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, May 29, 2025 9:30 AM 3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, April 24, 2025 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 9:30AM.

Remote Attendance Approval

None.

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

Also Present: Commissioners Gripe, Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; Dir. of Finance Petschke & staff Carrano; Ops. Dir. Jensen & staff Sparks; 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 Hodge.

II. Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2025

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

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

None.

IV. Bids and Proposals

TMP-25-614 Resolution Approving a Bid for Cattail Control At Six (6) Forest Preserves

NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for cattail control. (Commissioner Allan arrived at 9:34AM in person) Native broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*) was once abundant across the Kane County landscape comprising an important role in the composition of marshes. Over time, the introduced narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), and hybrid cattail (*Typha x glauca*) have largely replaced the native species. Hybrid cattail is an aggressively spreading species that often forms monotypic stands of itself, at the exclusion of native flora and fauna. Its dense growth habit minimizes its utility to native wetland fauna; ducks cannot swim through mature stands, and its quickly closes open pockets of water used by turtles to bask. Drought conditions present over the previous couple summers have exacerbated this issue by presenting low water level conditions

ripe for cattail invasion. To combat this spread, the District utilizes a variety of treatment methods including mechanical and chemical control. As cattail populations commonly occur in standing water, access can be difficult without the use of specialized amphibious equipment that the District does not own. Accordingly, contractors were sought to bid on summer 2025 control projects of multiple, separate infestations of cattail across six preserves. Funds totaling $140,000 were budgeted in fiscal year 2025/2026 for weed management. Sufficient funds totaling $140,000 are available in Natural Resources Weed Management Account for projects 1-6 totaling $37,100. Funds totaling $448,000 were budgeted in fiscal year 2025/2026 for the Pingree Grove Wetland Bird Habitat Enhancement project. Sufficient funds of $43,369.07 remain to cover the expense of project 7 at a cost of $7,350.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Bates asked if this type of invasive species was the same as phragmites. Dir. Chess responded that no, however it does look similar. Commissioner Gripe asked to see an image of the invasive versus the native. Dir. Chess noted that it can be difficult to tell the difference with the wide leaf and narrow leaf. Commissioner Bates asked about the application. Dir. Chess explained that the chemical application is specific, which is why the District contracts vendors with the specific amphibious equipment.*

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

TMP-25-624 Resolution Approving a Bid for Fuel Software and Fuel Delivery Replacement at Six (6) District Fueling Sites Forest Preserve District Executive Committee

Dir. of Ops. Jensen presented the bid for the fuel software and pumps. The District currently owns and operates six (6) fuel stations for District vehicles and equipment. Those sites are located as follows:

1. North Operations Maintenance Facility at Muirhead Forest Preserve
2. Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve
3. Natural Resources Management Facility at Mill Creek Forest Preserve
4. Trades and Fleet Maintenance Facility at Campton Forest Preserve
5. Horticulture Facility at Fabyan Forest Preserve
6. South Operations Maintenance Facility at Grunwald Forest Preserve

Each site consists of a fuel containment tank, dispensing pumps, a two-factor authentication panel, and communication hardware. The current OPW (OPW Global) software and Gasboy pump combinations were purchased and installed in the early 1990's. In 2024, the Kane County Information Technology (IT) department contacted the District to express the urgent need to replace this outdated technology as OPW no longer makes repair parts and has discontinued tech support. IT made the same recommendation to other county departments running similar fuel management and delivery systems including the Kane Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Sheriff's Department. The District is the last to make a recommendation for replacement and has determined the current offerings from OPW's DX Fleet is the best fit for the District. Staff was able to visit KDOT, who recently installed the same system, and verify that the software system would meet the District's immediate needs and offer compatibility with future maintenance and repair software available to assist the Fleet Division. The pumps will be replaced with Fillrite FR702VRU cabinets, which have a reputation of being economical, simple, and rugged. Staff completed a thorough analysis of the fuel software companies available through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program; considering costs, annual subscription fees, current needs, and future

capabilities. Petroleum Technologies Equipment, Inc. of Lyons, IL is the authorized regional distributor for the DX Fleet software and Fillrite pumps at a cost of $135,468.00. Combining the software and pump package allowed the District to realize an additional 10% savings on the pumps. Additionally, staff is recommending a 5% contingency of $6,773.40 to cover any unforeseen installation costs or modifications needed to existing containment tanks and stands that will remain in use, for a project total of $142,241.40. Funds totaling $50,000 were budgeted in the Trades Machinery & Equipment account for the replacement of the pumps and $93,000 was budgeted in the Administrative Information Technology account for the software replacement. Sufficient funds totaling $143,000 are available to cover the hardware, software, and installation cost of $135,468.00 for the management and delivery system, and the 5% contingency of $6,773.40 for a total cost of $142,241.40. *(Commissioner Berman arrived via remote at 9:40AM)*

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Allan asked about the yearly rate. Dir. Jensen responded that the three-year term would be locked in, providing a savings to the District. Exec. Dir. Haberthur commented that the efficiency gained from the new software would be a benefit in financial reporting as well as improve cyber security.*

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

V. New or Unfinished Business

TMP-25-640 Approval and Release of the Closed Session Minutes

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the release of the closed session minutes. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the release of Closed Session minutes and to request permission to destroy audio recordings, which are older than 18 months and completely released. The Planning and Utilization Committee of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Kane County, Illinois has reviewed the minutes of the Closed Sessions pursuant to Illinois Complied Statute 5ILCS 120/2.03 and has made a determination as to whether the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes which have not been made fully public. The Committee has determined that there is no longer a need for confidentiality as to all or part of the Closed Session minutes of: 01/30/2025.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

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

None.

VII. Communications

Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk promoted the Centennial Celebration on June 8, 2025.The ribbon cutting for the Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve will be Saturday, July 12, 2025 at 11 AM, also the same day as “unplug Illinois”.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

President Lenert commented that the District would be exercising the option to issue a $50M non- referendum bond that can be allocated towards capital expenditures and land acquisition. The District qualifies and meets state statues. He stated that the Operating Referendum promised to lower taxes, and the District is keeping this commitment, the tax payers will see an estimated 18% discount. Commissioner Gripe stated that he noted three positive things about this bond issuance. He stated that the tax payers were to see a reduction, second, the structure made is attractive to buyers in the market and lastly the $5.4M savings in interest. He felt that this was a win overall. There was consensus from the Committee to move forward. Commissioner Kious commented on bike safety due to the warmer weather approaching. Exec. Dir. Haberthur echoed that the increased speed with e-bikes has been growing, however the District has made efforts to remind the public of the 15mph speed limit on trails. Last year, the District promoted with a mascot named MAX15 mascot, reminding the public that the District does not allow category 3 e-bikes, citations are issued and Public Safety continues to encourage public awareness and mitigate the offenders.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:06AM.

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

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