



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, October 27, 2022 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> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| President Chris Kious | Present |
| Chairman Barbara Wojnicki | Present |
| Commissioner David Brown | Present |
| Commissioner Michael Kenyon | Present |
| Commissioner Bill Lenert | Present |
| Commissioner Mavis Bates | Present* |
| Commissioner Myrna Molina | Present* |
| Commissioner Jarett Sanchez | Present* |
| Commissioner Cheryl Strathmann | Present* |

Others Present:

Exec. Dir. Meyers, CFO Stanish & staff Petschke; NRM Dir. Haberthur; Chief of Planning Rooks-Lopez & staff Rafferty; Dir. of Ops. Pentecost; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk & staff Kovach, HR Dir. Sarro; Dir. of Public Safety, Chief of Police Burger; Attorney Hodge; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi and members of the public.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 29, 2022

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

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

None.

IV. Bids and Proposals

A. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for Native Seed to Use for Natural Restoration of District Lands

Dir. NRM Haberthur presented the bid for native seed. Native plants are the basis of all native ecosystems, and therefore are the basis of our work in the Natural Resource Management department. Native insects co-evolved with native plants, and cannot survive on imported plants. In turn, fauna that prey upon 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 the sixth year of a project-driven approach to determining seed needs. This is the second

year that 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 advertised and sent to 21 vendors with two responding. Bids from Genesis nursery were incomplete and therefore categorized as unresponsive. The qualified, lowest bid was a joint bid by Shooting Star Native Seeds of Spring Grove, Minnesota, and Prairie Moon Nursery of Winona, Minnesota.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Kenyon asked about harvesting milkweed, due to the decrease in Monarchs this season. Dir. Haberthur responded that the goal was met for 2022 seed collection, however staff can retain a monarch count for next cycle and determine if and why butterfly numbers were low. Commissioner Brown asked about the timeframe in plant maturity. Dir. Haberthur responded that maturity can take approximately 3 years with proper management. There was discussion regarding a warranty on seed. Dir. Haberthur explained, the vendors perform a germination test prior to sale, therefore seed can be determined if it is viable. He noted that staff has rarely seen complete failure, partial cases have been weather dependent. Commissioner Kenyon asked about soil testing. Dir. Haberthur stated that the District is hopeful to implement more testing in the future, farmers have soil tests specifically to determine heavy metals currently.

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| RESULT: | MOVED FORWARD BY ROLLCALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS] Next: 11/3/2022 8:30 AM |
| TO: | Executive Committee |
| MOVER: | Michael Kenyon, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Cherryl Strathmann, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Mavis Bates, David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Barbara Wojnicki |

B. Presentation and Approval of a Contract with Engineering Resource Associates for Professional Engineering Services for the Buffalo Park and Brunner Family Forest Preserves Improvements

Chief of Planning & Land Management Rooks-Lopez presented a contract with ERA, noting the scope is in compliance with PDRMA. Funds were allocated in the FY21/22 budget to complete engineering, plan development and the construction of a shelter, bathroom, parking lot, sled hill, drainage improvements and trail connections at Buffalo Park and Brunner Family Forest Preserves. The project is fully funded through funds secured from KDOT for \$625,000. The original plan for Buffalo Park/Brunner Family Preserves was to construct a new lodge to upgrade the Raging Buffalo facility totaling a budget of \$500,000. When this project did not move forward, the District evaluated other uses of the funding for improvement to the preserves. 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. The District utilized a request for qualifications process to select a firm for professional services. Four firms were solicited and Engineering Resource Associates, Warrenville, Illinois was selected for this project. A scope of work was developed and a total fee for services was established at \$71,967.46. Additionally, a contingency of approximately 10% at \$7,197.54, shall be set aside to cover any unanticipated additional costs that may arise during design and construction, for a total possible cost of \$79,165.00.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Strathmann asked about PDRMA. Dir. Rooks-Lopez explained that the District utilizes Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA), as the insurance company. The Agency ensures the District is in compliance. Rooks-Lopez noted the areas that are known to have “wash outs” have been addressed and proper grading and drainage will be included in the scope of the work.

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]** **Next: 11/3/2022 8:30 AM**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Bill Lenert, Commissioner
SECONDER: Jarett Sanchez, Commissioner
AYES: Mavis Bates, David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez,
 Cherryl Strathmann, Barbara Wojnicki

V. New or Unfinished Business

None.

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

None.

VII. Communications

Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk reported that new exhibit at the Creek Bend Nature Center has been completed. Pictures were shared. A Ribbon cutting event will be held on Wednesday November 16, 2022. Metanchuk reminded the Committee of the retirement party for Naturalist Ben Katzen at 11:30 AM at the Creek Bend Nature Center in LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 AM.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozi

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Recording Secretary