

**KINKAID-REED'S CREEK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
CONSERVANCY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, December 08, 2021**

The Conservancy Committee of the Kinkaid-Reed's Creek Conservancy District held its meeting on Wednesday, December 08, 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 and Cathy Rothe

MINUTEES: Trustee Barone made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 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

Chairman Novara declared the motion carried.

Old Business:

Fish Management: Manger Wilmouth reported that he contacted Joe Green regarding the land's tournament fee, and he stated that the money is going back to the ramps for repair and maintenance. I explain why the District had talked about a fee, and that the money would go back into the Districts Fish Management fund. Mr. Green did agree that maybe some of the money IDRN collected should go to a fish management fund, but he doesn't make the decisions on that. Manager Wilmouth thought that the committee should write a letter to the higher up land's people and explain that some of that money should go into fish management. Chairman Novara stated that we also need to let them know of all the work that the District did on the ramp in previous years. Chairman Novara stated that he is hearing people say, the tournaments are paying this fee but everybody else is not. Everybody is using that ramp not just the tournament fishermen. Manager Wilmouth stated that if the committee agrees he will write a letter. Chairman Novara replied to Manager Wilmouth, yes, we need to follow up with this.

Manager Wilmouth stated that Shawn Hirst had reached out to him about the USA Anglers Choice and they applied for a tournament and stated they were using a private ramp. Mr. Hirst could not figure out which ramp it was, and he asked me if it was the service ramp at the Marina or Sharp Rock. I told Mr. Hirst that the service ramp at the marina was not a public ramp and it's not to be used by the public, it is only used for marina staff and KRCCD staff. The Sharp Rock ramp is a Federal ramp. I received a call from Steve Robillard from IDNR Fisheries and they pinpointed the ramp to the service ramp. I told him the service ramp cannot be used for that purpose and it is in the concessionaire's contract.

Chairman Novara stated that somebody was saying that the District was indeed going to put an additional boat fee on top of this IDRN fee. Which that is not true, the District is not adding any additional fees

Fish Tournament Request and Fish Tournament Regulations: Manger Wilmouth reported that George Daily from USA BASSIN has requested March 12, 2022, April 16, 2022, and May 5, 2022, those date are available, and they have permits from IDNR.

319 Update: Nothing to report

Deck/Shed Requests: Nothing to report

MARINA/CAMPGROUND:

Sewer System Violation/Repair Update: Manger Wilmouth stated that Brittney Dirnberger is on Zoom and asked if she had an update. Mrs. Dirnberger stated that she did not have any update. Manger Wilmouth asked Mrs. Dirnberger if they were going to meet their deadlines? Mrs. Dirnberger replied, it does not appear so, we don't have that information, I apologize for that.

American Rescue Plan: Manger Wilmouth reported that Mr. Rains and I attended a meeting, and it didn't go like we thought it would go. The money that was left for non-profits, they are supposed to have another meeting to allocate that money. We have not heard yet of when that meeting will be. Trustee Barone stated that he spoke with a committee member today and he is going to look into that for us. Gary Rains stated, out of the 11 million, 5 million was set aside for county wide broad band service. That cut into that 11 million. It looked to me like there was only going to be about 1 million left for non-profits, and they had something like 10 million dollars' worth of requests from the non-profits. We left there without a good feeling about getting any money.

Swimming Beach: Manger Wilmouth reported to the committee that he has handed out a map. Mr. Rains and I went out and looked at four different areas, they are all favorable. In my opinion site number 1 is probably the best scenario at the north parking lot at Paul Ice. There is already a bathroom there and a parking lot. There would have to be a lot of other things done before a beach could be put in place. Mr. Rains stated because the lake was drawn down, we took the opportunity to do a survey, simple profile, of the exposed shoreline. The criteria for a swim beach in Illinois is that all water less than five feet deep has to have less than a 10% slope. All four of the arears that we surveyed above the water are of okay. We would have to actually go out in a boat to say for sure. We would have a running start to some extent on the infrastructure such as the parking lot and the bathrooms would be somewhat in compliant, there would be showers that would have to be added. Trustee McGriff asked Mr. Rains, do you have to have a shower house or just a shower outside like they have at the Florida beaches? Chairman Novara stated that he didn't think that Cedar Beach had a shower house. Mr. Rains replied, some of the regulations went into effect in the late 1990's and perhaps Cedar preceded that and maybe received a grandfather. For beaches established after May 28, 1997, you have to have the showers. Trustee Barone stated that since there is bathrooms there, a water source is already there, so it would be just a matter of running more lines for a shower house. Chairman Novara asked how big is the parking lot? Manger Wilmouth stated that it is not big enough however there is room to expand the parking lot. Chairman Novara asked, at one time didn't Joe Green say he had docks, and nothing ever came of that. Manager Wilmouth stated that he looked at that when he first became site superintendent, wanting to put additional docks at the shelters, but nothing happened. Chairman Novara stated the point I was going to get to, if there would be a beach there, there is going to be people with boats that would want to come in and if there were docks there that would be nice. Trustee Barone stated there was a beach at the island but was shut down due to the geese causing ecoli. Chairman Novara stated that it would be interesting to see if that was still the case. Mr. Rains stated that if there is geese around, that is probably still the case. I think that we should summarize by saying that all we have really looked into is the suitability of the sites from the bottom slope to topography samplings. All the other things that we have talked about like the necessity of showers is going to require more research, more discussion with the Department of Public Health. There might be some difference between public beaches and those owned by a private place. I hesitate to say what all would be required at this point. Trustee Barone asked, isn't Cedar a swim at your own risk? Mr. Rains stated that what he has read, is if people under the age of 16 use it without being accompanied by adult, you

have to have a lifeguard. So if you have regulations that says nobody under 16 can swim without an adult, perhaps you would not have to have a lifeguard. I wouldn't want to get into all those regulations, because I do not know them. It would have to be looked into.

NEW BUSINESS: Nothing to report

OTHER MATTERS TO DISCUSS: Manager Wilmouth asked if anyone on Zoom had any questions or comments. Rick Byrnes stated there is confusion with IDNR, they misunderstood what we want to do. As far as the ramp, we never asked to use that ramp. We wanted to have our event at Kinkaid Lake Marina. We want to be able to send our anglers in to buy, purchase, eat a sandwich, or what not. In other words, we would do our registration in the Kinkaid Marina parking lot. The guys can either come by water and come up to register or park wherever and launch wherever. We would do everything from that facility. That is where the confusion is here. IDNR is apparently making this a ramp fee but it's not a ramp fee, it's an event fee. The event is not being held on their property, we should be able to do this, as long as we have permission. We do have permission from Agan, to be able to do this. My argument is not with you guys, it's with IDNR. It's either a ramp fee or it's an event fee, it can't be both. I read through the notes of the last meeting. The tournament fishermen contribute more than any other user group on the lake. The reason that is, our fishing license (inaudible) by IDNR is matched through the Sport Fish Recreation Act and I think there is something called (inaudible). They match those funds that the IDNR spends. Tournament anglers spend a lot of money on high dollar equipment. So we contribute heavily into those funds. There are some users on the lake that specifically use wake boats and cigar boats. In reality, they contribute a registration sticker. Chairman Novara stated that he is understanding this permit is what they called a land use permit, that effects their ramps. Mr. Byrnes replied, if they want to go by the letter of the law, I'm just asking them to do that. This rule is 20 years old. Before I invested money into running tournaments 20 years ago, I called and checked on this and a special variance permit. I wanted to make sure that both of them did not apply to us. (Inaudible) I was promised they did not, and I requested that they make notes that I called, I got that confirmation, and they did. Five years ago when they tried to apply all rules in the special variances permit to tournaments, they were able to dig up those notes and found where I was told they do not apply to tournaments. Chairman Novara asked, when you run your tournaments, you run them off the Mount Joy ramp, correct? Mr. Byrnes replied, yes. Chairman Novara asked, so you are saying that you want to make the base of operations at the marina, is that correct? Mr. Byrnes replied, yes, we want to have the event at the marina, I don't care where the guy's park. They can park anywhere they want to. Chairman Novara asked, where are you proposing to launch? Mr. Byrnes replied, we will launch from the marina. Chairman Novara asked, where are you initially going to launch your boat? Mr. Byrnes replied, they can use any ramp they want on the lake. We want to have the event at the marina. Chairman Novara stated, that is fine, but the issue was that tournaments were going to use the service ramp at the marina. That ramp is not designated for that type of activity. Mr. Byrnes replied, that was never stated that we were going to use that ramp at the marina. I hope that I am making sense. We want to have the event at the marina. Chairman Novara stated, if this law goes through, the State is going to charge the 10% if you use their ramps. Mr. Byrnes replied, our event will not be at their ramp. Now if they are calling this a parking fee that is only applying to tournaments, that is a different thing but that is not the way the law reads. Like I said, my argument is not with you guys. They are determining a rule that was never supposed to be, it's been on the books for 20 years. It has never applied to us. We have been told over and over again, that it would not apply to us. Now it is applying to us. There is very little money taken out of the events. The way we make money as an organization is through membership fees. The director makes about 6%, other than that, membership fees is how we earn our money. The 20% that is taken (inaudible) goes to our year end championship. When you have a high entry fee like we do, 10% is an exorbitant amount that you are asking these fishermen to pay. You are asking them to pay \$20.00 per man to fish in a tournament. Chairman Novara stated, the District is not, IDNR is. Mr. Byrnes stated that he has people from Missouri, Kentucky, and from up north come to Kinkaid to fish these events already asking me, am I going to lose 10% of my money before I make a cast, and I said, yes, if we have to go out of a State facility. It's a bad deal all the way around. Trustee McGriff stated, Rick, what brought us into the realm of this conversation is that we were told that Agan had given you permission to use the service ramp at the marina to launch your boats. Mr. Byrnes stated

that Agan has mentioned that he had a ramp, I looked at it and it is one lane, I had no idea it was a service ramp, I never discussed using that ramp. I discussed having the event at the marina. Trustee McGriff stated the ramp is just used for maintenance for the Conservancy District or the marina. Mr. Byrnes asked, do you understand what I am saying, that the entire event would take off at the marina. Trustee McGriff stated that we do not have a problem with that, that does not involve us at all. Mr. Byrnes stated that he had heard it mentioned earlier, maybe I understand why the State is saying we can't do that now. They are doing their best to try and force us to use State ramps. That is a problem. (Inaudible) None of this is your problem, I just want to clarify what I heard. Manager Wilmouth stated, thank you Rick for clarifying this, the information I had was that you had permission to use the service ramp and that is why I sent the documents back. Mr. Byrnes stated, I never said we were going to use that ramp. Manager Wilmouth replied, I think that was where the confusion was. Mr. Byrnes stated, thank you for hearing me out.

Mr. Rains reported on that the proposed short-term camping facility from the OSLAD grant. He had a meeting Tuesday with the Jackson County Public Health to determine exactly what we are going to have to do with the wastewater. We are working on the design of everything. We hope to have all the permits necessary to build it by the end of January, and hopefully get the bids out in February for Board approval in March.

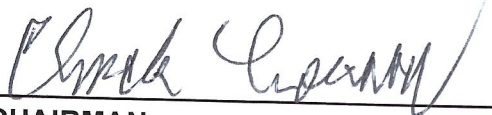
Trustee McGriff stated that now that the water is low, we need to get someone knowledgeable who can kill the phragmites. I would hate to see this thing go crazy. Chairman Novara asked, once the lake is down is that going to be out of the water and if it's out of the water, will a hard freeze kill it? Trustee McGriff replied, nothing kills it. Nothing that I have tried kills it. Rodeo is what I use on my lake, all it does is stunts it, it does not kill it. I have bush hogged it and it grows right back. Trustee Barone asked didn't Shawn Hirst talk about this last month, can we reach out to him and IDRN to see what they do in this situation? Trustee McGriff stated that Mr. Hirst was talking about pulling it out by the roots. The roots run up on the bank 8 or 10 feet at my lake. Mr. Rains stated it won't grow in water more than about 6 inches deep. Trustee McGriff stated that he was told to drain about 2 feet of water out, let it stay down and it will kill it. I have not tried that on my lake. Mr. Rains stated that his mine lake drops about 3 feet every summer and basically the entire shoreline is phragmites and that does not affect it. It still there the next year when the water comes up. Trustee Barone stated that maybe we could reach out to SIU and check with Rend Lake to see what they are doing.

ADJOURNMENT: There being nothing further to discuss Trustee McGriff 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

Chairman Novara declared the motion carried.



CHAIRMAN