



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, September 29, 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 Chairman 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 Mavis Bates	Present*
Commissioner David Brown	Present*
Commissioner Michael Kenyon	Present
Commissioner Bill Lenert	Present
Commissioner Myrna Molina	Present
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez	Absent
Commissioner Cheryl Strathmann	Absent

Others Present:

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

II. Approval of Minutes from August 25, 2022

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

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

Kim Haag resident of Elburn and volunteer of the Johnsons Mound Forest Preserve spoke in favor of the Tree Line Newsletter. Haag however mentioned the upcoming events listed in the newsletter had already passed when she received it in the mail. Haag requested more information be included on the kiosk at Johnson's Mound, specifically history of the preserve and events.

IV. Bids and Proposals

A. Presentation and Approval of Bids for Tree and Brush Clearing at Burnidge, Grunwald Farms, Big Rock, and Hoscheit Woods Forest Preserves

NRM Dir. Haberthur presented the bid for tree and brush clearing. The objectives of these projects are to remove non-native brush and small mesic trees in degraded oak woodlands, with an emphasis

on bittersweet, and to greatly reduce their ability to reinvade the area via seed or re-sprouting. Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is a woody, perennial vine that grows as a climbing vine, up to 60 feet. As it climbs, the bittersweet overtakes native trees and shrubs, girdling trunks and branches. Dense vines weigh down tree canopies, leading to breakage. Other woody invasive species, such as Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and Bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*), are some of the other primary threats to biodiversity in Kane County's forests. These species create a thick mid-story cover that prevents light from reaching native understory plants. They also grow very well in shade; oak saplings do not. This adaptation prevents the regeneration of native trees. Mechanical removal of these invasive species, combined with chemical follow-up, will help to restore the woods to a healthier condition. This, in turn, will provide better habitat quality for the entire suite of wildlife that these preserves support. In particular, the habitat value for birds is greatly enhanced with the removal of these invasive shrubs. Native insects don't feed on buckthorn, so their coverage decreases the concentration of caterpillars across the sites. Additionally, their plentiful berries are nutrient poor and cause a laxative effect that makes them a starvation food.

Funds totaling \$100,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2022/23 for tree-thinning projects at several preserves. Funds totaling \$100,000 are available in the Natural Resource Management Tree and Brush Thinning Account to cover all of project 1 and project 2 as well as \$22,800 of project 3 for a total cost of \$100,000. Funds totaling \$140,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2022/23 for weed management. Sufficient funds totaling \$102,187 are available in the Natural Resource Management Weed Management Account to cover the \$1,945 remaining on project 3. Funds totaling \$335,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2022/23 for the Big Rock FP Bald Eagle and Wild Turkey Habitat project. Sufficient funds totaling \$335,000 are available in the Big Rock FP Bald Eagle and Wild Turkey Habitat project, Restoration Account to cover projects 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 at a total cost of \$313,482.50. Funds totaling \$200,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2022/23 for the Hoscheit Woods Rusty Patch Bumblebee Habitat project. Sufficient funds totaling \$200,000 are available in the Hoscheit Woods Rusty Patch Bumblebee Habitat project, Restoration Account to cover project 10 at a cost of \$33,000. This project is made possible by a Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Grant which will reimburse the District 100% of funds spent following the completion of the project. Sufficient funds are not available to cover the cost of project 4 at \$24,745. Staff will address this area later, possibly in-house.

DISCUSSION: *Brief discussion regarding funding occurred. Commissioner Kenyon asked about the cross country course and the weed management and mowing. Exec. Dir. Meyers indicated that the cross country course is managed by a third party (CATFOC) and the open space is managed by Waste Management through one annual mowing, however there are invasive species that need to be addressed.*

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLLCALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 10/6/2022 8:30 AM
TO:	Executive Committee	
MOVER:	Bill Lenert, Commissioner	
SECONDER:	Michael Kenyon, Commissioner	
AYES:	Mavis Bates, David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Barbara Wojnicki	
ABSENT:	Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann	

V. New or Unfinished Business

A. Presentation and Approval of the 2023 IDNR Request for CWD Control on District Properties

Dir. Haberthur provided background information of the District's Deer Program, explaining the difference from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) program, which focuses on Chronic Waster Disease (CWD). 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 88 CWD samples (150 requested) were collected from 16 forest preserves during the Illinois Department of Natural Resources 2022 sharpshooting program (January 17 through March 24, 2022). Additionally, as in past years, success varied between sites due to deer movements, weather, and access difficulties. A total of 6 CWD positive deer were found in Kane County during FY2022. Three positive deer were taken from forest preserves during sharpshooting (Aurora West 2, Burlington 1). One positive deer was taken from Big Rock and one from Freeman Kame during the District's bow hunting program. Another was taken during archery season on private land near Big Rock FP. A total of 59 CWD positive deer have been found in Kane County since 2003. An additional 68 deer were sampled during the sharpshooting season at publicly and privately-owned sites in Kane County during 2022. Samples were also obtained from hunters, suspect, and roadkill deer.

DISCUSSION: Brief conversation occurred. Roy Domazlicky answered questions from the Committee.

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

B. Presentation and Approval of a Renewal to the Snowmobile Use Agreement with the Clubs of Region 5 Association of Snowmobile Clubs

Chief of Planning Rooks-Lopez presented the renewal agreement with the region 5 Snowmobile Club. Several preserves, including Burlington Prairie, Muirhead Springs, Hampshire and Bowes Creek Woods, along with a section of the Great Western Trail west of LaFox Road, are open to snowmobiling during winter, when conditions are appropriate. In 2011, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County established a Snowmobile Use Agreement with the Clubs of Region 5 Association of Snowmobile Clubs (Clubs) to permit the Clubs to mark, maintain and operate snowmobile trails within these preserves. Since 2011, the Clubs have been extremely helpful in maintaining these trails as well as patrolling snowmobile use areas. The Clubs also work very closely with local Public Safety departments to provide emergency rescue for motorists stranded during severe snowstorms. Many of the Clubs' members are active participants in the District's Volunteer Snowmobile Safety Patrol. The proposed renewal agreement has been updated to add Bowes Creek Woods Forest Preserve, as well as to extend the length of the term by five years: December 10, 2022 to March 15, 2027. The Use Agreement was reviewed by the District's legal counsel and PDRMA.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Bates expressed her concerns regarding snowmobiles with the wildlife, cross country skiing and snow shoeing. Rooks-Lopez stated there have not been any complaints or concerns thus far. The areas are marked on a map in the agreement, the club participants have been compliant. President Kious asked about Muirhead Springs. Rooks-Lopez responded that the existing trail will change once phase two of the Wetland Mitigation project takes place. President Kious asked about motorized vehicles. Exec. Dir. Meyers stated that only approved ADA compliant motorized vehicles are allowed, all people must adhere to the District's Use Ordinances.

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLLCALL VOTE [7 TO 1]	Next: 10/6/2022 8:30 AM
TO:	Forest Preserve District Executive Committee	
MOVER:	Bill Lenert, Commissioner	
SECONDER:	Michael Kenyon, Commissioner	
AYES:	David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Barbara Wojnicki	
NAYS:	Mavis Bates	
ABSENT:	Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann	

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

None.

VII. Communications

Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk reported the Creek Bend Nature Center will be closed starting October 10th through the 22nd for the installation of the new Tallgrass Prairie Adventure Project exhibit. Details on completion and ribbon cutting to come.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

President Kious promoted the District's Tree Line Newsletter.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 AM.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

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Recording Secretary