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

Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee Agenda

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

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

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, July 30, 2026 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S;30. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 9:41AM.

Remote Attendance Approval

None.

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

Also Present: Commissioners: Kious, Linder, Kim Young; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; CFAO Petschke; Ops. Dir. Jensen; NRM Dir. Chess; Landscape Architect Tegge; Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk & staff Kovach; Admin staff Figliozzi, Rafferty and Attorney Sterk of Ancel and Glink.

II. Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2026

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

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

None.

IV. Bids and Proposals

TMP-26-928 Resolution Approving Bids for Tree and Brush Clearing at Portions of Eight Forest Preserves

Dir. of NRM Chess presented the bids for tree and brush clearing. The objectives of these projects are to remove non-native brush and small mesic trees in degraded oak woodlands, as well as from large scale tallgrass prairie restorations. Woody invasive species, such as common buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica) and bush honeysuckle (Lonicera spp.), are some of the primary threats to biodiversity in Kane County's forests. These species create a thick mid-story cover that prevents light from reaching native understory plants. They also grow very well in shade; oak saplings do not. This adaptation prevents the regeneration of native trees. Grassland invasive species, like callery pear (Pyrus calleryana), have similar impacts to prairie communities by choking out the native grasses and forbs. Mechanical removal of

these invasive species, combined with chemical follow-up, will help to restore the ecosystems to a healthier condition. This, in turn, will provide better habitat quality for the entire suite of wildlife that these preserves support. Contractors were sought to bid on clearing projects across numerous heavily infested forest preserves.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Bates asked how each preserve is chosen. Dir. Chess responded that the District maintains a list of preserve priority; this includes landscape management history, and wildlife habitat needs which determines priority. Commissioner Penesis asked about how to determine the natural remnants of each preserve. Dir. Chess responded that when brush is cut back, it allows staff to see what grows back naturally.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Chris Kious
SECONDER: Ted Penesis
AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT: Jennifer Abbatacola, Alex Arroyo, Myrna Molina

TMP-26-929 Resolution Approving a Bid for the Installation of Insulation at the Natural Resource Management Facility

Dir. of NRM Chess presented the bids for tree and brush clearing. As part of the development of the new Natural Resource Management Department's facility at Mill Creek Greenway, a second building was constructed in 2020 for the purpose of housing the Department's seed processing and mixing operations as well as storage for large equipment, implements, and tools. One end of the building was insulated and heated for seed processing with the remaining ¾ of the building left unheated. Piping for in-floor heat was plumbed through the entire floor in the event more of the building was insulated in the future. Funds were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2026/27 to insulate the remaining portions of the western half of this cold storage building. This area is used for storage, but it is also the primary seed drying and mixing area. Seed mixing typically occurs during December and January when temperatures are extremely cold. Seed drying occurs during the summer months when the uninsulated building can reach very high temperatures. Insulation will help buffer these extremes and provide a better work environment for staff as well as conditions appropriate for seed storage. The District sought bids for the installation of spray foam insulation to the three exterior walls of the building as well as options for the roofline. The lowest qualified bid was received from Anchor Building Solutions Inc. of Richmond, Illinois in the amount of $5,925 for the base bid and $19,450 for option 2, which includes 4" closed cell foam with a R-28 insulation value. Staff additionally recommends a contingency of $2,500 to cover any unforeseen costs that may arise during this project.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Mavis Bates
SECONDER: Deborah Allan
AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT: Jennifer Abbatacola, Alex Arroyo, Myrna Molina

V. New or Unfinished Business

TMP-26-941 Resolution Authorizing the District to Apply for IDNR OSLAD Grant Funds for Site Improvements at Rutland Forest Preserve

Landscape Architect Tegge presented the resolution and the project. Rutland Forest Preserve is a 463-acre preserve in Rutland Township. In 2020, with assistance from Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) the District purchase 172 acres adjacent to Rutland Forest Preserve that included the Rutland Bog. The Bog represents the

southern limit of the acid bog community in Illinois, as well as the only community of its type in Kane County. The Rutland Bog Improvement Project was included as a key project for the 2024 Land Acquisition & Preserve Improvements Referendum. The overall scope includes restoration of the existing agricultural land to prairie and provides the necessary infrastructure to link users from the existing Rutland Forest Preserve to the Rutland Bog. The proposed new trails will allow the public to access the Bog and learn its rich history as well as enjoy the peace of the restored prairie. Additional amenities will include interpretive nodes offering educational opportunities related to the Bog and other natural elements within the preserve, a new shelter, restroom and parking west of the existing entrance, accessible fishing station at the northern pond and improvements to the existing trail at Rutland Forest Preserve. Staff is requesting permission to apply for the IDNR OSLAD grant to assist with funding the proposed improvements which, if awarded, would reimburse up to 50% ($600,000.00 cap) for development and engineering.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Kim Young asked if there would be any added maintenance to the improved trail. Tegge responded that the District would be seeking the most weather resistant material for a longer lifespan and minimal maintenance. Exec. Dir. Haberthur noted that the fishing aspect gains higher points for the District as a recreation addition for the preserve.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Ted Penesis
SECONDER: Bill Lenert
AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT: Jennifer Abbatacola, Alex Arroyo, Myrna Molina

TMP-26-900 Resolution Approving a Change Order with HR Green, Inc. for Professional Services to Develop Engineering Plans and Construction Observation for the Fox River Trail Path Improvements

Operations Dir. Jensen presented the change order of the Fox River trail improvement project. The Board approved an agreement with HR Green Inc. in November 2023 in the amount of $149,931.00 to complete the planning, design, and related professional services for the improvements to the Fox River Trail in South Elgin from Villa Maria Road to Seba Park (approximately 1.5 miles). Since that time, at the District's request, the project has been divided into three phases to better align with available funding. In addition, Phase II has been identified as requiring enhanced professional services and construction oversight for the replacement of a retaining wall with structural implications located in close proximity to overhead utilities and the trolley tracks. Phase I construction documents have been completed and are scheduled to be advertised for public bid in July 2026. Phase II construction documents are currently in progress and are anticipated to be completed for an October 2026 bid release, contingent upon approval of this change order. The requested additional funding will support completion of the Phase II and Phase III construction documents and provide approximately 200 hours of Construction Engineer oversight during Phase II construction to help ensure safe and effective project execution.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Penesis noted that he walks that trail often, he was pleased to hear about the improvements. Additionally, he asked if the area would be paved. Dir. Jensen responded that the area that is in the flood plain would be resurfaced in phase three of the project.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Chris Kious

SECONDER:	Ted Penesis
AYE:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT:	Jennifer Abbatacola, Alex Arroyo, Myrna Molina

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

None.

VII. Communications

Marketing Coordinator Kovach presented the upcoming District events. Seed harvest volunteer days are starting, the website has dates, time, and location. Additionally, the summer camps have come to a close. The Kane Foundation Golf Outing has been scheduled for September 10, 2026.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:16AM.

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

Chair Cherryl Strathmann
Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

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Recording Secretary