

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

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

**Wednesday, October 21, 2015
4:30 p.m.
Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Myers called the October 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 and Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director.

Staff members present included Lorna Konsis, Jeff Lete, 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. 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 September 16, 2015, Regular Meeting. President Myers asked for any corrections to the minutes.

President Myers noted that the minutes that were sent to the trustees did not include the last page. Therefore, the Executive Director read the last page to the trustees.

With no more corrections, *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the September 16, 2015, 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 September 2015 in the amount of \$18,548.55, which included check #'s 34458 - 34490; the Manual Checks for September 2015 in the amount of \$29,443.22 which included check #'s 34273 – 34280, 34311 – 34321, 34351 – 34362, 34393 - 34399, and 34401 – 34406; the General Journal Entries for September 30, 2015; and the September 2015 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 October 21, 2015, was \$664,560.00. This compares to \$558,850.00 from the previous year. He asked if there were any questions from the trustees regarding any of the investments. There were none.

With no further discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the October 21, 2015 Reports on Cash and Investments as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke.*

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 eight, Specific Items of Business to be Transacted.

Item eight a. Approve Specifications For Medical Insurance. President Myers suggested that we table this until the November meeting so that the Insurance Committee can research and write the specs. Then, we could approve and request bids at that meeting with the bid opening at a special meeting and approval at the December meeting.

Trustee Jaynes reported that Health Alliance has a "Balance Plan" that we may be able to get into. It is for a minimum of 25 employees, but they may make an exception. With this plan, we need not worry about a catastrophic year. If we do not have many claims, we may even receive money back.

President Myers suggested that we have the special meeting on Wednesday, December 2. That would give us a week to look over the bids before our December 9 meeting.

Trustee Cooke announced that he would not be at the November 18 board meeting.

President Myers said that this could be a problem if we do not have a quorum. It was suggested to move the meeting up one week.

Associate Director Pasquale reported that we could not hold a re-scheduled meeting on a holiday. Therefore, President Myers suggested that we move the meeting to Thursday, November 12. The trustees agreed.

The Executive Director added that when we get a quote, we should be sure that the employee's physicians are covered. We must also decide the level of participation from the employees.

With no further discussion, *Trustee Jaynes moved to table approval of the specifications for medical insurance until the November meeting. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item eight b. Approve Resolution to Authorize Jonathan Myers as Signatory for Kickapoo Rail Trail documents.

The Executive Director reported that the resolution is in the trustee's notebooks. It is a requirement by IDOT to have the signatory approved by the board.

With no discussion from the trustees, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve Resolution No. 15-2 as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD President Jamie Pasquale reported that he and Executive Director Konsis will attend the quarterly IACD meeting tomorrow at Starved Rock State Park. The meeting will focus on the IACD Workshop, scheduled for February.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Executive Director Konsis gave the report. The last foundation meeting was on Friday, October 2. The financial report from the Cheeseburger and Fun event was reviewed. The net profit was \$3,562.64. The Sportsman's Banquet was also discussed. No date is set, but the committee is looking at St. Mary's Hall, the Georgetown Fairgrounds, and one possibility in Danville for a venue. Nancy Moore, a local graphic artist, presented several designs to update the V.C.C.F. logo. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 4, 9 a.m., at the education center.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that the IAPD Annual Meeting will be held from January 28-30, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago. If interested in attending, and being a delegate at the business meeting, you must have a credential and it must be approved by the board.

Trustee Cooke asked if the Executive Director attends this meeting. He answered no, because of the cost. Associate Director Pasquale attempted to attend a few years ago, but all nearby parking lots were full, since he was not staying overnight at the hotel.

Trustee Cooke said that he might look into attending.

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing/Expense Reduction Committee Report. President Myers stated that he is waiting on a building evaluation and all employees with vehicles are recording their mileage.

Agenda item nine e: Health Insurance Committee Report. Chairman, Trustee Jaynes, reported that this is pending as we wait for our renewal.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Agenda item twelve. Report From the Education Supervisor. Gary Wilford reported that Outdoor School was a success using two part-time instructors. Both were retired teachers, one, Steve Sliva being a former trustee. There were also a few day visits scheduled and the Civil War School Days was a great success. There were 750 students in attendance.

Trustee Cooke asked how the Revolutionary War went.

Since Charles Rhoden was in the audience, he answered that it went great and had an estimated attendance of over a thousand people. Also, donations were around \$1,600, so we completely paid for the event and have funds remaining to put toward next year. Total cost was around \$1,200. The Kohl's volunteers staffed the information tent on Saturday. Charles' daughter-in-law made all of the signs and put them out. This will now become an annual event with Pioneer Craft Day being held on the Saturday of the Revolutionary War.

President Myers congratulated him and said that this was one of the discussion points at the Revenue Committee meeting.

Gary Wilford also reported that Susan Biggs Warner did a colonial program at Pine Crest School and that her Edison School program is next week.

This concluded the report from the Education Supervisor.

Agenda item thirteen: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that the front gates at Kennekuk were finally installed. They also installed LED lighting in front.

The concession building at Lake Vermilion is closed, but Jack Leverenz is staffing the building until November 1 to collect daily fees.

Work has been completed on the first Lake Mingo gate by himself and Larry Gilliland. The quoted cost from English Brothers was \$15,000, but we couldn't find anyone to do the sandblasting. The concrete slabs were placed in front of the gate to hold back the water so repairs could be made to the cables and brackets. The gate is now in working order. The lake side of the gate was then sandblasted and painted, and then the slabs were

removed. The cost for this was \$1,000. We will proceed with the other two gates this spring. Therefore, total cost will be one-third of the estimated cost.

We finally received a quote from Floating Docks Co. to repair the Lake Vermilion and Songer docks. The estimate is \$24,000 and then it is suggested that we install de-icers for \$3,000. Most of this cost is for labor. D and H Docks of Decatur would do the repair. This has been turned in to our insurance company.

He and Kim Fox held the Waterfowl Draw for the first two weekends of the waterfowl season. There were 30 people in attendance.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item fourteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis reported that IDOT and IDNR are moving forward with all documents to be ready when funds are released. A draft of the lease with Pierce Racing is completed and will be sent to them for review. We have met with them several times, including the Fehr Graham engineers. We are trying to accommodate them the best that we can by moving the trail 25 more feet to the south. They need the room to back in a 90 foot trailer. We have also received a \$10,000 donation for the trail from Mark Lourance.

The Kennekuk Environmental Education Center has been the host for many meetings and programs. The IDNR will host a Forest Management Workshop on November 6 and 7. The U of I Extension held a Master Naturalist program in September and there was a photography workshop by Darrel Holman of the C-N. Vermilion Dark Skies Astronomy program was held on October 13. Twenty-Five people were in attendance to view planets with a large telescope. A bird sleuth study was held in conjunction with Cornell University. On Columbus Day, Lara Darling held a "School's Out" program. Lance Merry's photo exhibit in the hallway will be on display until the end of the month.

We are working hard on the V.C.C.D's 50th Anniversary. We have a contract with the Civic Center and work continues on the commemorative booklet. There is also preliminary work on the video. Gary Wilford is meeting with media representatives about having monthly stories. John Van Allen, the chainsaw woodcarver at our cheeseburger event donated a wood-carved cherry log with a VCCD cut-out. This will be on display on the stage.

The Leadership Tomorrow class met last Friday, October 16th at the O'Leary's Train Car. Executive Director Konsis gave a 45 minute program about the V.C.C.D. and the B.H.H.A. We then bused the group to Lake Vermilion for a pontoon boat tour and also a tour of Heron County Park. The morning concluded with a tour of the education center, and a walk down the Wheeler Nature Trail. Lunch was held at the dining car and programs by Kerry Wienke of the Farm Bureau and Marsha Moore on corporate farms followed. Executive Director Konsis then bused the group to Kevin Green's farm, to Ludwig's Creamery, and to Sleepy Creek Winery. We returned to Kennekuk at 5 p.m. At least six of the twenty-five people have never been to Kennekuk.

Special events since the last board meeting included the Revolutionary War Re-enactment which has already been discussed. This was followed by the Civil War Re-enactment held on October 2 and 3. It also attracted a good crowd. We received 10% of the gate receipts.

Haunted Happenings is this upcoming Saturday. Comp tickets are in the trustee's notebook.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 18, 2015; 4:30 p.m.; at the education center. This may however be moved.

President Myers asked the Executive Director to report on the meeting with IDNR Director Wayne Rosenthal.

Executive Director Konsis reported that he was here on September 22 and was accompanied by Rep. Chad Hays and Kickapoo State Park Superintendent John Hott. We first toured the Education Center and there were many questions about Outdoor School and future plans for the building. We then stopped at the B.H.H.A. and the Executive Director explained the origins of some of the buildings. Rep. Hays told about Phases of the Moon. We then toured Laury Barn. He has a similar barn on his property. Finally, we stopped at the canoe access and he reported on all of the trials and tribulations to get this done, the only concrete canoe access in the nation on a national scenic river.

Director Rosenthal said that we have a lot to be proud of here. Executive Director Konsis agreed.

There were no other questions or comments.

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

Trustee Jaynes reported on the Kiwani's Pancake Dinner. The Kiwani's have \$2,000 to put toward naming rights of the display area at the education center. He also reported that he sponsors a booth at the civic center for Channel 3's "Man Show". He said that the V.C.C.D. could use the booth to promote the V.C.C.D. for fundraising.

Trustee Cooke had no comment.

President Myers commented that we need to figure out the attendance issues of trustees.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Jaynes moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. Meeting adjourned.*

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