



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

Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee

Meeting Minutes

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

Thursday, October 26, 2023

9:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, October 26, 2023 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

PRESENT	Chair Cherryl Strathmann Board Member Ron Ford Board Member Michelle Gumz Board Member Michael Kenyon President Chris Kious Board Member Michael Linder Board Member Vern Tepe
ABSENT	Board Member Mavis Bates Board Member Anita Lewis

Also Present: Commissioners Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; NRM Dir. Chess; CFO Petschke & staff Carrano, Marano; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez; Marketing Coord. Kovach; Dir. of Ops. Pentecost; Chief of Police Burger; Attorney Hodge and Exec. Assist. Figliozzi, Admin staff Rafferty and members of the public including Roy of

II. Approval of Minutes from September 28, 2023

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

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

None.

IV. Bids and Proposals

TMP-23-1461 Resolution Authorizing a Bid for Native Seed Purchase to Restore Lands at Various Preserves Forest Preserve District

Dir. of NRM Chess presented the bid for the 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 second 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 three (3) vendors responding.

DISCUSSION: Chair Strathmann asked about the process of choosing species. Dir. Chess explained that to determine the kind of species that are appropriate for the area, staff tests the soils, a list is created and sent to vendors for availability and they provide pricing.

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

V. New or Unfinished Business

TMP-23-1281 Presentation and Approval of the 2024 IDNR Request for CWD Control on District Properties

The Forest Preserve District program measures the vegetative impacts of deer. The IDNR starts their program at the end of the hunting season. Roy Domazlicky, from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, (IDNR) Northern Regional Wildlife, thanked the commission for the opportunity to provide information and appreciated the allowance for control of the CWD. He presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the history of the disease and the infected deer mitigation program. A total of 96 CWD samples (150 requested) were collected from 15 forest preserves during the IDNR 2023 sharpshooting program (January 23 through March 29, 2023). Mr. Domazlicky reported minor changes this year, requesting access to 17 forest preserves between January 22 and March 27, 2024 to collect 160 samples. A request to add Helm Woods Forest Preserve due to a zone expansion in that area, also add 5 deer to the quota at Burnidge due to high deer numbers, and drop John Duerr due to low deer activity. This expansion would help mitigate damage to the delicate plants as well.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Linder asked if the hunters are required to submit samples. Mr. Domazlicky responded that the hunters are not required however, it is highly recommended. Exec. Dir Haberthur explained that the District's Deer Management program does require registered hunters to submit samples, different from the IDNR's program. Commissioner Roth asked about the turnaround time once samples are sent out. Mr. Domazlicky responded that the timeframe depends on the type of season. The lab is based out of Wisconsin; the timeframe could be within 3-4 weeks during archery season. This has been an improvement over the years. Commissioner Gumz asked about the population of deer within Kane County. Domazlicky responded that it was hard to do any kind of survey work. Exec. Dir. Haberthur stated that in the past the District attempted to do a fly over, it was difficult to collect accurate data. It was suggested that the population is estimated in the thousands. Commissioner Gumz asked of other large animals would be susceptible to CWD. Mr. Domazlicky responded that no, this is specific to deer. He explained other kinds of diseases such as Mad Cow, etc. could spread. Commissioner Ford asked what happens to the deer meat after testing. Mr. Domazlicky responded that the food is donated to food banks and pantries, and/or to the owners if they so desire.

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

TMP-23-1478 Resolution Approving a Contract with HR Green, Inc., for Professional Services to Develop Engineering Plans for the Fox River Trail Path Improvements

Dir. of Ops. Pentecost presented the trail resurfacing contract with HR Green, Inc. Funds were allocated in the FY23/24 budget 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 (approx. 1.5 miles). The District has been repaving 1-2 miles annually of the linear trail system based on the conditions and needs to stay on top of the trail system and keep it safe and in good repair. The section between Villa Maria Road and Seba Park is especially challenging with a multitude of encroachment concerns from the Trolley line, neighbors and the river all surrounding the 1.5 mile section.

Based on the concerns it was determined we needed to reengineer most of this portion of the path to alleviate drainage, asphalt conditions, floodways and other concerns. The professional services rendered in 2023/24 will be put to use as a construction project in fiscal year 2024/25 provided funds can be secured. The District utilized a request for qualifications process to select a firm for professional services. Four firms provided response to the RFQ and HR Green, Inc., New Lenox, Illinois be selected for this project. A scope of work was developed and a total fee for services was established at \$149,931.00. Additionally, \$14,993.00 shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs, that may arise during design and construction observation, for a total possible cost not to exceed of \$164,924.00. \$57,249.00 is not anticipated to be incurred and billed until fiscal year 2024/25.

DISCUSSION: *President Kious asked if this contract included the bridge. Dir. Pentecost responded that it did not include the bridge that would be a separate contract with a different company. Chair Strathmann asked how the Trolley encroaches the District. Dir. Pentecost responded that the way the lines were made, the District owns some areas and some areas are owned by the Trolley Museum.*

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

TMP-23-1483 Resolution Approving a Contract to Purchase a Shelter for the Buffalo Park/ Brunner Family Forest Preserve Redevelopment Project

Chief of Planning and Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez presented the contract to purchase the shelter kit. Funds were allocated in the FY21/22 budget to complete the construction of a shelter, bathroom, parking lot, sled hill, drainage improvements and trail connections and construction drawings development. The project is fully funded through funds secured from KDOT for \$625,000. The original plan for Buffalo/Brunner Preserve was to construct a new lodge to

upgrade the Raging Buffalo facility. When this project did not move forward, the District evaluated other uses of the funding for the Preserve. In 2021, KDOT amended its agreement through a restatement and an additional \$125,000 would be provided to the District to construct a shelter and bathroom onsite. As part of this project, the District will provide a new shelter near the sled hill on the far north edge of the Preserve. The Cedar Forest Products Company produces standard shelter designs that the District utilizes. NuToys Leisure Products is the only authorized dealer for Cedar Forest in Illinois. Due to the twelve-week delivery time, staff is recommending the order and purchase of the shelters prior to bidding and awarding the contract for construction. The contract for construction will include the installation of the shelter. Funds totaling \$625,000 were budgeted in FY21/22 for the Buffalo and Brunner Family Forest Preserve improvements project. Sufficient funds totaling \$530,439.12 are available for this shelter kit expense totaling \$60,786.06.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Ford asked about the pricing and if it included installation. COP Rooks-Lopez explained that the quote was the shelter kit only it does not include installation.*

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

TMP-23-1483 Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Forest Preserve District of Kane County and the County of Kane to Make Stream Bank and Channel Improvements at Geneva Creek

COP Rooks-Lopez presented the design build proposal for the Geneva Creek located near the Grotto. In the spring 2023, the department of Environmental and Water Resources contacted the District concerning potential improvements at Geneva Creek in the Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve. The goal of the project is to improve approximately 1,400 LF of Geneva Creek. Currently Geneva Creek experiences severe erosion during moderate to high storm events. The erosion compromises the stability of the creek, the future of the Geneva Grotto and contributes to sediment pollution into the Fox River. The County and the Forest Preserve are owners of Geneva Creek south of Route 31. The County through the department of Environmental and Water Resources will be the lead in coordinating final engineering and construction including but not limited to, engineering, bidding, construction oversight, and grant management, including making necessary submissions that may be required by future grants. The District will contribute \$50,000 towards the design and installation that will be payable to the County on or after July 1, 2024, as well as the main construction access through the existing path to the Grotto. Funds totaling \$50,000.00 for the District's portion of the final engineering and construction will be budgeted in the Construction and Development Fund for the 2024/25 Fiscal Year.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

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

None.

VII. Communications

Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk promoted the Kane County Certified Naturalists (KCCN) volunteer program. Details of the classes and the field trips were provided, April through June. The KCCN is a popular program and grows each year. The program is limited to 50 spots per year due field trip feasibility.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

Gabriella Figliozzi
Recording Secretary