



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

## Forest Preserve District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

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

**Wednesday, July 3, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

**Board Room**

### I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Executive Committee meeting was held Wednesday July 3, 2024 due to the Holiday falling on the regular standing Thursday meeting date. President Kious called the meeting to order at 12:27PM at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134.

**PRESENT** President Forest Preserve District Chris Kious  
Commissioner Dale Berman  
Commissioner Anita Lewis  
Commissioner Mavis Bates  
Commissioner Michael Kenyon  
Secretary Forest Preserve District Myrna Molina (Remote)  
Commissioner Cheryl Strathmann  
Commissioner Vern Tepe  
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez

**Also Present:** Commissioners Allan (Remote), Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez; CFO Petschke & staff Carrano, Marano; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk; HR Dir. Clough; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Ops. Jensen; Chief of Police & Dir. of Public Safety Burger; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi & staff Rafferty; Attorney Hodge and members of the public.

### II. Approval of Minutes from June 6, 2024

**RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**MOVER:** Mavis Bates

**AYE:** Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Mavis Bates, Michael Kenyon, Myrna Molina, Cheryl Strathmann, and Jarett Sanchez

**ABSENT:** Vern Tepe

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

*None.*

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

**RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission

**MOVER:** Dale Berman

**SECONDER:** Jarett Sanchez

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Myrna Molina, Cheryl Strathmann, Jarett Sanchez, Vern Tepe

**V. Finance and Administration**

**TMP-24-2427** Resolution Approving the Purchase of Six (6) Zero Turn Mowers for the Operations Department

*Dir. of Ops. Jensen presented the bid for 6 replacement mowers for the Operations Department.* Based on the District’s replacement schedule, two (2) zero turn mowers for South Operations were approved in the 2024-25 budget. Mowers M424, a 2014 Toro Z-Master and M425, a 2015 Toro Z-Master, have both exceeded the threshold of their 1,600 hours of expected service life. M424 was placed out of service in August of 2023 due to the cost of needed hydraulic drive motor repairs exceeding the value of the operational mower. Four (4) additional zero-turn mowers have been approved as part of the FY 24-25 budget to replace M429 (435 hours) and M430 (313 hours) for South Operations and M320 (703 hours) and M321 (296 hours) for North Operations.

The District utilized the Sourcewell Joint Purchasing Program. Ralph Helm Inc. of Elgin, Illinois is a local, authorized Sourcewell dealer and provides a 27% reduction to the MSRP for the mowers. Any accessories are not covered with the reduction, which have been added to maximize mowing efficiencies and maintenance safety. This provides the District with a savings of \$33,840.18 below MSRP. A total of \$102,000 was budgeted in for the purchase of these mowers in fiscal year 2024-25. Sufficient funds will be available on July 1, 2024 for a total of \$96,923.52 for the purchase six (6) zero-turn mowers.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**RESULT:                    MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission

**MOVER:** Dale Berman

**SECONDER:** Mavis Bates

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

**VI. Planning & Utilization**

**TMP-24-2510** Resolution Approving a Bid for Common Reed Control for Five (5) Forest Preserves

*NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for common weed control.* 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 fail to support the nests of native wetland songbirds. Contractors were sought to bid on summer/fall 2024 control projects of multiple, separate infestations of Common Reed, across five different preserves. Funds totaling \$140,000 were budgeted in this fiscal year for weed management. Sufficient funds totaling \$140,000 are available in the Natural Resources Weed Management Account for all five projects totaling \$47,424. Staff recommends the Committee approve the Common Reed-control bids by Integrated Lakes Management of Waukegan, Illinois for projects 2, 3, 4, and 5 at a total cost of \$36,630. Additionally, staff recommends the Committee approve the Common Reed-control bid by RES Great Lakes of Chicago, Illinois for project 1 at a cost of \$10,794.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**RESULT:                    MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission

**MOVER:** Cheryl Strathmann  
**SECONDER:** Mavis Bates  
**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Myrna Molina, Cheryl Strathmann, Jarett Sanchez, Vern Tepe

**TMP-24-2511** Resolution Approving a Bid for Natural Areas Vegetation Management at Settler’s Hill Golf Course

*NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for the management of the natural areas at Settler’s Hill Golf Course. Settler’s Hill Golf Course (224 acres) is located within Batavia Township, and is one of two golf courses owned by the District. Bids were sought from qualified firms for one year of management and naturalization of terrestrial vegetation across the out of play areas of Settler’s Hill Golf Course (approximately 100 acres). This third consecutive year of work will be conducted from September 2024 until June 30, 2025. 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 qualified, lowest bid was received from Woods to Wetlands, LLC of Streamwood, Illinois, in the amount of \$89,300. Contractor oversight will be conducted by our Natural Resource Management department.*

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Berman asked about the variation in amounts between the vendors on the bid. NRM Dir. Chess explained that the awarded bid amount is in line with what the District would expect to see each year. He explained that Woods to Wetlands is a husband-and-wife team, therefore they do not have the financial overhead like the other larger companies do. This factor changes the bid for larger companies significantly.*

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

**VII. New or Unfinished Business**

**TMP-24-2514** Approval of an Ordinance Providing for and Requiring the Submission of the Proposition of Increasing the Limiting Rate of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois, to the Voters of Said Forest Preserve District at the General Election to be Held on the 5th Day of November, 2024  
*President Kious read the ordinance and provided an opportunity for discussion.*

**DISCUSSION:** *None.*

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

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

*None.*

**IX. Communications**

*Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk promoted the volunteer seed collection team event on Wednesdays throughout the summer to harvest seed that is used to plant prairies and woodlands. She highlighted the new logo, Max15, a public awareness campaign to remind people of the 15mph speed limit on trails. She reminded the public that only class 1 and class 2 e-bikes are permitted on the trails. The promotions have been sent to local bike shops and have been well received including neighboring municipalities. Dir. Metanchuk stated the service for Officer Ed Lopez who passed away last week would be held tonight, Thursday July 3, 2024. Commissioner Strathmann asked if there was a visual difference between the e-bike classes. Chief of Police Burger responded that the classification of the electric bikes is the size of the battery, and not easily recognizable.*

**X. President's Comments**

*President Kious stated that District staff have been working diligently on many exciting projects and thanked everyone for their hard work.*

**XI. Financial Reports**

*Reports A-C were moved together by unanimous consent*

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

**RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**  
**MOVER:** Vern Tepe  
**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Myrna Molina, Cherryl Strathmann, Jarett Sanchez, Vern Tepe

**XII. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 12:45PM.*

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

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Recording Secretary