



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

# Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee

## Meeting Minutes

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

**Thursday, November 16, 2023**

**2:00 PM**

**3rd Floor Board Room**

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

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, October 26, 2023 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 2:00PM.

<b>PRESENT</b>	Board Member Michael Kenyon Board Member Chris Kious Board Member Anita Lewis Board Member Michael Linder Board Member Cheryl Strathmann Board Member Vern Tepe
<b>ABSENT</b>	Board Member Mavis Bates Board Member Ron Ford Board Member Michelle Gumz

**Also Present:** Commissioners Roth, Juby; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; NRM Dir. Chess; CFO Petschke & staff Carrano, Marano; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez; Marketing Coord. Kovach; Dir. of Ops. Pentecost; Chief of Police Burger; Attorney Hodge and Exec. Assist. Figliozzi, Admin staff Rafferty and members of the public.

### II. **Approval of Minutes of October 26, 2023**

*Minutes were deferred to next month.*

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

*Suzanne Morrison of North Aurora recently moved to Kane County and was interested in general information of the Forest Preserve District. President Kious introduced our Community Affairs Dir. Laurie Metanchuk who was in the audience as well as the District's Volunteer Coordinator Robb Cleave.*

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

*None.*

**V. New or Unfinished Business**

**TMP-23-1585** Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Forest Preserve District of Kane County and the County of Kane for Volunteer Stream Corridor Restoration Services

*COP Rooks-Lopez presented the IGA with Kane County for restoration services.* In the spring 2023, the department of Environmental and Water Resources contacted the District concerning potential improvements at Geneva Creek in the Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve. The goal of the project is to improve approximately 1,400 LF of Geneva Creek. Currently Geneva Creek experiences severe erosion during moderate to high storm events. The erosion compromises the stability of the creek, the future of the Geneva Grotto and contributes to sediment pollution into the Fox River. The County and the Forest Preserve are owners of Geneva Creek south of Route 31. Construction of the Geneva Creek improvements is anticipated to begin in summer 2024. The long-term success of the project will be increased if a community volunteer program could be utilized on both properties to remove nuisance and invasive vegetation along the stream corridor before the stabilization project begins and continue after the project is complete. The District already has an established Volunteer Program for Natural Areas Management to organize, train and oversees volunteers interested in performing management activities such as nuisance and invasive vegetation removal. This agreement would allow District Volunteers to assist in working on both County and District property along Geneva Creek.

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Lewis commented that she frequently visits the Grotto at Geneva Creek. She expressed her concern with safety near the creek and was pleased that the improvement project was underway.*

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

**TMP-23-1525** Resolution Authorizing a Contract for Professional Engineering Services to Develop a Long-Term Planning Study at Fox River Bluff Bridge with Alfred Benesch & Company

*COP Rooks-Lopez presented the contract for the Fox River Bluff Bridge study.* In 2012 the District was gifted the Fox River Bluff Bridge at Red Gate Road from the City of St. Charles. Since that time, the wooden decking of the bridge has experienced an accelerated rate of decline. Staff makes surface repairs as necessary but is having difficulty keeping up. At only 11 years old, the bridge should not be experiencing these issues and initial inspections indicate the problem may with the timber treatment used at installation. Moving forward an overall assessment of the bridge is required to identify the extent of the damage and to offer solutions for next steps. Alfred Benesch & Company drafted the District's 2017 Bridge Assessment Report and has maintained an on call inspection service contract with the District since that time. Through those two past services, they are intimately familiar with the issue affecting the Fox River Bluff Bridge. This proposal is the next step to determine the overall extent of damage, and planning repairs. A scope of work was developed and a total fee for service was established at \$35,000. Additionally, \$5,000.00 shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs, that may arise during design and construction, for a total possible cost of \$40,000.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Linder asked if the contract with Benesch was to determine the construction needs of the bridge or if they would be conducting any necessary repairs. Chief of Planning Rooks-Lopez responded that the contract is for the engineer to evaluate the bridge and generate a report so the District can accurately budget for the needed repairs. Commissioner Tepe asked why the District is responsible for repairs if the bridge was constructed by the City of St. Charles. Dir. Rooks-Lopez responded that the District was deeded the bridge. The warranty has since expired. She noted that North Operations Manager Jenny Estes has been reviewing and attending to repairs as needed, however the level of plank repairs has become excessive. The goal is to generate a report with details to create a long-term solution. Pictures were shared via web.

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

**TMP-23-1526** Resolution Approving a Contract with Hey and Associates, Inc. for Professional Services to Develop Engineering Plans for the Mill Creek Greenway Forest Preserve

*COP Rooks-Lopez presented the contract with Hey and Associates noting that the same engineers were contracted for the LeRoy Oaks and Oakhurst Forest Preserve renovation projects.* The District was awarded an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant for improvements to the Mill Creek Greenway Forest Preserve. This project will include a new shelter, parking lot, restroom, archery range and walking trails. Additionally, restore almost 60 acres of prairie. The District utilized a request for qualifications process to select a firm for professional services. Five firms responded and Hey and Associates, Inc. of Volo, Illinois was selected for this project. A scope of work was developed and a total fee for services was established at \$67,000. Additionally, \$11,100 shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated costs, that may arise during design and construction, for a total possible cost of \$78,700. Funds totaling \$1,250,000 were budgeted in FY23/24 for engineering and construction. The construction portion of the project is estimated to cost \$1,100,000. The OSLAD grant will reimburse the District a maximum of \$600,000 of the construction and engineering costs.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Lewis asked if the construction and engineering included the barn. Chief of Planning Rooks-Lopez responded that the barn was not included in this grant project and would be a future discussion.

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

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

*None.*

**VII. Communications**

*Community Affairs Dir. Metanchuk provided an update on the latest Treeline Winter Newsletter. She promoted upcoming programs and the holiday potluck for the December Senior Stroll event.*

*Commissioner Kenyon commented on the new siding at the Barbara Belding Lodge, noting it was well done. Dir. Metanchuk reported on the Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes that were spotted at the Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve. The Whooping Cranes are an endangered species and this was a rare sighting. Local Photographers provided images of the cranes to the District. She noted that various news and press covered the sighting as well. It was seen on WTTW and ABC News as well.*

**VIII. Chairman's Comments**

*None.*

**IX. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 2:23PM.*

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

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Recording Secretary