



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, June 27, 2024

9:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, June 27, 2024 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

- Board Member Ron Ford (Arrived in person @9:36 AM)
- Board Member Michelle Gumz (Arrived via remote @ 9:34AM)
- Board Member Michael Kenyon
- Board Member Chris Kious
- Board Member Anita Lewis
- Board Member Cheryl Strathmann
- Board Member Vern Tepe

ABSENT

- Board Member Michael Linder
- Board Member Mavis Bates

Also Present: Commissioners Allan (Remote), Juby (Remote), Molina (Remote), Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; CFO Petschke & staff Carrano, intern Thompson; Ops. Dir. Jensen; NRM Dir. Chess & staff Blackburn; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez; HR Dir. Clough; Chief of Police Burger; Dir. of Community Affairs Metanchuk; Admin staff Rafferty, Figliozzi, Attorney Hodge and members of the public.

II. Approval of Minutes from May 30, 2024

RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOVER: Vern Tepe

AYE: Chris Kious, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe

ABSENT: Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder

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

None.

IV. Bids and Proposals

TMP-24-2510 Resolution Approving a Bid for Common Reed Control for Five (5) Forest Preserves

NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for reed control at five forest preserves. 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 fail to support the nests of native wetland songbirds. Contractors were sought to bid on summer/fall 2024 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 all five projects totaling \$47,424. (*Commissioner Gumz arrived via remote at 9:34 AM*)

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Kenyon asked about the application process. NRM Dir. Chess responded that the application is chemical spray, the awarded contractor utilizes machines that are designed for amphibious tracked vehicles. Commissioner Tepe commented that the other bids were twice as high and questioned why. Dir. Chess explained that other companies that do not own the specific machines charge more to cover rental costs. President Kious asked about the vegetation and spray application. Dir. Chess responded that the company uses a wick bar, that can be done with taller species rather than a boom spray. (Commissioner Ford arrived in person at 9:36AM.)*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Anita Lewis
AYE: Chris Kious, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Cheryl Strathmann,
 Vern Tepe Ron Ford
REMOTE: Michelle Gumz
ABSENT: Mavis Bates, Michael Linder

TMP-24-2511 Resolution Approving a Bid for Natural Areas Vegetation Management at Settler’s Hill Golf Course

*NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for managing the natural areas 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. Bids were sought from qualified firms for one year of management and naturalization of terrestrial vegetation across the out of play areas of Settler’s Hill Golf Course (approximately 100 acres). This third consecutive year of work will be conducted from September 2024 until June 30, 2025. 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 qualified, lowest bid was received from Woods to Wetlands, LLC of Streamwood, Illinois, in the amount of \$89,300. Contractor oversight will be conducted by our Natural Resource Management department. Funds totaling \$280,000 were budgeted in the 24/25 fiscal year for terrestrial management at Settler’s Hill Golf Course. Sufficient funds totaling \$100,100 are available for this expense totaling \$89,300.*

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Tepe discussed the bid amounts and the significant range. NRM Dir. Chess explained that the company Woods to Wetlands are in line with what was charged in the past. This project is the second phase. He noted that the competing bids are larger companies with overhead. Woods to Wetlands is a husband-and-wife team which makes is a lower price.*

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER: Ron Ford
SECONDER: Vern Tepe
AYE: Chris Kious, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Cherryl Strathmann,
Vern Tepe Ron Ford
REMOTE: Michelle Gumz
ABSENT: Mavis Bates, Michael Linder

V. New or Unfinished Business

None.

VI. Closed Session to Discuss Land Acquisition, License Agreements, Potential Litigation and Personnel – None.

VII. Communications

Exec. Dir. Haberthur discussed a previous concern regarding Red Gate bridge. He indicated that operations have been working on the immediate need area and signs will be posted to notify the public. Commissioner Kenyon noted that replacing the bridge completely would be too costly for lumber alone.

Exec. Dir. Haberthur discussed Officer Ed Lopez and his passing. He spoke about the GoFundMe page that was created on his behalf. More information regarding the service will be provided. Community Affairs Dir. Metanchuk presented photos of the various camps held by the environmental education department. She read a quote from a parent who spoke highly of the staff. This particular event included a child with an electronic wheelchair, staff had made the experience for the child seamless with the other campers, and the parent was very pleased. Dir. Metanchuk promoted a new logo, Max15. This logo of a wheel is to bring awareness of speeding on the trails especially for bicycles and E-bikes. The trails have a max speed limit of 15mph. The promotion of Max15 is to help spread the awareness of speeding to help keep patrons safe on the trails.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:56AM.

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Anita Lewis
AYE: Chris Kious, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Cherryl Strathmann,
Vern Tepe Ron Ford
REMOTE: Michelle Gumz
ABSENT: Mavis Bates, Michael Linder

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

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Recording Secretary