



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

Forest Preserve District Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

8:30 AM

County Board Room

I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Full Commission meeting was held Monday, November 10th, 2025, at the Kane County Government Center located at 719 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva, IL 60134. President Lenert called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Remote Attendance Approval

Commissioners Allan, Daugherty

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert
Secretary Forest Preserve District Mo Iqbal
Commissioner Alex Arroyo (In person at 8:46AM)
Commissioner Mavis Bates
Commissioner Sonia Garcia
Commissioner Jon Gripe
Commissioner Michelle Gumz (In person at 8:36AM)
Commissioner Leslie Juby
Commissioner Chris Kious
Commissioner Michael Linder
Commissioner Myrna Molina
Commissioner Ted Penesis
Commissioner Bill Roth
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez (In person at 8:43AM)
Commissioner Cheryl Strathmann
Commissioner Bill Tarver
Commissioner Vern Tepe
Commissioner Rick Williams
Commissioner David Young (In person at 8:33AM)

REMOTE: Commissioner Deborah Allan
Commissioner Gary Daugherty

ABSENT: Commissioner Anita Lewis
Commissioner Clifford Surges

Also Present: Exec. Dir. Haberthur, Dir. of Finance Petschke; Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez; HR Dir Clough; NRM Dir. Chess; Ops. Dir. Jensen; Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk & Staff Kovach Chief of Police Burger; Attorney Price; Exec. Assist. Figliozi, KCIT staff Peters and members of the public.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

President Lenert asked Commissioner Tarver to lead the pledge.

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

Resident of Kane County, Steve Leffler spoke in favor of the recent arrival of the bison at Burlington Forest Preserve. He stated he is looking forward to future opportunities in Campton Township. (Commissioner Young arrived in person at 8:33AM)

V. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes from November 10, 2025

RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOVER: Chris Kious

AYE: Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams

ABSENT: Alex Arroyo, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, Clifford Surges

VI. Presentation and Approval of the Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem from November 2025

RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Jon Gripe

AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

ABSENT: Alex Arroyo, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, Clifford Surges

VII. Presentations

Presentation and Approval of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) *(Commissioner Gumz arrived in person at 8:36AM).*

Dir. of Finance Petschke introduced Jamie Wilkey, partner of Lauterbach & Amen LLP. Wilkey provided a brief overview and explanation of the comprehensive financial report for fiscal year 2024-2025. Wilkey noted that the District had no material journal adjusting. The District was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for last year's ACFR given by GFOA. This is the highest level of achievement for financial reporting for local government and is expected to receive the same level of achievement for this audit report as well. Wilkey discussed the independent auditors report, or auditor's opinion. The unmodified, or clean opinion, is the highest level of opinion that an auditor can issue. The Management's Discussion and Analysis or (MD&A), included high-level financial results. Referencing page 11 of the ACFR, Wilkey directed the Commissioners to read and review the executive summary as it provides details of the report including analysis trends. She noted there was an overall increase in equity, including grant activity and capital assets. Wilkey highlighted the long-term debt that will fall off the books in the fiscal year and noted the new standards that would be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Bill Tarver

AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe Rick Williams, David Young

ABSENT: Alex Arroyo, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, Clifford Surges

VIII. Finance and Administration

None. (Commissioner Sanchez arrived in person at 8:43AM)

IX. Land Acquisition

FP-R-25-12-3197 Resolution Authorizing a Utility Easement with Zayo Group LLC. for the Installation and Maintenance of Fiber Optic Service at Fox River Bluff Forest Preserve

*Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the utility easement agreement. In July 2025, the District was contacted by representatives of Zayo Group LLC. to discuss their plans to install fiber service under the Red Gate Road Bridge in St. Charles. Zayo Group LLC coordinates the installation of infrastructure for high-speed data transmission, amongst other technology services. While most of the work will be within the Right of Way of Red Gate Road, there is a small area that will need to cross under the Fox River Trail on the east side of Fox River Shores Forest Preserve. The proposed easement will permit Zayo Group LLC to construct and maintain (3) 1.25" conduits for fiber optic utility service. The conduits will be installed underground by directional bore, so as not to disturb the land, trail, or public use within the easement. Zayo Group LLC. will pay the District a one-time fee of \$5,000.00 for the easement rights. **DISCUSSION:** *None.**

RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Ted Penesis

AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe Rick Williams, David Young

ABSENT: Alex Arroyo, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

X. Planning and Utilization

None.

XI. Executive

FP-R-25-12-3198 Resolution Authorizing Easement and Right of Way Agreements with ANR Pipeline Company at Cardinal Creek Forest Preserve

(Commissioner Arroyo arrived in person at 8:46AM) Dir. Rooks-Lopez provided information on the easements for all three forest preserves, noting each location has a separate resolution for voting. In March 2024, the District was contacted by representatives of ANR Pipeline Company to discuss plans to expand and upgrade their existing natural gas service lines at Big Rock, Cardinal Creek, Virgil, and Hampshire Forest Preserves. The proposed plans expanded on already existing easements, in mostly agricultural areas of the preserves. However, the expansion at Big Rock Forest Preserve would have taken an additional 100' width of old growth oaks from the area known as Gwinn Oaks. Staff informed ANR representatives of the unique and irreplaceable habitat that would be destroyed at Big Rock and requested ANR look at another option. In early 2025, ANR Pipeline reworked their plans removing Big Rock Forest Preserve as a site and presented their first financial offer to purchase the required permanent and temporary easements for Cardinal Creek, Virgil, and Hampshire Forest Preserves for \$159,850.00. The proposed easement agreements permit ANR Pipeline Company to install and maintain a pipeline for the transportation of natural gas, hydrocarbon, petroleum products, and petroleum byproducts and includes compensations for additional impacts to future wetland mitigation banking, lost agricultural income and prairie restoration. Further discussions and calculations of projected losses between District staff and ANR Pipeline resulted in the attached final compensation and easement agreements. The total compensation to the District for all three preserves is \$1,483,419.20 and includes 8.04 acres of permanent easement and 16.334 acres of temporary construction easement.

- Cardinal Creek Forest Preserve \$121,204.90
- Virgil Forest Preserve \$1,342,076.30
- Hampshire Forest Preserve \$20,138.00

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Iqbal asked if the District felt the easement was fairly priced. Dir. Rooks-Lopez responded that the District was getting a fair price due to the value of the wetland mitigation credits. President Lenert commented that ANR Pipeline has been negotiating in good faith with the District. Commissioner Gripe asked where the funds would be allocated. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the funds are designated to the Land Acquisition fund.

RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Bill Tarver

AYE: Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe Rick Williams, David Young

ABSENT: Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

FP-R-25-12-3199 Resolution Authorizing Easement and Right of Way Agreements with ANR Pipeline Company at Virgil Forest Preserve

RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Bill Tarver

AYE: Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe Rick Williams, David Young

ABSENT: Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

FP-R-25-12-3200 Resolution Authorizing Easement and Right of Way Agreements with ANR Pipeline Company at Hampshire Forest Preserve

RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Bill Tarver

AYE: Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe Rick Williams, David Young

ABSENT: Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

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

None.

XIII. New or Unfinished Business

Presentation and Approval of the Closed Session Minutes

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the closed session minutes The Full Commission of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois has reviewed the minutes of Closed Sessions pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2.06 and has made a determination as to whether the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes which have not been fully made public. The Committee has determined that the need for confidentiality still exists as to the Closed Session minutes of 11/10/2020, 02/09/2021, 08/10/2021, 11/07/2022, 11/07/2022, 01/09/2024, 02/13/2024, 08/13/2024, 10/08/2024, and 04/08/2025. The Committee has determined that there is no

longer a need for confidentiality as to all or part of the Closed Session minutes of 09/13/2022 and 02/11/2025.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: **APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

MOVER: Jarett Sanchez

SECONDER: Cherryl Strathmann

AYE: Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

ABSENT: Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

XIV. Communications

Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk reported on the arrival of the bison. Exec. Dir. Haberthur thanked the Board for their participation noting that the project has been in the works for roughly 3 years starting with former President Kious and ending with President Lenert. Commissioner Bates asked about the number of bison that arrived noting that it was less. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the bison was deemed not fit for transport for this particular heard noting that the District would revisit next year for the delivery. Commissioner Gripe asked if there was potential for this heard to sire babies. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that there could be a possibility in the future, however Reuter Bison LLC and AIC would be working together with the heard maintaining and caring for them.

XV. President's Comments

None.

XVI. Department Reports

Commissioner Penesis shared his appreciation of the monthly reports. He commented on how informative they are including details of current projects and events happening in the District. The Department reports were placed on file.

RESULT: **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

MOVER: Chris Kious

AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

ABSENT: Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:08AM

RESULT: **APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Jarett Sanchez

AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

ABSENT: Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

Bill Lenert, Chairman
Forest Preserve District Commission
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi
