1996 S. Kirk Rd. Suite 320
Geneva, IL 60134

Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee Meeting Minutes

President Bill Lenert, Chair Cherryl Strathmann, Vice-Chair Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis

Thursday, March 26, 2026 9:30 AM 3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, March 26, 2026 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Vice-Chair Allan called the meeting to order at 9:35AM. *President Lenert appointed Commissioner Abbatacola to the Committee. Staff endured technical difficulties with the audio and camera connection.*

Remote Attendance Approval

Commissioners Strathmann and Molina

PRESENT	President Bill Lenert
	Chair Cherryl Strathmann (Remote)
	Vice-Chair Deborah Allan
	Commissioner Mavis Bates
	Commissioner Chris Kious
	Commissioner Ted Penesis
	Commissioner Myrna Molina (Remote)
ABSENT	Commissioner Alex Arroyo

Also Present: Commissioners: Juby (Remote), Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; CFAO Petschke; Finance staff Carrano; Ops. Dir. Jensen; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez; HR Dir. Clough; Chief of Police Burger; Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk; Admin staff Figliozzi, Rafferty and Attorney Sterk of Ancel and Glink.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 26, 2026

RESULT:	**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
MOVER:	Chris Kious
AYE:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Ted Penesis, Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT:	Alex Arroyo

III. Public Comment (Each Speaker is limited to three minutes)

None.

IV. Bids and Proposals

None.

V. New or Unfinished Business

NRM Biologist Sadie Dainko provided a PowerPoint presentation of the diverse bird species re-colonizing Muirhead Springs.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Penesis requested a copy of the presentation to be forwarded to the Committee members, as he enjoyed the presentation and learning about the species that have returned since the mitigation bank project. There was discussion regarding the construction of the wetland mitigation bank and the ongoing growth and vegetation from the project.*

The online audio connected returned at 10AM during the presentation.

Commissioners requesting online attendance were approved verbally at this time. President Lenert asked to have the presentation given at the Full Board meeting on April 14th for the rest of the Commissioners.

TMP-26-430 Presentation and Discussion of Demolition of Two (2) Residential Structures at Burnidge and Dick Young Forest Preserves

Dir. of Operations Jensen presented the recommendations to demolish structures on two forest preserves. Staff recently conducted an evaluation of the residential structure located within the Burnidge Forest Preserve, pursuant to the District Owned Housing Program Policy (approved April 2024). This structure has been vacant since December 2025, due to the significant structural costs required to ensure reasonable living conditions. Staff residence inspections are conducted twice annually by the District's Facility Maintenance Supervisor. Inspections are also conducted at the time a residence is vacated. The inspection assesses exterior (siding and fascia, windows, roof, gutters, downspouts, foundation) and interior conditions (plaster/drywall, windows, plumbing, electrical, and furnace). Interior paint and flooring are not considered during the structural and safety assessment. Structures are evaluated for both immediate costs and projected costs within the next 5-year period.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Bates asked about the houses and that they seemed to be deteriorated. Dir. of Ops Jensen stated that the District did not have available funds to allocate towards these repairs as the repairs are costly. Commissioner Penesis agreed with the staff recommendation that demolition was more favorable for green space rather than investing money in repairing a structure. Commissioner Abbatacola asked if the District would provide the wood material from the structure to the public. Dir. of Ops. Jensen responded that the District has given construction material such as wood to the public in the past. He noted that the items that are salvageable would be saved, he added that the District partners with the fire department to provide training for burns.*

There was Consensus from the Committee to move forward for demolition for the two houses.

VI. Closed Session to Discuss Land Acquisition, License Agreements, Potential Litigation and Personnel

None.

VII. Communications

Community Engagement staff Swanson promoted the annual Earth Day tree planting event that would be held on Saturday April 18th, 2026 at 10AM.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:36AM.

RESULT:	**APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
MOVER:	Bill Lenert
SECONDER:	Ted Penesis
AYE:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Ted Penesis, Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT:	Alex Arroyo

Vice-Chair Deborah Allan
Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

Gabriella Figliozzi
Recording Secretary