

**KINKAID-REED'S CREEK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
CONSERVANCY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

The Conservancy Committee of the Kinkaid-Reed's Creek Conservancy District held its meeting on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. Trustee Chuck Novara called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m., at the KRCCD Office Building at 1763 Water Plant Rd., Murphysboro, Illinois. Meeting was also held by Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Chuck Novara	Present
Steve McGriff	Present
Mike Barone	Present
Joshua Hellmann	Present
Scott Wilmouth	Present

Also, present: Brittney & Mark Dirnberger, Gary Rains, Ed Heller, Jason Peach, Shawn Hirst and Cathy Rothe

MINUTEES: Trustee Barone made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 08, 2021, Conservancy Committee meeting. Trustee Joshua Hellmann seconded motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Chuck Novara	Yes
Steve McGriff	Yes
Mike Barone	Yes
Joshua Hellmann	Yes
Scott Wilmouth	Yes

Trustee Novara declared the motion carried.

Trustee McGriff made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021, Conservancy Committee meeting. Trustee Barone seconded motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Chuck Novara	Yes
Steve McGriff	Yes
Mike Barone	Yes
Joshua Hellmann	Yes
Scott Wilmouth	Yes

Trustee Novara declared the motion carried.

Old Business:

Fish Management: Nothing to report

Boat Fee for Fish Tournaments: Manager Wilmouth reported that IDNR Lands has put a fee on tournaments. It's 10% of the tournament entry fee, the way I understand it. None of those proceeds will go to the District. The District has considered imposing a boat fee, however, they beat us to it. Trustee Novara stated that is how he feels about it, we could ask if they would put some money in the Districts Fish Management Fund. Trustee Novara asked Manager Wilmouth if he would look into this. Manager Wilmouth stated that Shawn Hirst of IDNR is on the call and asked Mr. Hirst if he had anything to add? Mr. Hirst stated that it is a lands fee, it's a \$25.00 fee if you use a state ramp and then it's 10% of the entry fees minus the \$25.00. That money is all going to lands and I don't know what their plans are for it. I found out about this 2 days before the November 1st deadline, when people could start applying for tournaments for the following year. Trustee Novara asked Mr. Hirst if he knew who the District could contact on this to find out if they would be willing to put any money into our Fish Management Fund? Mr. Hirst replied, call Joe Green at the park. Manger Wilmouth asked Mr. Hirst, is Mr. Green the one who implemented this? Mr. Hirst replied, it is statewide, he is the one who has to collect the fees and turn them in. If it's at a state ramp they have to pay, but at Johnson Creek you don't have to pay the fee. At Rend if you're at Sailboat Harbor you don't have to pay it, it is a state-owned boat ramp. It's not every single tournament, it is just at state ramps but unfortunately the Paul Ice and Mount Joy are both considered state ramps. Manger Wilmouth stated he would reach out to Mr. Green. Trustee Novara stated that regarding the fee that the District was talking about, we will just have to drop it. Trustee Barone stated that he has talked to a lot of fishermen out there, what their thinking is, there is a lot of boats and jet skis that are out there all day long and they are not being accessed anything, they feel like that the people holding the tournaments are being singled out. It's really not fair to them to target fishermen. I agree with them on this issue.

Fish Tournament Request and Fish Tournament Regulations: Nothing to report

319 Update: Manager Wilmouth reported the new round of 319 application was submitted today.

Deck/Shed Requests: Nothing to report

MARINA/CAMPGROUND:

Sewer System Violation/Repair Update: Manger Wilmouth reported that President McGriff, Trustee Mileur and he met with Agan Alkan on Sunday. Mr. Alkan gave a brief update on the sewer. He is supposed to put it in writing, however, we have not received it. Mr. Alkan stated that he pumped the holding tanks except for Ed Bottoms. President McGriff stated that Mr. Alkan got Junior to do the pumping, because he has done it before and knew what had to be done. Trustee Novara asked if the Health Department was okay with what has been done? President McGriff replied that the District didn't even know they were doing that. Trustee Novara replied, what I mean is, they say they have done this work, they were cited by both Jackson County and Illinois Department of Public Health, all I'm asking is, the work that they have done, does either one of those agencies know that work is being done and did they say it's good to go on what they have done? President McGriff replied, last week's conversation with Kyle he said that they are doing some work, he didn't know what, I'll be out there when the deadline is up to find out what has not been done. They will follow it up. Trustee Novara stated, so in December they are going out there and what has not been done, they are going to put the hammer down? President McGriff stated that today he talked to Dave McKenzie, and I asked him about the permitting for campground's, which in is December each year. He said that it is in February. It's mailed out in December but it's enforceable in February. I described to him what is going on here with the litigation. He said that he understood, and if there is a new owner, they would backup and resume with what hasn't been done or what has been done. If there is a new owner, they will have to fill out the paperwork for that person and keep on going. He was confident that would not be a problem. Manger Wilmouth stated that Brittney and Mark Dirnberger are on Zoom, do you have something to add to this? Mrs. Dirnberger stated, unfortunately they don't have any information either, you guys have more than we have.

...the floor over to Gary Rains. Mr.

Rains stated that Manager Wilmouth and him meet on Monday with the Jackson County Board personnel, Emily Mirabella and Jennifer Huson. What you have in front of you is the four projects that we explained to those ladies and said for them to get back to us if they had any questions. I had the information on a thumb drive for them to make into a power point presentation for the County Board meeting which is this coming Monday. We are to attend that at 5:00pm to explain to the Board what those projects consists of. Trustee Novara stated that he had a question, what does this mean? Mr. Rains stated changes that reduce the net tax revenue must not be offset? Mr. Rains stated he had no idea, we are not in that category. We are in it as a not for profit, primary for public health standpoint and also to enhance, improve tourism to offset the effects of the pandemic. Trustee Novara stated the reason he is asking about that is, if the Conservancy Board took that over, we would not be paying property taxes on it. Mr. Rains replied that the District does not pay property taxes now. Trustee Novara stated, what I'm saying is, if the District took it over, would we still have taxes on that ground? Manger Wilmouth stated that the District cannot be taxed. President McGriff stated from what Mr. McKenzie told me today, if we end up with it, it is nontaxable. Trustee Barone stated that SIH in Carbondale is buying up all those properties, which is having an effect on the County because they are also tax exempt. Mr. Rains stated that the meeting he had prior to the last Monday meeting was where they told us, where we explained our projects in general terms at that meeting, they told us what category we would be eligible for, and it was mostly to do with public health and tourism from standpoint of correcting the negative effects of the pandemic. We explained to them that because of the pandemic there has been emphasis on outdoor activities because people consider those safer. Trustee Barone stated with all the lost revenue from the restaurant not being opened last year, that is lost revenue to the County. Trustee Barone asked Mr. Rains what the total amount is, I see that we changed the scope on the sewer system. Mr. Rains replied that we had four projects, if they would provide local match money for the OSLAD campground that would be in the neighborhood of \$600,000. Then part of option 2 would go away. The final thing would be the new campground improvements. Reconstruction of the existing long-term campground would be about 2.2 million. In round numbers we are at 3 to 3.5 million dollars.

Swimming Beach: Trustee Novara asked Manager Wilmouth, you have pulled some logs or all logs? Manager Wilmouth replied, the stop logs have been pulled and the lake is down a foot but depends on the rain, it might go right back up. There are two logs left in there and once the lake got down some we are going to go back and remove them.

NEW BUSINESS: Nothing to report

OTHER MATTERS TO DISCUSS: Mr. Hirst stated there was a concern about phragmites is that this meeting or the Board meeting? President McGriff stated that we brought that up at the last meeting. It is down in the big part of the lake in a couple of places. Manager Wilmouth stated that he has been researching and I reached out to Mr. Hirst and burning is a control mechanism, it doesn't really work that well. The chemicals will not destroy it completely. I'm going to reach out to IDRN with the Division of Water and ask them if they know of anybody else in the State trying to control it. Mr. Hirst stated that at Rend, they do arial applications with helicopters because of the areas they are doing. They are not trying to control all of it, just in certain spots. We can go out there and spray off of a boat, if there is not a huge amount of it. I went out around the five fingers to make sure there was phragmites and it wasn't something else and I did find a couple of patches. I didn't drive the whole lake. I have seen where you can pull it out by hand. You can try to cut it down to about 6 inches at a certain time. It is best to spray it at late summer or fall. I don't want to take more than I can handle but if there is not that much of it, I can go out there. I have never tried to pull it before, I don't know what that entails. The two little patches that I saw, I think that in a couple of hours a bunch of it could be pulled. It's got big rye zones, which is the root systems, everything says you have to keep an eye on it and maybe treat it more. You can treat it with Rodeo which is the approved aquatic version of Round Up, if we are going to spray it with chemicals. I've never treated it, I don't know how much is out there. I did see some and I'm not sure when it starts to grow. I will take a ride on the lake and try to mark the areas on a map. For me to do the whole lake shore it is going to take days and days. President McGriff stated to Mr. Hirst, I have sprayed the Rodeo on my lake for three years, and it put it in a stall for about a month in the spring when I sprayed it and by midsummer it is full blown again. Mr. Hirst stated, sometimes with that kind of stuff,

those chemicals are contact chemicals, meaning you spray the chemical on the plant and the plant trans locate it down into the root system. In springtime the roots are feeding the plant to try to get it high and late in the summer they are typically sending nutrients back down into the root system. Maybe it would be better to treat it in late summer or the fall with the sprays. I have never treated it, so I'm not saying you did it wrong. The other thing I read is if you treat it too heavy, you can kill the top and then the plant doesn't send the chemical down to its root system. It's going to be trial and error. You have more experience with it than me. President McGriff stated, one of the landowners out there this year has started spraying in the fall, as it's going back to the roots. We are waiting to see how it turns out on his lake. Mr. Hirst stated, the other thing that I have read is you have to make sure that you are using a wetting agent along with the chemical. That is another chemical that helps the active ingredient stick to the plant. If you have not been using a wetting agent, you might want to try that. Manager Wilmouth stated to Mr. Hirst, if we can get those locations on a map and get them identified, see how big it is, we can attack it or we make need more help. Mr. Hirst replied, that is the way I look at it. Having never treated it, I'm not sure when you can start noticing it in the spring. Go out and try one patch to try to pull it and if that is a back breaking nightmare, then we will have to get to where we do the cutting part of it and then the spraying in the late summer or fall and keep after it that way. If we can spend a few hours pulling it out, even if that means we can cut back on the amount of chemicals that we have to use. I would like to try that first.

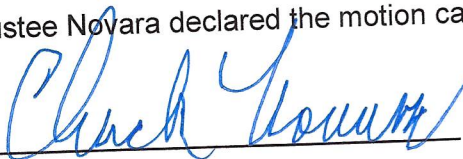
Trustee Barone stated to Manger Wilmouth, can you ask Mr. Hirst where we are on the crappie regulations. Manager Wilmouth asked Mr. Hirst, is there an update on the crappie regulations? Mr. Hirst replied, as far as I know it should be good to go. It will go into effect April 1st. I'm going to have to call a sign company to get some new signs, so it is posted. I may try to get something out there on social media. I did mentioned it on a fishing podcast that I did on Monday night, that a lot of locals see. Everyone is aware that is it coming. I have a few, mainly positive comments on it. People are perceiving the lack of bigger fish. Anytime you change it and allow people to keep less, you're always going to have people upset. The goal is to allow as much harvest as possible but protect the resource. We will be doing our surveys each year and keep track of it and if we think that it is not working, we will change it to something else. Trustee Barone stated that IDOT has a sign shop. He didn't know if between agencies if they could do that or not. When I worked there, they helped other state agencies before with signs. Mr. Hirst stated that he would certainly call them. Manager Wilmouth thanked Mr. Hirst.

ADJOURNMENT: There being nothing further to discuss Trustee Barone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Novara seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Chuck Novara	Yes
Steve McGriff	Yes
Mike Barone	Yes
Joshua Hellmann	Yes
Scott Wilmouth	Yes

Trustee Novara declared the motion carried.



CHAIRMAN