



1996 S. Kirk Rd. Suite 320  
Geneva, IL 60134

## Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Cherryl Strathmann, President Christopher Kious, President Pro Tem, Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Vern Tepe

**Thursday, March 30, 2023**

**9:30 AM**

**3rd Floor Board Room**

### **I. Call to Order**

President Kious called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

<b>PRESENT</b>	President Chris Kious Commissioner Michael Linder Commissioner Ron Ford Commissioner Anita Lewis Commissioner Michelle Gumz (Remote) Commissioner Mavis Bates (Remote)
<b>ABSENT</b>	Chair Cherryl Strathmann Commissioner Michael Kenyon Commissioner Vern Tepe

**Also Present:** Commissioners Allan (Remote), Leslie Juby, (Remote); Exec. Dir. Haberthur; NRM Dir. Chess; CFO Petschke & staff Marano, Carrano; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez & staff Tegge; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk; Dir. of Ops. Pentecost; Attorney Hodge and Exec. Assist. Figliozzi and Admin staff Rafferty.

### **II. Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2023**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ron Ford
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael Linder
<b>AYE:</b>	Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Cherryl Strathmann, Michael Kenyon, Vern Tepe

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

None.

### **IV. Bids and Proposals**

#### **A. Resolution Approving a Bid for the Roof Replacement of the North Operations Cold Storage Facility Located in Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve**

*Dir. of Operations Pentecost presented the bid for the north operations facility building roof replacement in Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve.*

In September of 2022, the District experienced a weather event in the north end of the county that ultimately ended with damages to the North Operations Maintenance Facility located at Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve. The Cold Storage Building that was salvaged through the acquisition of the property sustained most of the damage with the roof failing in multiple locations by wind or falling debris. A claim was filed and was processed for the 70% of the roof that received damages. Staff investigation provided a recommendation that it would be best for the longevity of the structure to also look at replacing the remaining 30% with District funds. Based on that additional work as well as the significant delay in claims processing this repair was no longer classified as emergency work and was required to go out to bid.

The bid was sent to 38 vendors with 3 respondents. R. A Pinno & Sons Construction, Inc. out of Rosendale Wisconsin was the qualified lowest bidder at \$46,947.00 including 100% of the roof being replaced. Anticipated insurance reimbursement of \$29,695.00 will be provided to the District upon receipt of the final invoice of the project. Additionally, \$2,347.35 (5% TPC) shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs during the roof replacement, for a total possible cost of \$49,294.25.

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Linder asked why there was a large discrepancy in pricing within the three bids. Dir. Pentecost responded that Pinno and Sons was a known vendor and was utilized in the past. The other two vendors have not been contracted in the past, noting they may be adding a travel fee.*

**RESULT:**            **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**TO:**                    Forest Preserve District Executive Committee  
**MOVER:**             Michael Linder  
**SECONDER:**        Anita Lewis  
**AYE:**                 Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder  
**ABSENT:**            Cheryl Strathmann, Michael Kenyon, Vern Tepe

## **V. New or Unfinished Business**

### **A. Resolution Approving a Stewardship Services Agreement With the Wayne Area Conservancy Foundation**

*Dir. of Natural Resource Management Chess presented the renewal for stewardship services with the Wayne Area Conservancy Foundation. Dir. Chess noted the importance of the volunteer assistance as the District has been awarded a grant for restoration. Late in 2011, the District acquired the 162.6-acre Swanson parcel along Illinois Route 25 in St. Charles, now known as Hoscheit Woods Forest Preserve. During the spring and summer of 2012, staff, with input from general counsel, PDRMA (liability) and the Wayne Area Conservancy Foundation officers; drafted a 3-year agreement concerning cooperative management of the preserve. The Conservancy is unique in that it has an active group of volunteers, its own equipment and fund-raising capability.*

The 3-year agreement was approved and signed by both parties in September 2012. Between 2012 and early 2015, the Conservancy has removed hundreds of feet of tree line, hundreds of feet of fence posts and barbed-wire fencing, cleared invasive brush from five acres of oak savanna, contributed \$25,000 toward the purchase of prairie seed, installed prairie seed across 22 acres, and mowed weed as needed each summer.

The District fully appreciates all the hard work and accomplishments of the Conservancy volunteers, as they are conducting work staff otherwise could not tackle. This stewardship work continued as the agreement was renewed in 2015 and 2018 and is now currently expired. Staff recommends the renewal of the agreement with the Conservancy for another three-year term.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Linder asked about the endangered bees. Dir. Chess responded that the project awarded for this area is defined as a critical habitat for the Rusty Patch Bumblebee. It is a federally endangered species. Commissioner Roth asked about the remaining parcels. Dir. Chess explained the next steps of the project, noting the areas that have been cleared and seeded. President Kious mentioned that a future drone video of the area would be beneficial to see.

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

None.

**VII. Communications**

Exec. Dir. Haberthur provided an update on the Cougars and plans for capital improvements. Mr. Froehlich, owner of the Kane County Cougars plans to add a water feature for the entrance of the stadium. Dir. Haberthur reported that the Chicagoland Area Mountain Bikers (CAMBr) plan to have a special event at the Raceway Woods Forest Preserve hosting an estimated 700 bike riders including children and adults on Sunday July 16, 2023. Dir. Pentecost noted this event would include acceptance by Dundee Township, as the event is large. Dir. Pentecost answered questions by the Committee.

Environmental Education Manager Barb McKittrick provided a PowerPoint presentation on a Mushroom Monitoring Project. Mgr. McKittrick noted this program is unique to Kane County, as it is the only program of its kind in this area, run by staff and volunteers. Goals of the program include gaining data for biodiversity and baseline species in order to make informative land management decisions. Monitoring season starts April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The volunteers will be trained to be ready to observe and document data. There are 28 total priority preserves, in 2023 there were a total of 19 preserves monitored. Mgr. McKittrick shared how to become a monitor and items needed for proper documentation, noting anyone can be a monitor and be part of community science. Volunteer Coordinator Robb Cleave spoke about the volunteers in the community and the hours dedicated to the program.

**DISCUSSION:** President Kious commended staff and volunteers for all their hard work making this program happen. There was discussion on the amount of Forest Preserves covered; Mgr. McKittrick explained the amount of volunteers fluctuate, dependent on availability of dedicated hours. Commissioner Roth asked about rules in terms of observing and not collecting mushrooms. Mgr. McKittrick explained that the licensed person is allowed to collect for demonstration and education purposes only, all volunteers are to observe and take notes.

Exec. Dir. Haberthur promoted the Earth Day event at Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve on April 22, 2023 and the annual Native Plant Sale on April 29, 2023. The Conservation Foundation Earth Day Dinner will be held on Thursday April 27, 2023 this year; Commissioners are invited to attend the dinner. Brief conversation occurred.

**VIII. Chairman's Comments**

None.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**MOVER:** Ron Ford

**SECONDER:** Michael Linder

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder

**ABSENT:** Cheryl Strathmann, Michael Kenyon, Vern Tepe

Cheryl Strathmann, Chair  
Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee  
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

Gabriella Figliozzi  
Recording Secretary