



1996 S. Kirk Rd Ste 320
Geneva, IL 60134

Forest Preserve, Finance and Administration Committee Meeting Minutes

Chairman Dale Berman, President Christopher Kious, Treasurer Bill Lenert,
Deborah Allan, Michelle Gumz, Leslie Juby, Jarett Sanchez, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

2:00 PM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Finance and Administration Committee meeting was held Tuesday, July 25, 2023. Chair Berman called the meeting the order at 2:12 PM at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134.

PRESENT Chairman Dale Berman
President Chris Kious
Commissioner Deborah Allan
Commissioner Michelle Gumz
Commissioner Leslie Juby
Commissioner Bill Lenert
Commissioner Vern Tepe
Commissioner Rick Williams

ABSENT Commissioner Jarett Sanchez

Also Present: Commissioners: Kenyon, Roth, Strathmann (Remote); Exec. Dir. Haberthur, CFO Petschke & staff Carrano, Marrano; Dir. of NRM Chess; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez & staff Tegge; Dir. of Ops. Pentecost; Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk & staff Thiem; HR Dir. Clough; Chief of Police Burger; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi & staff Rafferty and Attorney Hodge.

II. Approval of Minutes from June 27, 2023

RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER: Deborah Allan
SECONDER: Michelle Gumz
AYE: Deborah Allan, Dale Berman, Leslie Juby, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams
ABSENT: Jarett Sanchez

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

None.

IV. Bids and Proposals

TMP-23-977 Resolution Authorizing a Bid for the Purchase of a Forestry Mower for the Natural Resource Management Department
NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for the purchase of a forestry mower for the Natural

Resource Department. The District currently owns two FECON Bull Hog mowers with the older one purchased in 2004 for \$26,500. These machines allow a single operator to clear invasive brush and small trees much more efficiently than a crew of sawyers. As such, the forestry mowers are responsible for the vast majority of staff clearing efforts over the past fifteen years. Historically, each piece of equipment runs for about 200 hours a year. During this time, dozens of acres are cleared of invasive brush. This job is incredibly hard on the attachment, as well as the skid steer, with the attachment bashing against rocks, stumps, logs, and trees regularly. Recent inspections of the 2004 Bull Hog have revealed several critical maintenance issues that threaten the utility of this equipment. Both brackets on the underside where the skid steer locks on are cracked and peeling away from the rest of the machine. Failure in one of those would be catastrophic as well as incredibly dangerous for the operator and any staff or public that may be nearby. Both skid plates on the bottom are also worn through, indicating that the equipment has reached the end of its useful life. Bids were sought from 8 vendors for a FECON Bull Hog forestry mower model BH74SS. The lowest qualified bid was received from Roeder Implement, Inc. of Dubuque, Iowa for \$39,900. Funds totaling \$38,000 were budgeted in the 2023/2024 fiscal year for a replacement FECON Bull Hog attachment. Sufficient funds totaling \$69,600 are available for this expense totaling \$39,900.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Gumz asked about purchasing equipment through Kane County. NRM Dir. Chess explained that the District is required to award to the lowest qualified bidder.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Bill Lenert
SECONDER: Michelle Gumz
AYE: Dale Berman, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Deborah Allan, Michelle Gumz, Leslie Juby, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams
ABSENT: Jarett Sanchez

V. New or Unfinished Business

There was a change in the agenda order; item TMP-23-1010 was presented prior to item TMP23-1030.

TMP-23-1010 Resolution Approving a Request to Submit an IDNR Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant Application for the Development of Rutland Forest Preserve

Landscape Architect Tegge presented the request to submit an application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development grant. Rutland Forest Preserve is a 294-acre preserve in Hampshire. In 2020, the District was awarded a Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant of \$750,000 to assist with the purchase of 172 acres including the Rutland Bog. As a condition of the grant, the District needs to begin implementation of the site plan and incorporate the farm areas into the overall site plan for Rutland Forest Preserve. The project includes new and improved roadway and parking areas, agriculture-to-prairie natural area conversions, improved shelters and fishing access. Staff is requesting permission to apply for the IDNR OSLAD Grant to assist with funding the project. The grant will reimburse the District 50% of the construction costs up to a \$400,000 match. Staff is recommending a maximum project amount of \$800,000 at this time to maximize the grant.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Allan asked about the Rutland Bog and the difference between a fen and a bog. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the water come from the northwest, the water does not leave the site and is acidic. The fen has different properties; it is fed from calcareous water sources, meaning calcium rich. Commissioner Tepe asked about potential wetland credits that could be sold. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the water at this location already exists. The hydrology was intake and unlikely to be a candidate for wetland funds.*

Muirhead was activity being drained, making it a perfect candidate to restore and hold water. Commissioner Lenert clarified that the grant that was applied for to purchase the 172 acres included a requirement to improve the site; therefore, the OSLAD grant will assist in funding the land restoration. Landscape Architect Tegge replied that was correct. Commissioner Roth asked if there was a deadline to develop the land. Exec. Dir. Haberthur stated yes, the acquisition grant requires a three-year timeframe to restore the land; this includes ceasing agricultural farming as well.

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Michelle Gumz
SECONDER: Leslie Juby
AYE: Dale Berman, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Deborah Allan, Michelle Gumz, Leslie Juby, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams
ABSENT: Jarett Sanchez

TMP-23-1030 Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of a ComEd Green Region Program Grant for Revitalizing Oak Savanna at Big Rock Forest Preserve

Dir. Chess presented the acceptance of the ComEd Green Region Program Grant. For over ten years, the ComEd Green Region Grant program has awarded grants of up to \$10,000 for conservation projects based in Northern Illinois. This grant is administered by Openlands and is open to units of local government to apply. Special focus in the 2023 grant program was given to projects that both recognize the importance to conserving pollinators, as well as increasing climate resiliency. In March of 2023, Forest Preserve District of Kane County staff submitted an application to the ComEd Green Region Grant program for the Revitalizing Oak Savanna at Big Rock F.P. project. This project involves the removal of woody and herbaceous invasive species from a 17 acre degraded oak savanna and follows up that process with an enrichment seed mix focused on increasing pollinator friendly wildflowers. To complete this project, the District proposed using the \$10,000 in grant funds and \$9,000 in matching District funds to purchase the seed mix. An additional \$3,000 in matching funds would be used to aid in the invasive species removal for a total project cost of \$22,000. The District was notified in July of 2023 that the Revitalizing Oak Savanna at Big Rock F.P. project had been approved and would be receiving the full \$10,000 grant requested. This approval came complete with a check for the full grant amount up front. As a part of the grant acceptance procedure, a Board resolution accepting the grant funds is required. At this time, staff is recommending the acceptance of the \$10,000 ComEd Green Region Program Grant for the Revitalizing Oak Savanna at Big Rock Forest Preserve project.

DISCUSSION: *Exec. Dir. Haberthur noted that former NRM staff Lauren Swanson, who is now the marketing assistant for the Community Affairs Department, wrote the grant.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Bill Lenert
SECONDER: Rick Williams
AYE: Dale Berman, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Deborah Allan, Michelle Gumz, Leslie Juby, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams
ABSENT: Jarett Sanchez

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

None.

VII. Communications

Community Affairs Dir. Metanchuk shared pictures of various July events. The Mushroom Monitoring program is in full swing. The District has collaborated with Fine Line Creative Arts studio for an art install. The Great Orb hunt will consist of One hundred orbs that will be hidden within LeRoy Oakes off the mowed trails. There will be 20 orbs a week being hidden starting at the end of August. President Kious asked about Geocaching, Dir. Metanchuk responded that the Geocaching program is still active.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:36pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Vern Tepe
SECONDER:	Bill Lenert
AYE:	Deborah Allan, Dale Berman, Leslie Juby, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Vern Tepe and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Jarett Sanchez

Dale Berman, Chairman
Forest Preserve District Finance and Administration Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

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Recording Secretary