



Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

Forest Preserve District Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

9:00 AM

County Board Room

I. Call to Order

President Kious called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Kious asked Thomas, student and member of the 4-H Club to lead the pledge.

III. Roll Call

PRESENT

Commissioner Deborah Allan
Commissioner Mavis Bates
Commissioner Dale Berman
Commissioner Gary Daugherty (Remote)
Commissioner Mark Davoust (via remote @ 9:06AM)
Commissioner Ron Ford
Commissioner Michelle Gumz
Commissioner Mo Iqbal
Commissioner Leslie Juby
Commissioner Michael Kenyon
President Forest Preserve District Chris Kious
Commissioner Bill Lenert
Commissioner Anita Lewis
Commissioner Michael Linder
Secretary Forest Preserve District Myrna Molina
Commissioner Bill Roth
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez
Commissioner Monica Silva (Remote)
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann
Commissioner Clifford Surges
Commissioner Bill Tarver
Commissioner Vern Tepe
Commissioner Rick Williams (Remote)
Commissioner David Young

Others Present: Exec. Dir. Haberthur, CFO Petschke; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk & staff Kovach, Dir. of Ops. Pentecost; Police Sgt. Hayes; Attorney Hodge, Exec. Assist. Figliozzi, KCIT Peters, Tierney; members of the public.

IV. Public Comment (Each Speaker is limited to 3 minutes)

None.

V. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes from February 14, 2023

RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Michael Kenyon

SECONDER: Bill Roth

AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams and David Young

AWAY: Mark Davoust

VI. Presentation and Approval of the Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem for February 2023

RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Deborah Allan

SECONDER: Ron Ford

AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams and David Young

AWAY: Mark Davoust

VII. Presentations

Cecilia Ochs, student and member of the 4H club spoke on mental health in teens. She discussed the untreated mental health in youth and how it can determine their future as adults. She talked about the effects of social media on the youth during the Covid19 pandemic. Social media kept young people informed; however, it significantly increased negative experiences. Hate media increased an estimated 69% to 70% within the Hispanic and Black communities and an estimated 53% increase in body shaming overall. Ochs talked about the need for mental health support in teens and provided resources. (Commissioner Davoust arrived via remote @ 9:06 AM)

VIII. Bids and Proposals

FP-R-23-03-3005 Resolution Approving the Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve Wetland and Stream Mitigation Bank Contract for Engineering and Permitting Services for Phase II and Phase III

Chief of Planning and Land Management Rooks-Lopez provided a brief presentation of the wetland mitigation bank contract. Funds totaling \$1,645,226.00 approved in July 2022 for Phase 1 construction, monitoring and reporting of the Muirhead Springs Wetland Mitigation Bank. Currently, insufficient funds are available in the Mitigation Account for the total multi-year project expenditures totaling \$2,033,070.00 (base bid, alternate, 10% contingency and wetland monitoring & reporting). However, upon District request, a Schedule of Values was provided by, V3 Companies, LTD. Based on that schedule, sufficient funds totaling \$1,645,226.00 are available for fiscal year 2022/23 and expenditures totaling \$1,520,352.00 (\$1,480,982 phase 1 construction cost and 10% contingency, \$18,370 for wetland monitoring & reporting and \$21,000.00 for engineering costs & contingency). Total estimated contracts for construction cost and monitoring for FY 2022/23 is \$1,520,352.00.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Dale Berman
AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, and David Young
AWAY: Rick Williams

FP-R-23-03-3006 Resolution Authorizing Application for Kane County Grand Victoria Riverboat Funds and Execution of all Necessary Documents for the Burlington Prairie Bison Reintroduction Project

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented grant request for the Burlington Prairie Bison Re-introduction project. He provided a PowerPoint presentation not included in the agenda packet that was shared by Brenna Ness, Agricultural Ecologist of McHenry County. Dir. Haberthur shared a brief history of bison in Illinois, stating that the key to successful prairie restoration is to have a light stocking rate to mitigate the grasses. Additionally, something that has been missing in the soil health is the ecological practices of fertilization with manure specific insects. Dir. Haberthur talked about the intentional plan of not large having bulls, as the project is meant for land improvement rather than breeding. This also affects the size and strength of the fence proposed. Restoring tallgrass prairie has been one of the primary goals of the District and we now manage several thousand acres of grasslands, with hundreds more planted annually. Key to the historic management of these grasslands was disturbance, primarily driven by two factors: fire and grazing. Staff has reintroduced fire; however, the grazing component is still missing. Bison were one of the engineers of the prairie, but sadly suffered an even quicker decline than the prairie itself. Conservation efforts to preserve the North American bison have been wildly successful in the west, and recent pilot projects have proven successful east of the Mississippi. The District has also experimented with grazing at Aurora West Forest Preserve. There we used cattle to simulate bison and demonstrated that our restored grasslands flourished following the introduction of a dominant grazing animal. Funds are being requested to move from cattle to bison with the purchase and installation of fencing necessary to keep the bison contained at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve. If approved, funds from the Riverboat Grant could cover up to \$100,000 of the fencing, educational signage and water source improvements costs estimated to be \$120,000. The Burlington Prairie Bison Re-Introduction Project is estimated to cost \$120,000. Funding for this project will be included in the 2023/24 Fiscal Year Budget.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Bates asked about the acreage the District will house in comparison to McHenry County. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that staff would work with a request for proposal (RFP) for the proper stock per acre, as the key to successful restoration is based on the stocking rate. Commissioner Gumz asked about the height of the fence, suggestive of forward thinking if the District chooses to house a male in the future. Dir. Haberthur responded that the height of the fence would be taken into consideration when staff goes out the bid.*

RESULT: **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Mavis Bates
SECONDER: Bill Roth
AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams and David Young

FP-R-23-03-3007 Resolution Approving a Request to Submit an IDNR Recreational Trails Program Grant Application for the Development and Improvement of the Limestone Trails at Big Rock Forest Preserve

District's Landscape Architect Tegge presented the request to submit a grant application for the Big Rock Forest Preserve. The District was awarded a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant in 2012 to build the limestone trails that now allow users to explore Big Rock Forest Preserve. Since then, various sections of the limestone trails have suffered major erosional damage. This has caused problems for hikers, equestrians and staff vehicles that either maintain the trails or police it. The District wishes to address these failed sections with a combination of drainage solutions and gravel base repair or build-up. A new section of limestone trail has been planned for installation through the lands that used to make up the Deer Valley Golf Course. This will link users from the lake parking lot out west to the existing mowed trails. This project is estimated to cost \$300,000 and the RTP grant will reimburse the District a maximum of \$200,000 for the project costs. This project aligns with one of the grant's eligibility factors; Trail maintenance or restoration, including trail damage by unauthorized users.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Juby asked about the 24/25 Fiscal year budget. Staff Tegge responded that the project would be completed in 2026 budgeted in the 24/25 fiscal year projects.*

RESULT: **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Michelle Gumz
SECONDER: Bill Lenert
AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams and David Young

FP-R-23-03-3008 Resolution Approving Bids for Pond Management at Burnidge and Bowes Creek Greenway Forest Preserves

NRM Dir. Chess presented the bids for pond management. The Bowes Creek Greenway Forest Preserve is approximately 32 acres situated south of Bowes Road in the Bowes Creek Country Club subdivision. The site contains three large artificial ponds (totaling approximately 8 acres). There are also three smaller degraded ponds at the site (approx. 0.6 acres). The 3 larger ponds experience periodic algal blooms and invasion by aquatic weeds. The residents of Bowes Creek find the algae and aquatic vegetation unsightly and have requested that the portion of their HOA dues that come to the District for the management of this site be used for pond management. The Burnidge Forest Preserve encompasses 705 acres and is located along Big Timber and Coombs Roads, west of Elgin, IL. Along with the Paul Wolff Campground, the most notable natural features of the preserve are the large tallgrass prairie

recreations, wetland and woodland restorations. The site also contains two artificially created ponds north of the campground. The larger of the two ponds is a popular spot for campers to fish and recreate. Currently aquatic weeds such as elodea and Eurasian water milfoil invade this pond. The pond also experiences annual algal blooms despite some limited attempts at mechanical aeration. The algae and aquatic vegetation can make recreational fishing at this site challenging to impractical and multiple preserve users have reported that the condition of the pond is aesthetically unsatisfactory. Bids were sought from qualified firms for three years of consecutive growing season (Apr-Oct) ecological health monitoring and aquatic vegetation management of the Burnidge pond (Project 1) and the six ponds at Bowes Creek Greenway (Project 2). The contract performance standard is to maintain 70% open water within the pond throughout the growing season. Additionally, the aquatic vegetation present within the pond must be comprised of 30% or less exotic species. The bid was distributed to 11 vendors and advertised with 1 contractor responding. The lowest qualified bids for both Project 1 (Burnidge) and Project 2 (Bowes Creek Greenway) were received from McCloud Aquatics of Elburn, IL in the amount of \$8,490 (\$2,830/year) and \$23,370 (\$7,790/year).

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Bill Roth
AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams and David Young

IX. Land Acquisition

FP-R-23-03-3009 Resolution Approving the Purchase of a Parcel Approximately 88.11 Acres Adjacent to Lake Run Forest Preserve in Blackberry Township

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the approval to purchase approximately 88.11 acres adjacent to Lake Run Forest Preserve. Dir. Haberthur provided a brief history noting the property had been in the family since the 1840's. The owners noted an area that has never been plowed; the District will have acquired intact native species, a benefit for the District.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER: Cheryl Strathmann
SECONDER: Jarett Sanchez
AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams and David Young

X. New Business

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the Closed Session Minutes Review. The Full Commission of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois has reviewed the minutes of Closed Sessions pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2.06 and has made a determination as to whether the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes which have not been fully made public. The Committee has determined that the need for confidentiality still exists as to the Closed Session minutes of 11/10/2020, 02/09/2021, 03/09/2021, 08/10/2021, 09/13/2022, and

11/07/2022. The Committee has determined that there is no longer a need for confidentiality as to all or part of the Closed Session minutes of 04/14/2020 and 10/13/2020, 09/13/2022 and 11/07/2022.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

RESULT: **APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Mark Davoust
SECONDER: Michael Kenyon
AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams and David Young

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

None.

XII. Communications

Community Affairs Dir. Metanchuk reported the Maple Sugaring event had the highest attendance to date with an estimated 1,800 people and 65 volunteers. Pictures of the event can be viewed on the District's Facebook page. Dir. Metanchuk promoted the Kane Forest Foundation Native Plant Sale on April 29, 2023. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of viewing scopes. Plans to install a viewing scope at the Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve will be for the public to view future bison. Commissioner Juby encouraged the Commissioners to purchase plants or donate to the Foundation.

XIII. President's Comments

President Kious encourages all to visit Forest Preserves, noting that the preserves can serve as a mini vacation for anyone to enjoy any time of day.

XIV. Department Reports

A. Department Reports February 2023

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Michael Linder
SECONDER: Dale Berman
AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams and David Young

XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.

RESULT:
MOVER:
SECONDER:
AYE:

ADJOURNED BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

Michael Kenyon
Jarett Sanchez
Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty,
Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby,
Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael
Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva,
Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick
Williams and David Young

Chris Kious, Chairman
Forest Preserve District Commission
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

Gabriella Figliozzi
Recording Secretary

Myrna Molina
Board Secretary