

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

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

**Wednesday, July 19, 2017
4:30 p.m.
Kennekuk Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Myers called the July Regular Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll call showed the following to be physically present at said location.

Trustees Present: Bob W. Arnholt
Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers
Charles B. Schroeder

Trustee(s) Absent: Allen E. Cooke

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

Staff members present included 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 amendments, *Trustee Schroeder moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the June 14, 2017, Regular Meeting.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the June 19, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item number six a. Audience Comments. President Myers recognized J.D. Lugoski in the audience. J.D. wished to welcome Bob Arnholt to the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees.

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 Jaynes moved to approve the Current List of Bills from June 2017 in the amount of \$22,398.74, which included check #'s 37290 -37321; the Manual Checks for June 2017 in the amount of \$959,842.47 which included check #'s 37079 – 37091, 37125 – 37187, 37189, and 37222 – 37229; the General Journal Entries for June 30, 2017; and the June 2017 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.*

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

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Schroeder	-	yes
Trustee Arnholt	-	yes
President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 4 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis noted that the July CPPRT received was 3% less than last year's amount, probably due to the overpayment error payback. He reported the bond fund amounts were listed here in detail, and which accounts were affected. The grand total of cash and investments as of July 19, 2017, was \$1,118,125.00; less bond funds: \$624,125.00. This compares to the grand total of \$357,585.00, July 2016.

President Myers asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the accounts or investments. There were none.

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

Item eight a. Trustee Elections. Executive Director Konsis stated that the Trustees had been given the current list of officers.

President Myers stated that individual offices will be open for nominations, seconded and then closed. The final will be voted as a slate of officers.

President Myers asked for nominations for President of the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees.

Trustee Jaynes nominated Jonathan Myers for President. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.

President Myers asked for nominations for First Vice President of the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees. *President Myers nominated Trustee Jaynes for First Vice President. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.*

President Myers asked for nominations for Second Vice President of the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees. *Trustee Jaynes nominated Trustee Schroeder. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt.*

President Myers asked for nominations for Secretary-Treasurer of the V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees. *President Myers nominated Trustee Arnholt. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

With no more nominations or discussion, *Trustee Schroeder moved to close nominations for the 2017 V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees Slate of Officers. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor, nominations closed.*

President Myers asked for a voice vote on the V.C.C.D. slate of officers as follows:

President - Jonathan Myers
1st Vice President - Perry Jaynes
2nd Vice President - Chuck Schroeder
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Arnholt

All in favor by acclamation, slate of officers as stated.

Item eight b. Presentation of 2017 Tax Levy for discussion/approval. Executive Director Konsis presented Ordinance No. 143 which had been included in the Trustee's packets. He stated that the aggregate sum of \$1,150,000.00 is levied for the 2017-1018 fiscal year. He explained each fund in detail.

With no questions or discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve Ordinance No. 143 Annual Tax Levy Ordinance. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder.*

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

Trustee Jaynes - yes
Trustee Schroeder - yes
Trustee Arnholt - yes
President Myers - yes

The vote was 4 – 0 in favor. Motion carried.

Item eight c. Open sealed bids for road sealing projects. Associate Director Pasquale reported that one bid was received from Daniel Ribbe Trucking. This was for roads at Forest Glen, some double coating; Lake Vermilion road, not the main parking lot; several roads at Kennekuk; and the Heron County Park parking lot. The bid was \$168,563 for approximately 75,300 square yards of coverage. Ribbe had given the District a \$5,000 discount on the project.

Trustee Arnholt asked which gravel roads were scheduled to be coated.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that the Kennekuk Education Center drive and Sycamore Street by Atwood Home in the Bunker Hill Historic Area.

President Myers asked Associate Director Pasquale if the bid was reasonable according to specs.

Associate Director Pasquale responded that he estimated the cost to be around \$220 per square yard, so that seems in line. He budgeted \$186,000 for roads, of which \$2,500 was spent for drainage repairs. This would leave about \$15,000 for the Lake Vermilion parking lot.

With no other questions or discussion, *Trustee Schroeder moved to approve the road sealing project bid of \$168,563 from Ribbe Trucking. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt.*

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

<i>Trustee Schroeder</i>	-	<i>yes</i>
<i>Trustee Arnholt</i>	-	<i>yes</i>
<i>Trustee Jaynes</i>	-	<i>yes</i>
<i>President Myers</i>	-	<i>yes</i>

The vote was 4 – 0 in favor. Motion carried.

Item eight d. Amend non-resident V.C.C.D. hunting fee to comply with LWCF Grant. Executive Director Konsis explained that in cooperation with the Land & Water Conservation Fund, nonresident fees cannot be more than twice the resident fees. Upon review, it was found that V.C.C.D. hunt permit fee charged to Vermilion County residents was \$27; nonresidents were charged \$55. Therefore, Executive Director Konsis recommends lowering the nonresident fee to \$54.

With no comments, *Trustee Arnholt moved to decrease the nonresident V.C.C.D. Hunting Permits from \$55 to \$54 to comply with LWCF grant guidelines. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor, motion carried.*

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. Associate Director Pasquale reported that he attended the IACD Quarterly Meeting at Starved Rock State Park last week. Other members in attendance included: Boone and Macon County Conservation Districts, and Byron, Rock Island, and DeKalb Forest Preserve Districts.

Plans are to have an annual conference and annual meeting in February 2018. Other items in the planning phase include labor sharing options between organizations to help complete large projects.

President Myers asked about staffing comparisons between districts and forest preserves.

Associate Director Pasquale stated that staff varies from larger than the V.C.C.D. to much smaller. Facilities and amenities differ greatly, some manage golf courses, and one even has a zoo.

The next meeting is scheduled in October.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Chairman Thoennes was present and reported that the Foundation had purchased three gently used tents at a cost of \$4,700, for

the District to replace their very old ones. This was very reasonable, considering one bid for a new one was around \$8,000.

Update on the Lorna J. Konsis Memorial Committee plans include procurement of a bench, tree removal, refurbishment of the current Staff Office, and landscaping around the building and immediate area. A new sign for the building is completed, invitations are done, the Konsis Foundation Brochure is nearly complete to go to the printers and the Konsis Foundation by-laws and initial set-up plans are progressing.

Update on Cheeseburgers & Fun event: Rick Strebing and Mike Puhr are chairing this committee and have plans well in order. Sponsors are coming in daily. Bands, publicity, burgers & extras, food vendors, everything is working well so the event on August 12th will be the best ever!

President Myers thanked the Foundation for purchasing the tents. It was very much appreciated.

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 had nothing new to report.

Agenda item nine e: Health Insurance Committee Report. Trustee Jaynes had no report.

Agenda item nine f: V.C.C.D. Education. The Trustees had received the report in their board packet mailing. President Myers commented that Nick Jeurissen has really found a home with the V.C.C.D. and seems to be fitting in very well. They did not have any questions.

Agenda item nine g: V.C.C.D. Maintenance. The Trustees were provided with the District maintenance report at the meeting. President Myers asked if there was a bridge out on Lake Mingo Trail. He had a report from a park visitor.

Mike Kotcher was present and was not aware of any bridge issues on the main trail. If there is one on one of the "short-cuts", those are getting phased out and will not be repaired.

There were no other questions.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale has been working on getting the bond projects started. He has met with Mike Hannan, VCHD regarding plans for the leech field and dump station at Forest Glen. It has outlived its usefulness and a new system is needed. Plans are to install it with our own staff. It should cost around \$5,000.

He met with a Cade's Heating and Cooling, Hoopston regarding installation of geothermal system at the Kennekuk Visitor Center. Seven wells, 150 ft. deep will be installed at a cost of a little over \$28,500.

The painting of the final gates at the Lake Mingo Dam is complete. Training is complete on the new road patching machine and work has begun repairing and filling potholes. This must be completed before Ribbe can begin sealing the roads. There are two pieces of equipment that are on the wish list to be purchased: the skid steer and man lift.

Finally, excess equipment pictures and descriptions will be posted on the V.C.C.D. website and sold as silent auction items.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item twelve: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis stated that the Kennekuk northeast access agreement lease draft is included with the Trustee's notebooks. Please review and report to Executive Director Konsis with any concerns.

There are many questions concerning the Kickapoo Rail Trail in regard to the Illinois State budget. Executive Director Konsis has received no word from IDNR, and they probably do not know any new information. The issue is that the budget included the language of possible sweeping funds to help pay off debts. The CCFPD postponed their July 15th ribbon cutting ceremony due to incomplete intersections and aprons. Mary Ellen Wuellner, CCFPD, advises the District to apply for the next round of Illinois Trail Enhancement Program Funds for engineering on phase II in Vermilion County. Many potential donors have indicated that they will make donations once they see some movement on the project. This would be a \$200,000 grant with a 20% local match [\$40,000]. Mary Ellen states that funding is already available between the two counties to cover this match.

President Myers asked who guarantees the \$40,000 for match.

Executive Director Konsis stated that the District would not start any projects until the \$40,000 was procured. If not, then the money would be given back.

Discussion ensued.

The Trustees were in agreement to proceed with the Illinois Trail Enhancement Program Funds grant application.

Executive Director Konsis toured the Dynegy site and attended a meeting hosted by three Dynegy representatives, regarding the coal ash pit issue and the Middle Fork River. They stated that the colorful leeching that is seen along the bank is from iron; claiming that there are only four heavy metals detected in the river, all within safe ranges. More information is in the Trustee's packets.

The U.S. Army National Guard, Transportation Unit, from Paris, Illinois wishes to conduct training exercises at Kennekuk County Park. This would involve around 100 troops, and take place in 2018. This will be scheduled around District events.

The Executive Director has attended the following meetings: Vermilion Advantage, June 15; Golden K Kiwanis, June 19; and DACVB, June 21.

Work continues with Vanguard to access our \$26,000 bequest as a beneficiary of the Kenneth Hirsig estate.

Six volunteers from Catholic Heart Work Camp were at Kennekuk, June 19 – 22. Nick Jeurissen led the work crew, scraping, painting, and cleaning. He also conducted a mussel survey with them.

The District lost a good friend on July 16, 2017. Past Trustee, Robert Miles passed away at his Catlin home. Memorials may be made to the V.C.C.D. or Catlin Historical Society.

Upcoming Meetings include: V.C.C. Foundation, July 21; Danville Rail Trail Extension, July 26; and Kickapoo Rail Trail, August 2.

The General Liability Insurance specifications will be amended and ready for approval at the August meeting. Expected bid opening in October.

Executive Director Konsis met with Preston Neubert of Neubert Communications regarding internet and cell service. An 80 ft. tower at the Kennekuk Maintenance Building at a cost of \$80,000 would need to be approved; \$40,000 up front. This could be a revenue producing venture for the District when the tower is paid off. A presentation will be set up for the August meeting.

Questions continue regarding another music festival at Kennekuk. A new concept of showcasing only Illinois performers to celebrate Illinois' 200th birthday next year is interesting. Executive Director Konsis has met with Pete Blackmon, and explained some of the ideas that were discussed.

After hearing these ideas, the board would like to hear more details before agreeing to anything. Perhaps Pete Blackmon could present at an upcoming meeting.

The next V.C.C.D. Board Meeting will be Wednesday, July 19, 4:30 p.m., Kennekuk Education Center.

This concluded the Report of the Executive Director.

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

President Myers attended the Letterbox Orienteering event, along with people from several other states. Attendees raved about the park and facilities, and he wanted to thank the Foundation and staff for making the education center what it is and thanked Lara Darling for her part in the making the event a success.

Trustee Jaynes commented that Lara Darling attended the Noon Kiwanis meeting and gave a Light Pollution presentation that members are still talking about. It was very informative and he wished to thank her.

Trustee Schroeder had no comment.

Trustee Arnholt asked if the District had any programs scheduled for the solar eclipse.

Lara Darling responded that a free Solar Eclipse Viewing Party is planned on August 21, from 10:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Kennekuk Education Center. A variety of activities are planned for kids and adults, with free solar eclipse viewing glasses. It is the first day of class for Vermilion County Schools, so that is unfortunate that not many children will be able to attend.

President Myers announced that a letter was received from Larry Gilliland, dated July 10, 2017, announcing his intent to retire, pending acceptance from IMRF. His last day of work will be Friday, September 29, 2017. Larry has been employed with the District for 46 years.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *Trustee Schroeder moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m.*

Bob W. Arnholt
Secretary
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees