

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

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

**Wednesday, March 16, 2016
4:30 p.m.
Gannett Outdoor Education Center
Forest Glen Preserve
Westville, IL**

President Myers called the March 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 Wilford.

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. Executive Director Konsis asked for removal of agenda item eight b.

With no other corrections, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the agenda as amended. 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 February 17, 2016, Regular Meeting. President Myers asked for any corrections to the minutes.

With no corrections, *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the February 17, 2016, Regular Meeting Minutes. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. 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 February 2016 in the amount of \$6,961.78, which included check #'s 35068 -35088; the Manual Checks for February 2016 in the amount of \$31,027.41 which included check #'s 34901 – 34928, 34948 – 34951, 34969 – 35007, and 35027 – 35030; the General Journal Entries for February 28, 2016; and the February 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 March 16, 2016, was \$654,430.00. This compares to \$596,020.00 from the previous year. He asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the investments.

Executive Director Konsis stated that the interest rate of 4% listed for First National Bank of Catlin should be .04%

With no further discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the March 16, 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. Approve Tentative Budget For Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Executive Director Konsis reported that the tentative budget is an estimation of the 2016-2017 FY budget using figures from the past 11 months.

The Corporate Fund cash balance for April 1, 2016 is an estimation of the true figure which will be known in April. He states that the budget has a \$35,000 deficit so that we may do \$83,700.00 of capital projects. Revenues are estimated based on the latest factual line item figures. Weather tends to factor in many revenue line items, i.e. Maple Syrup, gas sales, campground, and Haunted Happenings.

The Insurance Fund has a negative balance of \$21,230; CPPRT dollars will be used to reduce it to a negative balance of \$5,610.

IMRF cash balance will be too high at \$61,173; should be at \$50,000; this will be adjusted.

The Audit Fund requires a CPPRT allocation of \$2,000.

The Social Security Fund had a negative balance of \$12,445 last year. It now has a positive balance of \$8,477.

This budget, once approved, will be on public display for a 33 day period.

The Trustees were concerned regarding more funding allocated to the capital project budget. It was a consensus that this should wait until solid cash balance figures were realized.

With no more questions or comments, First Vice President Myers asked for a motion to approve the tentative budget; *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

President Myers asked for a roll call voice vote. The results:

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

The vote was 3-0. The tentative budget for 2016-2017 passed and will be displayed for public review for 33 days at each park and on the District website.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President Jamie Pasquale reported that after the conference on February 25-26, planning has already begun for next year. The conference went very well with many positive comments. The next IACD regular meeting is in April at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources building in Springfield. The Trustees were invited to attend, he will be in contact with them regarding the date.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that the VCCF Board anticipates a \$20,000 net profit from the Sportsman's Banquet which is earmarked for the Busby-Meyer Wildlife Area.

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 Meyers reported that it is the consensus of the committee to suspend regular meetings for the present time. Executive Director Konsis and he will meet regarding the committee's ideas, and will continue to gather concrete expense numbers and other park data. There will be meeting with the committee once facts are collected.

Agenda item nine e: Health Insurance Committee Report. Chairman, Trustee Jaynes reported there is no new information to consider, no meeting is currently scheduled. The House and Senate voted to overhaul Obamacare, and it was vetoed by President Obama. It will come up for another vote in April.

Brief discussion ensued regarding healthcare coverage issues resulting from Obamacare.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven. Report From the Education Supervisor. Gary Wilford reported that the Traveling Naturalist Program for Kindergarten through 3rd grades is done for this year. This is an important program to the Vermilion County Schools as an introduction to the educational programs and services the District offers. Maple Syrup visits continued to be popular with eight groups participating. Approximately 36.5 gallons of syrup have been made.

Outdoor School begins in two weeks with Lara Darling and him. The District will employ the same two part-time instructors as was done last session, Mollie Pletch and Steve Sliva. Spring Day Visits are offered beginning in April and running through May.

Conservation Olympics is scheduled for May 13, 2016, and Trustee Jaynes has graciously agreed to sponsor the gold, silver and bronze medals given to the winning students. Gary invited all Trustees to attend. The event begins at 9:15 a.m. and the award ceremony starts at 1:15 p.m. Gary read a letter from a 1998 St. Mary's student regarding their Conservation Olympics experience, and then a testimonial from Ken Hannan, volunteer and Foundation Director regarding the Olympics and the significance of the District to Vermilion County and beyond.

Agenda item twelve: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that the Lake Vermilion Dock contractor has not been in contact with him recently. He hopes that the work will begin soon.

Fire lane work has been done at the Jordan Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in accordance with the Illinois State WHIP (conservation program). Spring burns in the prairie areas of Kennekuk and Forest Glen will begin as soon as weather permits.

Associate Director Pasquale met with an IPARKS representative regarding public safety. A report regarding his recommendations will be sent to Executive Director Konsis.

This Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m. is the annual turkey hunting draw for Kennekuk Park. There are usually 30 – 40 hunters present.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item fourteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began with the Kickapoo Rail Trail. V.C.C.F. Chairman, Gordon Thoennes and he attended the Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD) meeting on February 18. At least six people present testified for the trail, none against. The CCFPD board approved the trail 3 – 0 with a low bid that was still \$400,000 over their budget. They plan to cover this with private donations in the upcoming year. The CCFPD board appreciated the V.C.C.D. representation.

The V.C.C.D. 50th Anniversary plans are progressing. The second draft of the history book is complete, with more work to be done. Approximately \$5,000 in advertising will need to be procured to cover the cost of publishing the book. It will be sold for \$15. Sponsorships are available for the event on June 11, 2016. Ticket prices for the evening celebration are

\$30, and include a raffle ticket for one of five fantastic prizes. Rick Stefaniak will conclude filming for the video this Friday.

A contract for the David Palmer Arena is executed. It includes ticketing, stage set-up, round table rent with linens, auxiliary room, and cash bar. The contract charge is \$1,750.

Executive Director Konsis attended an Inter-government Committee Meeting on March 3. A draft for project priorities for 2015 – 2016 was approved, among other items of business. The next meeting will be June 2.

The V.C.C.D. Forester position finalist is Cole Craft from Sadorus, IL. Cole has a background in wildlife, invasive plants, and land restoration. He interviewed with Executive Director Konsis on March 11. A second interview is planned with Charlie Rhoden and Gary Wilford next week. A projected start date is June 1.

Executive Director Konsis will be the Danville Lions Club speaker tomorrow; attend the National Walnut Council and Foundation meeting on March 21 – 22; attend the Lake Vermilion Water Quality Coalition meeting, March 24; speak to the St. James Men's Club, April 6; attend the V.C.C.F. meeting on April 8; and will take vacation April 11 – 15.

The Maple Syrup Open House is scheduled for March 20; there will be no syrup available to sell to the public.

For the April Board of Trustees meeting, there will be an amendment to Ordinance 89, rules and regulations of the V.C.C.D. This will include horseback riding rules clarification; change the no hunting rules at Forest Glen Preserve, and defining a business operating on V.C.C.D. properties.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 20, 2016; 4:30 p.m.; Kennekuk Education Center, Kennekuk County Park.

There were no other questions or comments.

Agenda item fifteen: President's and Trustee's Comments. President Myers commented that he visited Forest Glen with Schlarman Academy and complimented Gary Wilford on the wonderful job that he did with the students.

President Meyers saw that there was some work needed on the trails and suggested using volunteer group similar to "Tool Time" from Camp Drake to assist with trail work. Gary thanked him for the information. The District does have volunteer trail stewards who report trail problems to him.

Bob Arnholt added that "Tool Time" volunteers will be doing some work this weekend.

Trustee Cooke thanked the staff for the maple syrup.

Trustee Jaynes stated that the Noon Kiwanis have a check for the Kennekuk Education Center display area ready to be awarded, as per their pledge.

Executive Director Konsis responded that he will plan to come to the meeting on March 24.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Cooke moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. 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