Bob for his comments.

Item eight b. Discuss Used Endloader Tractor Purchase. Associate Director Pasquale stated that the endloaders at both parks need replaced, but the one at Kennekuk should be first. An opportunity to purchase a five year old one for \$20,000 less with our trade-in, is available now from Birkey's in Urbana. He presented the board with the quote from Birkey's for a 2013 used endloader for \$42,250. The payment would not be due until June 1, 2017, and would be covered by the District bond.

Trustee Cooke moved to approve the purchase of a 2013 Wacker-Nueson WL37 endloader for \$42,250 from Birkey's, Urbana. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.

President Myers requested a roll call vote. The results:

Trustee Cooke	- yes
Trustee Schroeder	- yes
President Myers	- yes

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

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. Associate Director Pasquale reported that Executive Director Konsis, Cole Craft, Lara Darling, Susan Biggs Warner, Amy Steeples and he attended the quarterly meeting held February 16-17, 2017, at Starved Rock State Park. Attendance was 75-85 people and important topics were discussed. He thought it was very informative and productive. Planning is already underway for next year.

The next quarterly meeting is in Springfield, no date has been set.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. With no representative present, Amy Steeples gave a report. At the February 10th meeting, the Sportsman's Banquet was discussed. The date is March 4th, Riggle Banquet Center; get your tickets early – there is limited seating. Dollars are earmarked for park projects. Executive Director Konsis added

that the Foundation has a Cheeseburger & Fun planning committee: Michael Puhr, Rick Strebing, and he. The first car club meeting is this Saturday, noon, Kennekuk Education Center.

The Illinois Clean Energy Grant paperwork for the Busby-Meyer Wildlife Area has been submitted with photos. Wetlands still need to be constructed. Another grant is available for \$5,000 which could pay for a restroom at the Busby-Meyer parking lot area. This would need to be vandal-proof.

This concluded the V.C.C.F. Report.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis had no report.

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing/Expense Reduction Committee Report. President Myers had nothing new to report.

Agenda item nine e: Health Insurance Committee Report. Trustee Jaynes was not present.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven. Report from the Education Staff Representative. Lara Darling reported that Susan Biggs Warner and she are very busy with the Traveling Naturalist Program. It began in January and runs through March, up until Outdoor School begins. This program is how the District showcases and reminds teachers of educational programs and opportunities the parks offer. Susan has begun Maple Syrup Day Visits at Forest Glen now, and those will end the second week in March. Susan had a successful Shiitake Mushroom program at the Danville Library in conjunction with the University of Illinois Extension Office on February 21.

Lara will represent the V.C.C.D. at a Homeschool Fair at Danville Public Library on March 18. She is also working on the spring issue of *The Conservationist*, finalizing Summer Camp information, and distributing the updated Conservation Olympic Guidebook, now electronic, to 6th grade teachers who have indicated that they are attending the program. She is hopeful that Southview will send teams this year after a several year absence. Susan and she are working hard to keep the education program going as strong as it has been.

The Education Staff is looking forward to adding a new staff member soon.

This concluded the education staff report.

Agenda item twelve: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported the mowing and bush hogging at the parks has been completed to maintain open lands for the recreation season. The phone system at Forest Glen is up and running now. There were overage charges that he protested and were ironed out, and he is satisfied with the bill, and everything is working well.

The water leak under the bathroom floor at the Kennekuk Maintenance Shop has been repaired.

Today, the de-icing equipment at Lake Mingo has begun to be removed; hopefully the plug will be replaced so the lake level will begin to come back up. The weather is unseasonably warm which brings early visitors out to the parks and we are not quite ready for them, which prompts many questions and complaints. We are working to address issues and catch up.

The annual turkey hunting draw is scheduled for March 18, 9 a.m. Kennekuk Education Center. Hunters are required to possess all Illinois State, Federal and District permits.

Lara commented that is also one of the dates of an Illinois State Hunter Safety Course at the Education Center. Other dates scheduled at the education center are: May 20-21 and August 5-6. Participants must register on the IDNR website.

Tomorrow, Associate Director Pasquale will meet with Adam Wyant, NRCS, regarding paperwork for the Jordan Creek property WHIP. The program is up-to-date, and only has two sections remaining to be address.

Trustee Cooke questioned Associate Director Pasquale as to the circumstances surrounding the death at Lake Vermilion this past week.

He responded that he was notified by the Vermilion County Sherriff's Department that a car was found in the water, but did not know until later that there was a body inside. The District has received no more information regarding the incident.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item thirteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis introduced the District Forester, Cole Craft, to the Board. Cole was hired in June 2016.

Maple syrup season is over with 30 gallons produced. The open house is Sunday, March 19; 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

District building appraisals were completed by Alan LeMonde, from Lansing, MI; 1 CMT. He appraised all buildings in two days; waiting for the report.

Richard Knight with Knight & Associates Surveying has completed the surveying work on the secondary access for Kennekuk. We are still unsure of the roadway past the culvert to the township road. The cost of the survey was \$1,350.

The bond notice appeared in the Commercial News on February 14, at a cost of \$660. The petition is available at the Kennekuk Visitor Center. A public hearing notice will be advertised for the March Board Meeting.

Executive Director Konsis attended his first Danville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Meeting on February 15. Topics discussed were the Community College National Basketball Tournament, casinos, video gaming, a new East Gate hotel, balloon event, air show, and the DACVB website. A Community Calendar was also discussed, with the

bureau staff requesting organizations send in their events so that they may list them on their website.

The V.C.C.D. Staff Retreat on February 3, was canceled, but planned to be rescheduled. The memorials for Lorna Konsis have totaled over \$4,000 and will be earmarked toward the Kickapoo Rail Trail construction.

Lincoln Heritage RC & D Workshop was held February 7, at the Gannett Outdoor Education Center. This was a forestry workshop for landowners and drew around 40 attendees.

The gas company used at Forest Glen will also be delivering to Kennekuk as well. They offer smart tanks with sensors which will send information to the offices notifying them when to come to fill the tanks.

One interview is completed for the educator position, there are still five more. He hopes to complete these next week. There is an I-Governmental Meeting he will attend on Thursday, March 2.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Wednesday, March 15, 2017; 4:30 p.m. at the Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen.

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

President Myers commented that he continues to receive glowing compliments on the district staff, and how they treat park visitors.

Trustee Cooke stated that he is moving to North Carolina, and his last Board Meeting will be in April.

Trustee Schroeder had no comment.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.*

Allen E. Cooke
Secretary
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees