

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

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

**Wednesday, September 21, 2016
4:30 p.m.
Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve
Westville, IL**

President Myers called the September 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: B. Dirk Porter
Charles B. Schroeder

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

Staff members present included Susan Biggs Warner, Charlie 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.

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 August 17, 2016, Regular Meeting. President Myers remarked that rather than presenting the executive session as a separate record, any comments, remarks or statements made during that time were recorded as part of the regular session minutes.

Trustee Cooke moved to approve the August 17, 2016, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the August 30, 2016, Special Meeting 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 Jaynes moved to approve the Current List of Bills from August 2016 in the amount of \$21,749.34, which included check #'s 35935 -35977; the Manual Checks for August 2016 in the amount of \$64,283.51 which included check #'s 35737 – 35747, 35780 – 35791, 35821 – 35829, 35860 - 35878, and 35880; the General Journal Entries for August 31, 2016; and the August 2016 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke.*

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

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Cooke	-	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 September 21, 2016, was \$457,800.00. This compares to \$739,250.00 from the previous year at this point. The \$300,000.00 received from the early allocation request was deposited into the checking account. He noted that the District had still not received the first allocation of the real estate tax. The second allocation is due in October. He asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the accounts or investments.

There were no comments or questions.

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

Item eight a. Ordinance. President Myers briefly explained that this item was placed on the agenda in error. There was a miscommunication with First Midstate regarding the bonding process. First Midstate will now give the Board preliminary estimates for a \$500,000 bond and a \$1,000,000 bond for further consideration.

Executive Director Konsis provided the Trustees with a list of capital projects. Dollar estimates are still needed.

President Myers recommends tabling agenda item eight a.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve tabling agenda item eight a. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke.

Discussion ensued regarding revenue sources and known expenses.

All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight b. Discussion/Approval of 2016 Tax Levy. Executive Director Konsis presented the Trustees with two options for Ordinance No. 139. One for 4.5%; the aggregate sum of \$1,100,000 and another for 10%; the aggregate sum of \$1,150,000 to be levied and assessed for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2016 and ending March 31, 2017.

Discussion ensued.

Trustee Cooke moved to approve Ordinance No. 139 levying the aggregate sum of \$1,150,000 for the 2016 taxes due in 2017. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.

President Myers stated that this will be advertised in a newspaper within the appropriate parameters for the public's input. A public hearing will be held prior to the October 19 Board Meeting.

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.

Item eight c. Discuss Contract Proposal From Jaytv. This was tabled, due to lack of information.

Item eight d. Approve Specification For Workers Compensation Insurance. Executive Director Konsis had given the Trustees a copy of payroll projections, and example of the legal notice requesting bids.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the specifications for Workers Compensations Insurance for the period effective January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight e. Discuss Medical Insurance Options. Trustee Jaynes reported that Executive Director Konsis and he met with Gordon Thoennes, representative from Dimond Brothers Insurance, one week ago. The employee medical insurance renewal from Coventry is a little less than expected, however Coventry is not ACA approved, and this will be the last year it is offered. Other options were also explored. The Health Alliance quote, with a \$6,000 deductible, is \$2,000/month less than the District is paying now. Trustee Jaynes requested a list of doctors from the employees to compare to the in-network physicians so that any that are not included may be asked to become in-network. He would like to meet with the employee insurance committee and discuss their concerns.

President Myers is concerned with the increasing costs that have happened over the past three years.

Discussion ensued.

Trustee Cooke recommended that Gordon Thoennes meet with the insurance committee. The Board agreed, suggesting the committee talk about options regarding deductible, HRA account, and dependent coverage.

Trustee Jaynes asked Gary Wilford, insurance committee chair, to set a date to meet. Tuesday, September 27, 2:30 p.m. at Perry Jaynes Financial office was scheduled. Amy Steeples was directed to send a memo to all full-time employees asking for their primary care physician, before the meeting, so that Trustee Jaynes could work on procuring any that were out-of-network.

Discussion to bid out insurance agents began and ended promptly; all were in agreement to retain Gordon Thoennes, with Dimond Brothers Insurance as the agent for the District.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. IACD President Jamie Pasquale reported that the next meeting of the IACD is October 20, 9:30 a.m. at Starved Rock State Park. Executive Director Konsis reported that Lara Darling is on the workshop committee which also has met to procure speakers for a meeting set for sometime in 2017.

This concluded the IACD Report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Director Russ Hiatt was to give the report but was absent. The next meeting of the Foundation is October 14, 2017, Kennekuk Visitor Center, 9:00 a.m. Amy Steeples reported that he was to report on the Jordan Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Russ is currently working with Mr. Beckner, the farmer, regarding payment for cash rent of the farm ground and was to update the Board on the WHIP [Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program] and CRP ground.

President Myers explained that WHIP is a 10 year program which takes a portion of the Jordan Creek property back to a native state, ideal for the guidelines of what the property donor intended. Approximately 80% of the expenses are granted back to the Foundation, as long as the Foundation stays on schedule. The program is up to date at this point.

President Myers stated that 10 acres of land previously farmed was now enrolled in CRP, a 10 year program that paid an estimated \$300 per acre. This is more than the cash rent revenue the Foundation had been receiving.

This concluded the VCCF Report.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. There was nothing new to report.

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing/Expense Reduction Committee Report. President Meyers had no report. The committee has been suspended.

Agenda item nine e: Health Insurance Committee Report. There was nothing further to report.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven. Report from the Education Supervisor. Gary Wilford announced that the District is now back to 100% Vermillion County School participation for the Outdoor School Program! He thanked Trustee Jaynes for his assistance. There are a couple of schools from out of the county that attend the program. He gave the Trustees the schedule for the fall and spring sessions.

Next Friday, September 30, is Civil War School Day at Kennekuk. Susan Biggs Warner, organizer, added that the program has been running for ten years. This education day usually precedes the group's re-enactment but there is no re-enactment this year. We are expecting 700+ 5th grade students. The Trustees were given a list of schools participating this year.

Fall Day Visits are popular and several are scheduled already. Susan reported that Edison School Fall Festival will be Tuesday, October 4th; the District provides educational activities during that program for the school.

Revolutionary War Re-enactment and Pioneer Craft Day will be September 24-25 at Forest Glen. A schedule of events was given to the Trustees.

The Forest Glen Archery hunting program begins on October 2. There were over 80 hunters that purchased chances to hunt, leaving about 20 with no opportunity for hunting at Forest Glen. There were 28 deer harvested last year.

A Dark Vermilion Skies program is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 6:30 p.m. at the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center. This is an astronomy program held in conjunction with St. Mary's Church. This is the third in a series of programs co-sponsored by the V.C.C.D. and Dark Vermilion Skies. David Leake from the Staerkel Planetarium will give a program and have a telescope for star viewing.

This concluded the education report.

Agenda item twelve: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that sandblasting the gates at Lake Mingo Dam was not progressing as well as expected, so a hot water pressure washer was purchased to complete the work. There are three gates, one had already been painted, and the second has just been finished so this leaves only one to complete the job. The gates look they are in good shape; built in 1982, they are holding up well.

The concrete work for the wood shop was completed. Spraying at Jordan Creek continues, and seeding at the 20 acre section will be done this fall. A ten acre section at the Busby Meyer Wildlife Area was sprayed to control cottonwood trees.

Associate Director Pasquale met with Gibson Communications regarding the new Forest Glen telephone system. The estimate is \$18,000; there is \$15,000 allowed for this in the budget. Much of the line work/trenching will be done in-house, saving the District some money.

Trustee Cooke discussed some choices for internet service. Satellite may be an alternative, but trees are the main consideration. Options will continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis to reduce expenses.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item thirteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began with the Kickapoo Rail Trail. Doug Ireland's Duathlon raised \$1,400 for the trail, a little less than last year. Next year, Lara Darling will chair this committee.

The Community Development Funding Agency Roundtable meeting was held Thursday, September 8 at DACC, Bremer Conference Center, with 18 people in attendance. Presenters included representatives from: U.S.D.A. Rural Development, U.S. Small Business Administration, and HUD. Executive Director Konsis was interested in grants or low interest loans for power for the Kennekuk Education Center Phase II. He contacted the U.S.D.A. office in Champaign and they may have leads, but need more information.

The Vermilion County Highway Department reported that the road considered as a secondary entrance for Kennekuk has not been vacated. Ownership belongs to Blount Township. Randy Leibach, Supervisor, found a source for a tank car for the culvert which will be \$7,800. The estimate for the total project will be roughly \$15,000.

The first draft of the engineering report for the wetlands at the Busby Meyer Wildlife Area was received, but was too complicated. It was sent back for alterations. Projected construction was for October.

The Willow Creek Dam Project report was mailed in the Trustee's Board packets. It is quite extensive, yet somehow must be accomplished. Grants are currently being sought.

Past events include: Forest Glen September hayride (33 people); Leaf Collection Hike, Forest Glen, September 3; Wool Dyeing Demonstration, Forest Glen – September 10 (rain held off attendance).

Upcoming events: Astronomy Program, Kennekuk, September 22, 6:30 p.m.; Revolutionary War Re-enactment at Forest Glen September 24-25/Pioneer Craft Day September 25 only; Civil War School Day, Friday, September 30, Kennekuk Bunker Hill Historic Area.

Haunted Happenings ticket sales begin September 24 at Latoz Hardware, Danville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Catlin IGA, and Forest Glen and Kennekuk locations for the event to be held on October 22. They are \$10 each, \$15 the day of the event.

Lake Vermilion Water Quality Coalition annual meeting will be December 1, at the Farm Bureau Offices. Scott Elrick, MS will present a tropical rain forest program. I-Gov meeting was September 15, at Vermilion Advantage office, with the V.C.C.D's Kennekuk Education Center and Kickapoo Rail Trail as the first and second priority non-road projects.

Executive Director Konsis was the speaker for the Eastern Illinois Shrine Club on September 7 and the Kiwanis Breakfast Club on August 19. He will attend the Aqua Community Investment Dinner on October 13 at Harrison Park.

The Macon County Conservation District has invited the District to their 50th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, October 6, Millikin University. This invitation is for four people for dinner at 5:30 p.m. and presentations at 7:30 p.m. Executive Director Konsis is unable to attend, he will be on vacation. Please respond to him asap if interested in attending.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Wednesday, October 19, 4:30 p.m. at the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.

There were no other questions or comments.

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

Trustee Jaynes stated that the Kiwanis Pancake Day is scheduled for October 20, this is where some of the funding that is given to the District comes from. Last year they served 4,200 meals. They have had up to 7,000 served.

Trustee Cooke is looking forward to the Revolutionary War Reenactment and Pioneer Craft Day.

President Myers stated that he is impressed with the level of commitment and longevity shown by the V.C.C.D. employees. There has been and will continue to be tough decisions and he feels like everyone has a clear vision for the future of the District.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Jaynes moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation. Meeting adjourned.*

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