

friends and supporters to celebrate 100 years of conservation in Kane County. Dozens of new acres of prairie have already been sewn, a unique public art piece known as 'Guardians' has been commissioned and no less than 800 oaks and native trees will be planted to create a centennial grove. All of this to both memorialize the efforts of those who protected the land before us and as a commitment to care for the land for future generations. Additional rejuvenation and development is needed at the site to bring preserve users to both the centennial memorial area as well as take them to a new council ring which will be located in the vicinity of the historic Shabbona Elm tree that once towered over these woods. The construction project consists of the following:

Base Bid:

- ADA accessible limestone trail extension from lot to centennial memorial
- "Carriage Walk" path creation to new council ring
- Installation of limestone memorial stones

Alternate #1: Limestone-boulder council ring construction

Alternate #2: Seal-coating and striping of lower parking lots

The District publicly advertised the bid to 50 vendors and received two responses. The lowest, qualified bid was received from Obsidian Asphalt, Inc. (West Chicago, IL) in the amount of \$129,023.75. District staff recommend an additional contingency amount of \$15,000.00 in the event of any unanticipated expenses occur with this project.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Gripe asked about the bid and the alternatives presented. Dir. Rooks-Lopez responded that the construction of the council ring and the seal coating were included as options to see if the district could get these projects done at the same time. She added that the bid was structured as base bid with the alternatives for pricing purposes. (Commissioner Arroyo arrived at 9:42AM) The committee reached an in-person quorum, taking votes for the approval of the minutes, roll call and remote attendance approval.*

The meeting was officially called to order at 9:42AM.

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

TMP-25-271 Resolution Approving a Bid to Purchase and Install Wetland Plugs at Hoscheit Woods Forest Preserve

Dir. of NRM Chess presented a bid to purchase wetland plugs at Hoscheit Woods Forest Preserve. 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.

The District typically conducts large scale restoration efforts through the heavy use of native seed planting. Seed can be broadcast during the dormant season and cover most types of terrain. One notable exception to this is with wetland communities. Areas that experience constant or seasonal flooding present a difficult challenge to the use of seed in restoration, as the seed is often washed away before reaching the soil or germinating. To combat this issue, wetlands are frequently restored through the planting of native plugs. In 2022, the District restored 77 acres of tallgrass prairie at Hoscheit Woods

Forest Preserve. Within that area is a 1.6-acre prairie pothole. As a seasonally wet pocket, this pothole is inundated in the spring but dries throughout the summer. Now that the prairie is well established surrounding this wetland, the District is seeking to complete the vegetative restoration of this pothole by planting wetland plugs appropriate for the changing hydrologic conditions present on site.

Bids were sought for a base project of 7,500 plugs, spread across 53 species, to be planted, watered and guaranteed for a full year of survival of 80% of the plugs planted within the 1.6-acre pothole at Hoscheit Woods. An option was also presented to plant an additional 2,500 plugs within that same area. The bid was publicly advertised with eight (8) vendors responding. The lowest qualified bid for the base bid was received from McGinty Brothers, Inc. of Long Grove, Illinois in the amount of \$28,907.50. The bid for the option from McGinty Brothers, Inc. was \$10,235.00 for a combined total cost of \$39,142.50.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Roth asked about any underground tiles in the area. Dir. Chess responded that the District was not working on any hydrological restoration at this location, however he noted that Kane County was interested in implementing a number of hydrology projects.*

Commissioner Gripe asked about contracts that do not provide watering after planting. Dir. Chess explained that the District requires a guarantee of plant replacement if they die from lack of watering.

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE

TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee

MOVER: Chris Kious

SECONDER: Ted Penesis

AYE: Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis

ABSENT: Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Cheryl Strathmann

V. New or Unfinished Business

None.

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

None.

VII. Communications

Community Engagement Dir. Metanchuk promoted the upcoming Maple Sugaring Days event on March 1st and 2nd, 2025. This year, the District collaborated with Riverlands Brewing Company who created a Maple Replay Imperial Stout. The District will have a beer tent set up and the stout will be available for purchase. Creek Bend Nature Center will have a special exhibit called "Time Flies" celebrating Fly-Fishing Heritage for the 100-year Anniversary. Lastly, Dir. Metanchuk provided an update of the 100-Year challenge through the Goosechase app. The February winner received a bird themed basket. The giveaways are part of the public engagement to encourage participants in fun activities while visiting the preserves. The missions will continue through June 8, 2025.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:57AM.

RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

MOVER: Alex Arroyo

SECONDER: Ted Penesis

AYE: Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina,
Ted Penesis
ABSENT: Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Cherryl Strathmann

President Lenert
Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

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Recording Secretary