



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF KANE COUNTY

PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 9:30 AM at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. The meeting was opened by Chair Barbara Wojnicki at 9:30 AM. Remote=*

Members Present:

<u>Attendee Name:</u>	<u>Status:</u>
Commissioner Bill Lenert	Present
Commissioner Mavis Bates	Present
Commissioner David Brown	Present
Commissioner Michael Kenyon	Present
President Chris Kious	Present
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez	Present
Chairman Barbara Wojnicki	Present
Commissioner Myrna Molina	Remote*
Commissioner Cheryl Strathmann	Remote*

Others Present:

Commissioner Shepro; Exec. Dir. Meyers; CFO Stanish; Dir. of Ops Goreth; Dir. of NRM and Naturalist Graser; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk & staff Kovach; HR staff Misner; KCIT staff Peters; Chief of Police Burger; Attorney Hodge; Recording Secretary Figliozzi.

II. Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2021

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Kenyon, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Jarett Sanchez, Commissioner
AYES:	Bill Lenert, Mavis Bates, David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
REMOTE:	Myrna Molina, Cheryl Strathmann

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

None.

IV. Reports and Presentations:

A. Natural Resources update on Blanding's Turtle Conservation

Bill Graser, the District's Naturalist, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Blanding's Turtle conservation update. He discussed an overview of background information, research and the conservation efforts. In Illinois, the turtles were listed as a threatened species in 1998 and in the fall of 2009, their status changed to endangered. Graser explained the historical habitat loss and the modern threats to populations. Research activities include markings, tagging and surveys.

The District has worked with the IDNR and been granted permissions to protect the Blanding's eggs through collection/hatching efforts and, in some cases, relocating hatchlings to safer habitat areas that the Forest Preserve protects and maintains.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Bates asked about the Head Start program and the differences in the survival rate and data collected. Graser responded that the data recorded pertains to a tracking device and the survival rate is dependent on habitat, which is effected by drought and the weather elements. Graser noted that the Conservation efforts implemented a program in 2017 called "Adopt a Turtle", since then the Foundation has raised over \$54,000. These donations help research and protect the endangered turtles.

V. Bids and Proposals

A. Presentation and Approval of Bids for Control of Common Reed at Various Preserves

The non-native, invasive plant Common Reed is a tall 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 2021 control projects of multiple, separate infestations of Common Reed, across four different preserves. The bid was sent to 31 vendors and publicly advertised, with two responding. The low response rate is attributed to the need for specialized amphibious equipment (i.e. Marshmaster) to make work at this scale cost-effective. Haberthur provided a PowerPoint presentation explaining the areas the District will be focusing on.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Bates asked if the common reed could be burned. Dir. Haberthur responded that the plant could be burned, however it would not kill off the plant and would in turn regenerate. Commissioner Brown noted the reasonable expense and asked about the timeframe of production. Haberthur responded that the equipment is handled by one or two people and could be completed in a few days. The Marshmaster operator is cost effective versus a hand treatment. The company must meet performance standards. Committee Chair Wojnicki asked about the maintenance procedures. Haberthur explained that once treatment of the common reed is under control, then staff can essentially manage in house.

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 8/5/2021 8:30 AM
TO:	Forest Preserve District Executive Committee	
MOVER:	Michael Kenyon, Commissioner	
SECONDER:	Mavis Bates, Commissioner	
AYES:	Bill Lenert, Mavis Bates, David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki	
REMOTE:	Myrna Molina, Cherryl Strathmann	

VI. New or Unfinished Business

None.

VII. Closed Session to Discuss Land Acquisition, Contracts, Litigation and Personnel

None.

VIII. Communications

None.

IX. Chairman's Comments

None.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

RESULT:	ADJOURNED BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Kenyon, Commissioner
SECONDER:	David Brown, Commissioner
AYES:	Bill Lenert, Mavis Bates, David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
REMOTE:	Myrna Molina, Cheryl Strathmann

Barbara Wojnicki, Chair
Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozi

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Recording Secretary