



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

Forest Preserve District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

President Christopher Kious, President Pro Tem Mavis Bates, Treasurer Bill Lenert,
Secretary Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl
Strathmann, Vern Tepe

Thursday, June 6, 2024

8:30 AM

Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Executive Committee meeting was held Thursday, June 6, 2024. President Kious called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134.

PRESENT President Forest Preserve District Chris Kious
Secretary Forest Preserve District Myrna Molina
Commissioner Dale Berman
Commissioner Anita Lewis
Commissioner Michael Kenyon
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann
Commissioner Vern Tepe
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez

ABSENT Commissioner Mavis Bates

II. Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2024

RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOVER: Michael Kenyon

AYE: Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl
Strathmann, Vern Tepe, and Jarett Sanchez

ABSENT Commissioner Mavis Bates

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

None

IV. Presentation and Approval of Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem from May 2024

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Michael Kenyon

SECONDER: Dale Berman

AYE: Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl
Strathmann, Vern Tepe, and Jarett Sanchez

ABSENT: Mavis Bates

V. Finance and Administration

TMP-24-2395 Resolution Approving a Responsible Outdoor Lighting Policy

NRM Dir. Chess presented the Dark Sky Lighting initiative. The mission of the Forest Preserve District states that the District “acquire, hold and maintain lands within Kane County that contribute to the conservation of natural and historic resources” and to “preserve such lands for the environmental education, recreation, pleasure and well-being of all its citizens.” The natural and historic resources within Kane County are threatened by a number of different pressures, including the visibility of the night sky.

The effects of light pollution brightening the night sky has measurable negative impacts upon wildlife, human health, as well as our night sky heritage. Of particular importance to the District, as a conservation agency, are the impacts that nighttime light pollution can have on the ecosystems present within the preserves. Artificial lights can disrupt breeding habits of amphibians, confuse migratory birds that depend on moonlight and starlight to navigate, and create fatal attraction sources for rare insects drawn to light sources.

DarkSky International is a recognized worldwide authority combatting light pollution. They work to protect communities from the harmful effects of light pollution through outreach, advocacy, and conservation. Included in their efforts was the creation of a DarkSky Approved certification process for lighting elements focused on five lighting principles for responsible outdoor lighting. Those principles ensuring that lighting is useful, targeted, low level, controlled, and warm-colored. In order to fulfill the District’s mission and better preserve the night sky across the District’s 23,000 acres, a policy was created to reflect the specifications set out by DarkSky International. These specifications would ensure that any future construction or replacement projects undertaken by the District adhere to the five principles of responsible outdoor lighting.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Roth asked if the District would conduct an audit of all the types of lighting, he recommended to upgrade to LED lighting, noting it would be cost saving going forward. Dir. Chess stated there will be a punch list, existing lighting will be part of the assessment.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER: Cherryl Strathmann
AYE: Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, and Jarett Sanchez
ABSENT: Mavis Bates

TMP-24-2399 Resolution Approving the Surplus Vehicle and Equipment Disposal

Accounting Manager Carrano presented the surplus vehicle and equipment disposal. The surplus auction process allows the District to dispose of unneeded vehicles and equipment while recouping the remaining financial values of these items. The District has been utilizing an online auction house to dispose of surplus vehicles and equipment since 2013. In 2024, we will again utilize the online Public Surplus auction house (www.publicsurplus.com). Historically, the utilization of Public Surplus has brought wide spread attention to District auction items and enabled the District to realize estimated values of auctioned inventory. Attached is a list of vehicles and equipment that staff requests approval to declare as surplus, for immediate disposal through an online auction. All proceeds from the auction go into the General Fund under Sale of Material. In calendar year 2023, the District received \$32,083.50 from the online sale of vehicles and equipment.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Strathmann asked how the auction is conducted. Mgr. Carrano explained the online auction is handled by the District's Buyer Anna Marano, who coordinates with the public.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Vern Tepe
SECONDER: Michael Kenyon
AYE: Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, and Jarett Sanchez
ABSENT: Mavis Bates

VI. Planning & Utilization

TMP-24-2246 Resolution Approving a Contract with V3 Companies, Ltd. for Professional Resident Engineering Services for the Removal of Carpentersville Dam

Chief of Planning and Land Mgmt. Rooks Lopez presented the contract with V3. In 2015, the District entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for the River Obstruction Removal Project for the removal of the Fabyan Causeway Island and Carpentersville Dam. The agreement included 100% reimbursement from the IDNR for engineering and construction costs up the \$3,500,000, of which \$2,510,796.68 remain for Carpentersville Dam removal. The District is responsible for costs associated with the impacts and repairs to the boat launch north of the dam estimated to cost \$45,000.00.

A condition of the agreement requires the District to establish a contract for resident engineer services to perform construction observation and administration during the course of the demolition project. V3 Companies, LTD., Woodridge, Illinois was hired in 2019 as the design engineer for the Carpentersville dam removal project, as such, V3 has a privileged understanding of the project and planned demolition. A scope of work was developed, approved by the IDNR, and a total not to exceed fee was established at \$106,570.00 for V3 to perform the duties of 'Resident Engineer' during the demolition of the dam. Demolition quotes are being re-bid due to IDNR disqualification of all round 1 bids. The anticipated presentation of the winner of the 2nd round of bidding (subject to IDNR approval) is in July or August of this year.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER: Dale Berman
AYE: Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, and Jarett Sanchez
ABSENT: Mavis Bates

TM-24-2397 Resolution Approving a Bid for the Buffalo/Brunner Family Forest Preserve Site Improvements

Chief of Planning and Land Mgmt. Rooks Lopez presented the bid for the site improvement project at the Buffalo Brunner Family Forest Preserve. \$625,000 of funds

were allocated in the FY23/24 budget to complete the construction of a shelter, bathroom, parking lot, sled hill, drainage improvements and trail connections and construction drawings development. Additional funds of \$100,000 were allocated in the FY24/25 budget due to increased construction costs since the project was originally planned. This project is partially funded by KDOT in the total amount of \$625,000. The original plan for Buffalo/Brunner Preserve was to construct a new lodge to upgrade the Raging Buffalo facility with assistance from KDOT in the amount of \$500,000. When this project did not move forward, the District evaluated other uses of the funding for the Preserve. In 2021, KDOT amended its agreement through a restatement and an additional \$125,000 would be provided to the District to construct a shelter and bathroom on site.

The District conducted a formal bid process for the improvements. Bids were publicly advertised, with four (4) bidders responding. The responsible, lowest bidder is Midwest Excavators LLC. with a base bid of \$603,724.60. Additionally, \$15,928.46 shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs, that may arise during construction for a total project amount of \$619,653.06.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Roth commented on an issue with KDOT, regarding soil that was contributed and had been contaminated. He asked if we had received soil. President Kious responded that no, the District did not receive soil, noting that was a separate situation with Kane County, not the District and it was handled.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER: Michael Kenyon
AYE: Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, and Jarett Sanchez
ABSENT: Mavis Bates

TMP-24-2393 Resolution Approving a Bid for the Installation of Two (2) Water Control Structures

NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for the two water control structures. Burlington Prairie FP is a 950-acre complex of tallgrass prairie mixed with various wetlands, including a sedge meadow/wet prairie complex comprising an Illinois State Nature Preserve. This large complex of community types currently supports populations of a variety of wildlife including state endangered reptiles and rare grassland birds like bobolinks. While some of these species are supported by the small remnant wetland present on site, the majority of the biodiversity present is located in the large restored prairies. Almost the entirety of the site was farmed historically and the process of restoration is ongoing. To enable farming, settlers installed drain tiles throughout the preserve. These buried tile lines collected sub-surface water and intentionally drained small wetlands. These tiles are still present today, where they continue to drain areas that would otherwise be wetlands.

The District has partnered with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to evaluate two of these drained wetlands and develop a plan to restore the original hydrology. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff have surveyed two wetlands and engineered plans that would create a combined 23 acres of surface water through the installation of new tile lines in concert with in-line water control structures. Construction on one of those potholes was completed in 2023 for \$32,690. Bids were

sought presently to restore the hydrology of the second pothole. Two in-line water control structures are required to rehydrate the area and will result in the creation of approximately 8 acres of surface water within a restored prairie.

The District advertised and sent bids to 23 vendors, with 1 responding. The lowest, qualified bid was received from Hartstrand Water Solutions, LLC., of Rock Falls, Illinois in the amount of \$14,410. Staff recommends a contingency of \$2,500 to cover any unforeseen additional costs that may arise during this project.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Tepe asked if the District could utilize this area for wetland credits. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded, unfortunately the District cannot use this project for wetland credits, the area had broken tiles already with water present. He noted there would be other areas appropriate for wetland credits.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Cherryl Strathmann
AYE: Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, and Jarett Sanchez
ABSENT: Mavis Bates

TMP-24-2394 Resolution Approving a Bid for the Construction of an Electric Fence

NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for the electric fence and explained the challenges with the original awarded bid. The tallgrass prairie once covered Illinois, and much of the Midwest, in an ocean of grass. These diverse and productive ecosystems persisted until 1837 and the invention of the steel plow. Prairies were rapidly plowed into rich agricultural fields, ultimately leaving Illinois with less than a tenth of a percent of its original 22 million acres of prairie. Restoring tallgrass prairie has been one of the primary goals of the District and it now manages several thousand acres of grasslands. Key to the historic management of these grasslands was disturbance, primarily driven by two factors: fire and grazing. Fire has been reintroduced across the landscape by staff, but the grazing component is still missing.

Conservation efforts to preserve the North American bison have been wildly successful in the west, and more recently, conservation agencies within Illinois have started to reintroduce bison herds within their properties. The District is now faced with the opportunity to bring bison back to a restored prairie at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve, aided by the acquisition of a \$90,100 grant from the Kane County Grand Victoria Riverboat fund to help construct the pasture fence. The first step in the reintroduction process is to construct a fence around the future pasture. Specifications were created for the installation of both a 6-foot tall and an 8-foot-tall woven wire fence. The fence would also contain three hot wires powered by solar panels as an additional deterrent to keep the bison contained. Discussions with current bison ranchers indicate that a 6-foot fence will be sufficient for containment and that the 8-foot height is not a necessary addition.

The District originally advertised in August, 2023 for the construction of this fence. The lowest qualified bid was received from Farm Way Fencing, LLC of Kingston, Illinois in the amount of \$144,859.76 and was awarded in October, 2023. In the interim, the bidder defaulted leading the District to re-bid the project. In March, 2024 the project was

advertised with one bid received. The lowest, qualified bid was received from Provantage Systems, Inc. of St. Charles, Illinois in the amount of \$252,865 for the 7,350 linear feet of fencing. Negotiations with the sole bidder allowed the District to reduce the linear feet of the fence to 5,280 feet and bring the cost for construction to \$150,000. Staff additionally recommends a contingency of \$15,000 to cover any unforeseen costs that may arise during this project. We have since re-bid the project. The only bidder that came in was negotiated with a change in the linear feet of the fence. Chess presented a map and explained the area for the fence. Hopeful to have a second phase to make the space larger, however this will allow the fence to be constructed and have the same number of animals as anticipated and on time.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Kenyon asked if staff had any visuals of the fence. Dir. Chess responded that staff will include the specs with images for the Full Commission agenda packet. Commissioner Gumz stated that the fence was ugly. She felt that the District should have a nicer looking fence. Commissioner Allan asked if the bison would need a barn for the extreme weather. Dir. Chess responded that there is an area of trees that the bison can huddle under, when necessary, the District would not be constructing a barn. President Kious commented the chosen location has a perfect viewing advantage. Commissioner Sanchez asked about the reduced size for the bison and if it would be sufficient. Dir. Chess responded that the District is under the threshold of the USDA guidelines. Exec. Dir. Haberthur stated that the District is working with Trickster Community Center, which is a registered nonprofit 501c3 Native American Community. President Kious thanked the organizations involved that have helped move the project along.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Cherryl Strathmann
AYE: Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, and Jarett Sanchez
ABSENT: Mavis Bates

VII. New or Unfinished Business

None.

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

None.

IX. Communications

Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk provided a PowerPoint presentation of the recent summer camp activities and field trips hosted by the environmental education staff. The Kayak program was sold out with a waitlist, she noted the successes of these popular summer programs. Dir. Metanchuk announced the District's 99th Birthday on Saturday June 8th 2024.

Commissioner Kenyon promoted the Kane Forest Foundation first annual golf outing on September 12, 2024. He noted sponsorships are available.

X. President's Comments

President Kious thanked staff for all their continued efforts moving projects forward. He promoted the Senior Stroll, at Fabyan East Forest Preserve. Commissioner Kenyon noted that the staff appreciation event on June 12, 2024 at the Cougars stadium.

XI. Financial Reports

Reports A-C were moved together

- A. Bond Investment Analysis Report through April 2024
- B. Cash & Investment Report through April 2024
- C. Income Statement through April 2024

RESULT: **APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Dale Berman
SECONDER: Michael Kenyon
AYE: Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, and Jarett Sanchez
ABSENT: Mavis Bates

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:09AM.

RESULT: **APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Dale Berman
AYE: Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, and Jarett Sanchez
ABSENT: Mavis Bates

Christopher Kious, President
Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

Gabriella Figliozzi
Recording Secretary