



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

## Forest Preserve District Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

9:00 AM

County Board Room

### I. Call to Order

*The Forest Preserve District Full Commission meeting was held Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at the Kane County Government Center located at 719 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva, IL 60134. President Kious called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.*

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

*President Kious asked Community Affairs Marketing Coordinator Brittany Kovach to lead the pledge.*

### III. Roll Call

#### PRESENT

Commissioner Mavis Bates  
Commissioner Dale Berman  
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  
Secretary Forest Preserve District Myrna Molina  
Commissioner Bill Roth  
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez  
Commissioner Monica Silva  
Commissioner Cheryl Strathmann  
Commissioner Clifford Surges  
Commissioner Bill Tarver  
Commissioner Vern Tepe  
Commissioner Rick Williams

#### REMOTE

Commissioner Gary Daugherty  
Commissioner Mark Davoust  
Commissioner Michael Linder

#### ABSENT

Commissioner Deborah Allan  
Commissioner David Young

**Others Present:** Exec. Dir. Haberthur, CFO Petschke; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez & staff Tegge; NRM Dir. Chess & staff Johnson; HR Dir. Clough; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk & staff Kovach, Swanson, Dir. of Ops. Pentecost; Chief of Police Burger; Attorney

Hodge; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi, KCIT Peters and members of the public.

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

*None.*

**V. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes from July 11, 2023**

*President Kious requested an amended to the minutes to include the voting box on FP-O-23-07-0593, clerical error. The minutes were approved as amended.*

**RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Ron Ford

**SECONDER:** Mo Iqbal

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

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, and David Young

**VI. Presentation and Approval of the Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem from July 2023**

**RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon

**SECONDER:** Dale Berman

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

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, and David Young

**VII. Finance and Administration**

**FP-R-23-08-3032 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 replacement mower; he shared pictures and discussed the type of brush that is removed with this type of equipment. 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. All of that abuse takes a toll on the lifespan of the equipment. 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 eight 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:** None.

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

**FP-R-23-08-3033 Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of a ComEd Green Region Program Grant for Revitalizing Oak Savanna at Big Rock Forest Preserve**

*NRM Dir. Chess presented the ComEd Green Regional grant that was awarded to the Natural Resource Management Department. The grant was written and submitted by Lauren Swanson, who is now part of the Community Affairs Department. The District was awarded and notified in July 2023. In order to accept the funds, an approved resolution will be required; the project will be budgeted in the 24/25 fiscal year. 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 F.P. project. The District will receive \$10,000 from the ComEd Green Region Grant Program to complete the project. The District will also be responsible for providing \$12,000 in matching funds. All funds will be budgeted in the FY 2024/2025 Budget to be spent before the grant deadline of March 21, 2025.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE  
**MOVER:** Bill Lenert  
**SECONDER:** Mavis Bates  
**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva,

**ABSENT:** Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams, Gary Daugherty, Mark Davoust, and Michael Linder  
Deborah Allan, and David Young

**FP-R-23-08-3034 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 OSLAD grant application noting that the District could be awarded up to \$400,000. 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. If approved, funds totaling \$800,000 will need to be allocated in the 2024/25 fiscal year. There is no expense required to submit the grant application.*

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Iqbal asked if this application would be the only one submitted or if the District would continue to apply for further funding. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the District applies for funding whenever possible, he noted that the District scored highly on their project due to the uniqueness of the bog. The Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants are typically available on an annual basis. Commissioner Strathmann asked how deep the fishing pond is. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that our Wildlife Biologist Bill Graser would be coordinating a bathymetric survey and will be working with the state to stock the appropriate fish.*

**RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Michael Linder

**SECONDER:** Cheryl Strathmann

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

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, and David Young

**VIII. Planning and Utilization**

**FP-R-23-08-3035 Resolution Approving a Bid for Common Reed Control for Five (5) Forest Preserves**

*NRM Dir. Chess presented the following bid for the common reed control. He discussed the specialized amphibious equipment that is needed for this project. The non-native, invasive plant Common Reed (Phragmites australis) is a tall (up to 15') perennial grass that infests many District wetlands. It produces some viable seed on the highly visible plumes it produces in late summer, but primarily propagates through lateral shoots called rhizomes. This vigorously growing plant quickly forms monotypic stands of itself, at the exclusion of native fauna. Its dense growth habit minimizes its utility to native wetland fauna; ducks cannot swim through mature stands, and its stalks are too weak to support the nests of native wetland songbirds. Contractors were sought to bid on summer/fall 2023 control projects of multiple, separate infestations of Common Reed, across five different preserves. The bid was sent to 35 vendors and publicly advertised, with three responding. The low response rate is attributed to the need*

for specialized amphibious equipment (i.e. Marshmaster) to make work at this scale cost-effective. **DISCUSSION:** None.

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

**FP-R-23-08-3036 Resolution Approving a Bid for Natural Areas Vegetation Management at Settler’s Hill Golf Course**

*NRM Dir. Chess presented the project of the Settler’s Hill Golf Course for management of the natural areas including enhancement of the wildlife habitat. Davey Resource group was the lowest qualified bid and conducted the work last season; therefore, they are familiar with this particular project, which led to the competitive bid. Settler’s Hill Golf Course (224 acres) is located within Batavia Township, and is one of two golf courses owned by the District. In 2021, work began on updating select roughs, fairways, greens, tee boxes, bunkers, cart paths, and fixing drainage issues. Bids were sought from qualified firms for one year of management and naturalization of terrestrial vegetation within the non-playing grounds of Settler’s Hill Golf Course (approximately 100 acres).*

The second year of work will be conducted from September 2023 until June 30, 2024. The primary goal of this work will be to control invasive and non-native herbaceous species as well as invasive woody brush in the woodland areas and along the trail edges. Species to be controlled will include but not be limited to teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), and bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.). The bid was distributed to 35 vendors, with two responding. The qualified, lowest bid was received from Davey Resource Group, Inc. of Elmhurst, Illinois, in the amount of \$83,780. Our Natural Resource Management department will conduct contractor oversight. Funds totaling \$225,000 were budgeted in the 23/24 fiscal year for terrestrial management at Settler’s Hill Golf Course. Sufficient funds totaling \$128,880 are available for this project totaling \$83,780.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

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

**FP-R-23-08-3037 Resolution Approving a Contract with Smith Group, for Professional Services to Develop a Ten (10) Year Comprehensive Master Plan for the Forest Preserve District, Kane County**

Chief of Planning and Land Management Rooks-Lopez presented the contract with Smith Group. She discussed the request for qualification (RFQ) that went out to 20 vendors with one respondent. Staff contacted the vendors for lack of bidding. The majority of the non-respondents stated they did not have availability within the timeframe requested. Dir. Rooks-Lopez stated that staff conducted a thorough review followed by an interview. She indicated that Smith Group has a wide range of experience and staff felt confident that they will be able to provide the work within the parameters requested. The Forest Preserve District of Kane County's ("District") last full master plan was coordinated in-house in 2015. Subsequently partial updates were conducted in 2018, 2020 and 2022. Since we have acquired an additional 3,000 + acres and best management practices to initiate full master plan review every five to ten years. The creation of a fresh Comprehensive Master Plan for Calendar Year 2024 was approved in the current FY24 budget. The new Comprehensive Plan will include an implementation strategy that will outline short, medium, and long-term goals and the action steps associated with implementing these goals during the span of the plan's time period, inclusive of performance measures for tracking the progress to the District's goals.

The Plan will be the foundation for planning land-use, capital improvements, climate mitigation and overall District resiliency. The temporal scope of this plan will cover the next ten years with a target horizon of 2034/35. A Request for Qualification process was conducted to locate an appropriate consultant for this scope of services. Twenty (20) vendors were contacted with Smith Group Inc. of Chicago, IL being the sole respondent. A thorough interview was conducted with Smith Group Inc. of Chicago, Illinois and staff are confident in their knowledge, skills and abilities as presented. Funds totaling \$200,000.00 were budgeted in the 2023/24 fiscal year for the development of a ten (10) year Comprehensive Master Plan. **DISCUSSION:** None.

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

#### **XI. New Business**

*Commissioner Surges commented on a concern regarding speed limit postings on Forest Preserve trails specifically for E-bikes.*

*Exec. Dir. Haberthur provided an update regarding the concern of the high speeds with E-bikes. Staff has been evaluating the recommendation of solar powered speed radars including costs, maintenance and staff time. Commissioner Tepe stated that high speed E-bikes are a countywide issue on all trails including the forest preserves. Commissioner Surges noted that the hope is to create awareness throughout trails to slow down.*

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

*None.*

#### **XIII. Communications**

*Community Affairs Dir. Metanchuk shared updates noting that the Forest Foundation received a \$10,000 ComEd Green Region grant similar to the Natural Resources Department. The project will be at Freeman Kame Meagher Forest Preserve written by wildlife technician Sadie Dainko.*

*Benefit both pollinators and endangered turtle habitats including an interpretative sign. The Foundation will be hosting a golf outing fundraiser for 2024, more information to come. Dir. Metanchuk provided photos of the National Night Out event that was held August 1<sup>st</sup> at three locations through Kane County and promoted the upcoming Rusty Rodeo event on August 12, 2023 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. Lastly, the District has collaborated with Fine Line Creative Studio. The Great Orb Hunt will begin at the end of August where 100 glass and ceramic orbs will be hidden through LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve.*

**XIV. President's Comments**

*President Kious recognized the memorial service that was held for former Senior Ranger Collin Verbick, he asked for a moment of silence. Kious thanked staff that helped coordinate the service.*

**XV. Department Reports**

**RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE

**MOVER:** Dale Berman

**SECONDER:** Cherryl Strathmann

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

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, and David Young

**XVI. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 9:41AM.*

**RESULT:** ADJOURNED BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon

**SECONDER:** Bill Roth

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

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, and David Young

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

Gabriella Figliozzi  
Recording Secretary

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Myrna Molina  
Board Secretary