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, Dale Berman, Chris Kious, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis

Thursday, August 28, 2025 9:30 AM 3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, August 28, 2025 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM. *Due to lack of in person quorum, the meeting was held as a discussion. All resolutions were moved to the Executive Committee Agenda packet by Chair Strathmann and President Lenert.*

Remote Attendance Approval

PRESENT	President Bill Lenert
	Chair Cherryl Strathmann
	Vice Chair Deborah Allan (Arrived in person at 9:42AM)
	Commissioner Mavis Bates
	Commissioner Ted Penesis (Remote)
ABSENT	Commissioner Alex Arroyo
	Commissioner Dale Berman
	Commissioner Chris Kious
	Commissioner Myrna Molina

Also Present: Commissioners; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; Dir. of Finance Petschke & staff Carrano; Ops. Dir. Jensen; NRM Dir. Chess & staff Blackburn; Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez & staff Tegge; HR Dir. Clough; Police Sgt. Hayes; Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk; Admin staff Figliozzi, Rafferty and Attorney Price.

II. Approval of Minutes from June 26, 2025

Minutes were deferred to next month due to lack of in person quorum.

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

Resident of Geneva, IL, Elaine Haughan addressed the Committee with a request to install a wind phone in one of the Forest Preserves. She provided a hand out with images of wind phones and explained the significance of the item. Haughan shared her personal loss and how this item could be a benefit for someone who was not able to say goodbye to a loved one.

IV. Bids and Proposals

TMP-25-1015 Resolution Approving a Bid for the Resurfacing of Hughes Creek Golf Club Cart Paths and New Cart Path Construction at Settler's Hill Golf Course

(Commissioner Allan arrived in person at 9:42AM) Landscape Architect Tegge presented the bid for the cart path resurfacing project, however due to lack of quorum the items were presented and moved to the Exec committee meeting with no vote. The existing cart paths at Hughes Creek Golf Club were installed in phases from the late 1990s to the early 2000s and are showing significant signs of deterioration and failure in large sections. In early 2025, half of hole #4 up to hole #9 green were resurfaced. This

project will focus on pulverizing-in-place and resurfacing cart paths near the clubhouse, from hole #1 to the bridge at hole #4. Additionally, minor path adjustments will be made near the clubhouse and at green #1. The additional surface course will add approximately 3" of height to the path, and will be backfilled and seeded to maintain a smooth transition. In between holes #3 and #4, additional portions of the cart path will be converted from decomposed granite to either limestone or asphalt.

The Settler's Hill Golf Course underwent a major renovation in 2022; the whole course was redesigned; a driving range was added and the new course was laid out in such a manner as to create a "returning nines" flow centered on a future clubhouse location. Conceptual engineering in 2023 on a minimally-acceptable club house proved to be prohibitively expensive at an estimated cost of $12M. The golf course architect from the course's redesign, Greg Martin, was consulted to revise the course hole numbering to apply the returning nines concept with the existing clubhouse as the hub. This revision involves building a new path from the current tee box at #6 and connect to current tee box #15. A new split path will be built just west of the clubhouse to allow golfers to drive up to the new #10 tee and return down the same path after the new #18 (see map).

The bid was publicly advertised and the qualified, lowest bidder was Maneval Construction of Ingleside, Illinois, with a base bid cost of $270,365.70 to complete both projects. Additionally, a contingency of $27,036.57 shall be set aside to cover any unanticipated construction costs, bringing the total overall project cost to $297,402.27.
DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Bates asked about the District's new management agreement and wondered if LGM would be handling the maintenance. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the District has an agreement that includes joint capital maintenance, shared revenues, and expenses. This is part of the shared investment of the courses.*

TMP-25-1012 Resolution Authorizing a Bid For Native Seed Purchases to Restore Lands at Various Preserves

Dir. of NRM Chess presented the bid for native seed purchase. Native plants are the basis of all native ecosystems, and therefore are the basis of our work in the Natural Resource Management department. Our native insects coevolved with these plants, and cannot survive on imported plants. In turn, all of our fauna that prey upon our native insects cannot do so if those insects are not present, due to non-native or low-diversity plants occupying the space of our native plants. This year's seed bid represents a project-driven approach to determining seed needs. This is the fourth-year mixes were bid by option with seeds bagged by species. This approach both maximizes value and ensures quality of the delivered product. All of the seed specified in our bid is slated to go onto the ground this winter, to support ongoing restoration projects.

The bid was publicly advertised with six vendors responding. Funds totaling $85,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 in the Construction & Development Restoration Account (03-31-31-7060) for the ICECF Grant Project (#21015). Those funds were received through the ICECF acquisition grant to fund a portion of the site restoration, at an average of $500/acre, for seed purchase. All $85,000 budgeted are currently available to cover a portion of the total of Project 1 ($136,311.65). Funds totaling $240,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 in the account Native Seed and Plants. Sufficient funds totaling $240,000 are available in this account, for the remaining expense of Project 1 at $51,311.65 and the total of Project 2 at $73,553.60, for a total expense of 124,865.25. The total cost of both projects is $209,865.25.
DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Roth asked about the vendors and the species. Dir. Chess explained that the best execution to maximize cost with the number of species would be to individualize all the species. Commissioner Allan highlighted the work of the*

volunteers and staff during the seed collecting events every year. Dir. Chess stated that staff and volunteers have collected an estimated of $150,000 worth of seed.
Exec. Dir. Haberthur noted that the bid was generated in the new software system, Bonfire that was recently implemented.

TMP-25-1013 Resolution Approving Bids for Tree and Brush Clearing at Portions of 11 Forest Preserves

Dir. of NRM Chess presented the bid for tree and brush clearing. The objectives of these projects are to remove non-native brush and small mesic trees in degraded oak woodlands and large-scale tallgrass prairie restorations. Woody invasive species, such as common buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica) and bush honeysuckle (Lonicera spp.), are some of the other 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: *None.*

V. New or Unfinished Business

TMP-25-1033 Muirhead Springs Wildlife Observation Deck Presentation

Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez introduced Patty King, Associate Principal & Licensed Architect of Wight, and Company. King provided a PowerPoint presentation of the engineering design and construction of the future observation deck at the Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve, one of the 2024 referenda projects the District promised to the Kane County tax payers.
DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Roth asked about the size of potential groups that could be brought on the deck. King responded that an estimated 30-40 people could be held. The upper deck would be an estimated 1,000 square feet. Commissioner Allan asked about a potential covering on the top level for shade. Exec. Dir. responded that a covering would add an additional cost, however it could be reviewed. Commissioner Bates asked if the concept was less invasive than a tower option. King explained that an observation deck allows for full accessibility that would be prohibited with a tower and stairs. There was a suggestion of adding a bench at the top of the deck for a rest stop. Commissioner Linder asked about the ADA compliance with the elevation. King responded that the elevation and the deck has been designed to be ADA compliant.*

TMP-25-887 Resolution Authorizing the District To Apply for IDNR OSLAD Grant Funds for a Wildlife Observation Platform and Supporting Improvements at Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve

Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the request to apply for an OSLAD grant. Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve contains the first wetland mitigation bank created by the District. The volume and diversity of birds that have returned to this wetland is unrivaled by any previous projects completed by the District. Multiple state and federal threatened and endangered species have been seen utilizing the site, and the word of this success is widespread amongst the "birding" community. As a result, birders have inundated the site hoping for glimpses of these rarities. This increase in visitors to the preserve has created issues with the establishment of the wetland plants required for the mitigation bank. The proposed wildlife-observation platform was included

as one of six promised capital projects for the 2024 Land Acquisition & Preserve Improvement Referendum. This project is comprised of the construction of a raised observation deck overlooking a reconstructed wetland popular with marsh birds and waterfowl. It will allow visitors of varying physical abilities access for bird watching with as minimal damage to the plant community as possible and no impact to the mitigation bank. 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: *None.*

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

None.

VII. Communications

Dir. of Community Engagement Metanchuk promoted the Great Orb Hunt back for 2025 starting in September. An added location this year is Dick Young Forest Preserve in addition to LeRoy Oakes and Fine Line Creative Arts Center in St. Charles. The event will run September 4th through the 30th. Locations of the orbs will be within 5 feet of trails. Dir. Metanchuk invited the Commissioners, volunteers and staff to the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 5pm located at The Wilds, Red Oak Center.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

Discussions ended at 10:35AM.

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