



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

Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Cheryl Strathmann, President Christopher Kious, President Pro Tem, Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mike Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Mike Linder, Vern Tepe

Thursday, July 27, 2023

9:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, July 27, 2023 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.

PRESENT	President Chris Kious Chair Cheryl Strathmann Commissioner Michael Kenyon Commissioner Vern Tepe Commissioner Michael Linder Commissioner Ron Ford (Remote) Commissioner Anita Lewis Commissioner Mavis Bates
ABSENT	Commissioner Michelle Gumz

Also Present: Commissioners Allan (Remote), Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; NRM Dir. Chess & staff Blackburn; CFO Petschke & staff Carrano; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez; HR Dir. Clough; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk & intern Thiem; Dir. of Ops. Pentecost; Chief of Police Burger; Attorney Hodge and Exec. Assist. Figliozzi, Admin staff Rafferty and members of the public including stewards Jeff Hedrich and Kim Haag.

II. Approval of Minutes from June 29, 2023

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Michael Kenyon
AYE:	Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Cheryl Strathmann, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Michelle Gumz

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

Jeff Hedrich, Volunteer Steward for Lake Run Forest Preserve spoke highly of the District's marketing assistant, Lauren Swanson. He noted that during a volunteer event, Swanson interviewed the volunteers and later posted an article and pictures about the plants being cultivated, and awareness of what the stewards were doing to support the lands. Hedrich commented on a recent issue at Lake Run Forest Preserve. A recent article was posted about a

specific rare plant and when he arrived at the location to view the plants, they had all been illegally cut. Four acres of plants were taken. He expressed his disappointment on the damages people can do to the lands and reiterated the importance of the volunteer work to protect the land. Commissioner Tepe asked why people would poach flowers. Steward Hedrich explained that there is a high value to certain plants for commercial use and sale of seeds in the floral industry noting that this act is not uncommon unfortunately. Commissioner Lewis noted that this was an educational moment, stating that this could potentially destroy a whole eco system if not controlled. Exec. Dir. Haberthur explained that taking flowers from the Forest Preserve is against the District's Use Ordinance, the District's Public Safety Police Department protects people and the land.

IV. Bids and Proposals

A. TMP-23-917 Resolution Approving a Bid for Common Reed Control for Five (5) Forest Preserves

NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for the Common Reed Control in various preserves. He shared pictures of the Common Reed. The non-native, invasive plant Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) is a tall (up to 15') perennial grass that infests many District wetlands. It produces some viable seed on the highly visible plumes it produces in late summer, but primarily propagates through lateral shoots called rhizomes. This vigorously growing plant quickly forms monotypic stands of itself, at the exclusion of native fauna. Its dense growth habit minimizes its utility to native wetland fauna; ducks cannot swim through mature stands, and its stalks are too weak to support the nests of native wetland songbirds. Contractors were sought to bid on summer/fall 2023 control projects of multiple, separate infestations of Common Reed, across five different preserves. Funds totaling \$140,000 were budgeted in this fiscal year for weed management. Sufficient funds totaling \$140,000 are available in Natural Resources Weed Management Account for projects 1, 2, 3, and 4 totaling \$52,484. Funds totaling \$448,000 have been allocated to the Pingree Grove Wetland Bird Habitat Enhancements project. Sufficient funds totaling \$69,580.07 are available for project 5 at a total cost of \$15,100.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Anita Lewis
AYE: Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Cheryl Strathmann, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

B. TMP-23-969 Resolution Approving a Bid for Natural Areas Vegetation Management at Settler's Hill Golf Course

NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for the natural areas management at Settler's Hill Golf Course. Settler's Hill Golf Course (224 acres) is located within Batavia Township, and is one of two golf courses owned by the District. In 2021, work began on updating select roughs, fairways, greens, tee boxes, bunkers, cart paths, and fixing drainage issues. Bids were sought from qualified firms for one year of management and naturalization of terrestrial vegetation within the non-playing grounds of Settler's Hill Golf Course (approximately 100 acres). The second year of work will be conducted from September 2023 until June 30, 2024. The primary goal of this work will be to control invasive and non-native herbaceous species as well as invasive woody brush in the woodland areas and along the trail edges. Species to be controlled will include but not be limited to teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), and bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.). The bid was distributed to 35 vendors, with 2 responding. The qualified, lowest bid was received from Davey Resource Group, Inc. of Elmhurst, Illinois, in the amount of \$83,780. Our Natural Resource Management department will conduct contractor oversight. Funds totaling \$225,000 were budgeted in the 23/24 fiscal year for

terrestrial management at Settler's Hill Golf Course. Sufficient funds totaling \$128,880 are available for this project totaling \$83,780.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Michael Linder
SECONDER: Michael Kenyon
AYE: Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Cheryl Strathmann, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

V. New or Unfinished Business

A. TMP-23-1011 Resolution Approving a Contract with Smith Group, for Professional Services to Develop a Ten (10) Year Comprehensive Master Plan for the Forest Preserve District, Kane County

Landscape Architect Tegge presented the contract for professional services to develop a 10-year comprehensive master plan. The Forest Preserve District of Kane County's ("District") last full master plan was coordinated in-house in 2015. Subsequently partial updates were conducted in 2018, 2020 and 2022. Since we have acquired an additional 3,000 + acres and best management practices to initiate full master plan review every five to ten years. The creation of a fresh Comprehensive Master Plan for Calendar Year 2024 was approved in the current FY24 budget. The new Comprehensive Plan will include an implementation strategy that will outline short, medium, and long-term goals and the action steps associated with implementing these goals during the span of the plan's time period, inclusive of performance measures for tracking the progress to the District's goals. The Plan will be the foundation for planning land-use, capital improvements, climate mitigation and overall District resiliency. The temporal scope of this plan will cover the next ten years with a target horizon of 2034/35. A Request for Qualification process was conducted to locate an appropriate consultant for these scopes of services. Twenty (20) vendors were contacted with Smith Group Inc. of Chicago, IL being the sole respondent. A thorough interview was conducted with Smith Group Inc. of Chicago, Illinois and staff are confident in their knowledge, skills and abilities as presented.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Linder asked why the District only received one bid. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that staff contacted the vendors, some responses were based on timeframe, and others were not being able to meet the District's criteria and scope. Haberthur noted that the pitch from Smith Group was very well done; they provided a detailed and thorough presentation. There have been other organizations with the same request, therefore many vendors have committed to those as well. Commissioner Tepe questioned the total amount of \$200,000. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the quote offered was \$197,000, the District's stipulation included a not to exceed amount of \$200,000. Commissioner Tepe asked what the deadline or end date would be. Dir. Haberthur sated the deliverables would be fall or winter of 2024. The District's centennial is in 2025. Chair Strathmann asked if other known entities have utilized Smith Group before. Dir. Haberthur explained that Smith Group is well known and they have a climate specialist. Landscape Architect Tegge noted that Elgin had recently utilized their services with positive feedback. Commissioner Bates asked if Smith Group provided examples of other Forest Preserves. Dir. Haberthur responded that Smith Group has made comprehensive master plans for conservation entities, this included climate change impacts and conservation points.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Mavis Bates
SECONDER: Anita Lewis
AYE: Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Cherryl Strathmann, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

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

None.

VII. Communications

Dir. Comm. Affairs Metanchuk provided a presentation on the recent summer camps held noting the instructional Kayaking program was very popular. The Mushroom Monitoring program was also well received last year and is in full swing, this is a citizen science program. Commissioner Roth asked about the Mushroom Monitoring data in terms of overall collection and species. Dir. Metanchuk responded that more information would be provided. Dir. Metanchuk shared the online photo contest winning pictures, noting the pictures would be shared on the District's social media pages. The District has collaborated with the Fine Line Creative Arts Studio. The Great Orb Hunt project will include art in the Forest Preserve. An estimated 100 glass and ceramic orbs will be hidden in LeRoy Oakes. The orbs are free to keep for those who find them. They will be hidden within an arm's reach off the trails.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

Chair Strathmann reported on the Structures Committee tour, noting that the recommendations would be included in the next month's agenda.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

RESULT: **APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Mavis Bates
AYE: Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Cherryl Strathmann, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozi

Gabriella Figliozi
Recording Secretary