

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

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

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018
4:30 p.m.
Kennekuk 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 and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll call showed the following to be present.

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

Trustee(s) Absent: Robert W. Arnholt

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

Staff members present included: Susan Biggs Warner, Lara Darling, Kim Fox, Nick Jeurissen, 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 Jaynes moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the January 17, 2018, Regular Meeting.

With no changes, *Trustee Schroeder moved to approve the January 17, 2018, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Item number five a. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the January 17, 2018 Meeting.

With no comments, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the January 17, 2018, as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor, motion carried.*

Item number six a. Audience Comments. There were six Vermilion County Conservation Foundation Directors; Ed Barney and John Beardsley, attorneys, a media representative; and seven public citizens present. President Myers stated that anyone wishing to comment need only raise their hand, wait to be recognized by the chairman, and state their name. Each person has a maximum of five minutes, total maximum of 30 minutes for audience comments.

Don Ritter was recognized; he stated that he is a supporter of the conservation district and a past trustee. His concern today is the discussion of possible lease of property and possible circumvention of the Vermilion Wage Law. He and the five men with him are present today to make sure that this is discussed in a public forum and not behind closed doors.

Don Arbuckle, IBEW Local 538, was recognized; he wished to reiterate what Don Ritter had stated, he also had great concern over the circumvention of the Prevailing Wage Act, and wanted to make sure everything was done legally.

Webb Crouch, representing local pipefitters and plumbers in Vermilion County, was recognized; he too was concerned with leasing property out for purposes of circumventing the Prevailing Wage Law. This prevents contractors from paying a fair wage. "It is totally unfair and it is something that is unscrupulous."

Hearing no more, public comments were closed.

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 January 2018 in the amount of \$21,311.34, which included check #'s 38179 -38195; the Manual Checks for January 2017 in the amount of \$39,960.56 which included check #'s 38047 – 38059, 38079 – 38101, and 38136 – 38139; the General Journal Entries for January 31, 2018; and the January 2018 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
President Myers	-	yes

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

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported that the checking account balance is \$212,935.00. Illinois Funds totaled \$73,900.00 and there is no activity

on the Illinois Funds Money Market. First Farmers Bank balance is \$249,600.00; and Central Illinois Bank has a balance of \$249,800.00. These are bond funds. The HRA has a total of \$3,500.00. A CD invested at the Catlin Bank has a balance of \$200,000.00; First Savings Bank account balance remains at \$199,300.00.

Executive Director Konsis noted that our bond fund balance is \$194,091.85.

The grand total of cash and investments less bond funds is \$1,000,043.15. This compares to \$698,970.00 in February of 2017.

President Myers asked if there were any other 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. Presentation for possible music festival. Executive Director Konsis introduced Blake Smolensky & Josh Eidenberg. They began their presentation to bring a music festival to Kennekuk County Park, "Serenity Base Fest", during September 13-16, 2018.

They propose a music & art fest, bringing Chicago vendors to Danville to create extraordinary moments for attendees. They will promote health and wellness during the fest, including yoga and healthy food options. Camping on site would be offered. They plan to ban alcohol on site during the festival.

Blake and Josh also plan to make monetary donations to three Chicago charities with proceeds from the festival.

During the 3-day festival an estimated attendance of 2,500 – 5,000 is expected.

President Myers asked what is needed from the District for them to proceed.

Blake responded that they will be talking with potential investors and therefore a letter of intent from the VCCD Board would be helpful.

The VCCD Board of Trustees main concern was support and care of the park, before during and after the event. Executive Director Konsis asked about the use of local vendors and local charities.

Blake responded that this is something that could be worked out. There would be a contract stating their intent, sent to the VCCD, for their review.

The general consensus of the Board was favorable, and there will be a future agenda item for formal approval pending review of a contract.

Item eight b. Discuss/approve Farnsworth engineering contract for Kickapoo Rail Trail. Executive Director Konsis explained the Farnsworth engineering contract which had been previously sent to the Trustees. The \$159,000 cap is only an estimate and does not mean that it will cost the entire amount. This contract covers the portion from Grey's Siding Road to the west side of Oakwood.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the Kickapoo Rail Trail engineering contract with Farnsworth as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder

Trustee Jaynes asked about the timeline for this portion of the project.

Executive Director Konsis responded that it is estimated to be about a year. That would be under the actual bid with a contractor.

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

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

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

Item eight c. Approval of Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Tentative Budget. Executive Director Konsis presented details of the budget which the Trustees had been given previously.

The estimated cash balance on April 1, 2018 is \$675,855.; revenue \$1,343,560.; expenditures \$1,382,375. Estimated cash balance on March 31, 2019 is 637,040.

With no comments, Trustee Schroeder moved to approve Ordinance No. 145 Budget and Appropriations for 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.

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

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

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

Item eight d. Review executive session minutes from November 2, 2016; January 18, 2017; December 6, 2017.

Executive Director Konsis explained these were under review for release or withhold any or all these minutes to the public. These regarded the following: November 2016 – Summer Camp Music Festival Proposal; January 2017 – 2017 salaries; and December 2017 – Phases of the Moon proposal to move ahead.

With no comments, Trustee Schroeder moved to approve the release to the public of all three executive session minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight e. Discussion of possible lease of property to Vermilion County Conservation Foundation. President Myers recognized Gordon Thoennes, VCCF Chairman.

VCC Foundation Chairman Thoennes requested to table the property lease discussion.

President Myers asked for a motion to table agenda item eight e. *Trustee Jaynes moved to table item eight e. of the February 28, 2018, agenda. This was followed by a second from Trustee Schroeder. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. Associate Director Pasquale reported that there were approximately 100 people in attendance at the IACD conference, February 15-16, 2018; ten of the VCCD staff members attended. Ideas and policies are discussed and many information sessions were available to attend.

In addition at the conference, Executive Director Konsis was presented with the Burton Atwood Award. Burton Atwood was a leader in conservation and a strong advocate for conservation groups. Executive Director Konsis was very surprised to receive this honor, and it was nice for him to receive this award in this setting, with so many of his IACD friends and District staff present. This was met with applause from the Board and audience.

This concluded the IACD Report.

Agenda item nine b; VCC Foundation Report. Chairman Thoennes had no report.

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

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

Agenda item nine e: VCCD Education. The report was mailed to the Trustees. There were no questions or comments.

Agenda item nine f: VCCD Maintenance. The Forest Glen and Kennekuk reports were mailed to the Trustees. There were no questions.

Agenda item nine g: Internet Access Committee. Trustee Arnholt was not present, there was no report.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: Executive Session. There was nothing for Executive Session.

Agenda item eleven: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that a prescribed burn was successfully completed at Forest Glen in portions of Doris Westfall Prairie and the Savanna.

Forest Glen & Kennekuk Staff have been busy collecting maple sap at Forest Glen. Superintendent Charlie Rhoden reported that 50 gallons of syrup has been made to date.

The recent heavy rains have done some damage to the Willow Creek Dam Spillway project at Forest Glen, eroding some of the dirt work away. This project has not been completed and the damage will be repaired as soon as the surrounding area dries out and

work will continue. Damage by flooding occurred to the boardwalk at Heron County Park. Associate Director Pasquale believes this will be easily repaired by District Staff. The rain also caused the existing drainage issues at Lake Vermilion to resurface. Lake Mingo levels were very high, but no damage was reported. The three-year dam inspection at Lake Mingo is slated for this year.

The Gannett Outdoor Education Center drainage issue and campground leech field projects will be next, once the weather becomes better.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item twelve: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis reported that no progress has been made with the VCCD northeast access procurement.

The VCC Foundation has agreed to make the KRT their #1 priority at their February 9th meeting. Mary Ellen Wuellner & Jon Hasselbring from CCFPD were in attendance. Mary Ellen assured the Foundation Board that Champaign County will help out whenever needed. They are holding \$120,000 in dedicated funds for the Vermilion County portion of the trail. Final trail plans and the environmental report were received from Fehr-Graham; these are under review by CCFPD. VCC Foundation Director Kevin Green proposed a complete reorganization of the KRT fundraising committee. This committee meeting will be March 9th, 9 a.m., Kennekuk Education Center. The KRT Danville Committee meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month. IDOT hopes to have an April bid letting and a June construction target date.

Executive Director Konsis met with Loss Control (IPARKS) on Jan. 23. The following issues need addressed: upgrade fuel containers and store them in steel cabinets; electrical boxes should have empty circuit breaker slots covered; new gas pumps installed at Forest Glen with protective ballards; 8 inches of woodchips for fall zones placed on all playground equipment.

Meetings and speaking engagements: Ambucs speaker, January 24th; Kennekuk tour for Blake and Josh of Serenity Base Fest, Feb. 8th; VCCF, Feb. 9th; KRT Danville Committee, Feb. 14th; IACD Conference, Feb. 15-16; DACVB, Feb. 21st; LVWQ, Feb. 22nd; Horticulture Advisory Committee, Feb. 28th.

Upcoming meetings: I-Gov, March 1st; Illinois Public Risk Loss Control, March 8th; KRT Fundraiser Committee, March 9th; KRT Danville Committee, March 14th.

The next V.C.C.D. Board Meeting will be Wednesday, March 21, 2018; 4:30 p.m., Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve. Agenda items will include approval of tentative budget ordinance for public display.

This concluded the Report of the Executive Director.

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

President Myers congratulated Executive Director Konsis on receiving the Burton Atwood Award.

Trustee Schroeder had no comment

Trustee Jaynes had no comment.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *Trustee Schroeder moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation.*

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