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

Forest Preserve District Commission
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 8:30 AM County Auditorium 1st Floor

I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Full Commission meeting was held Tuesday, April 14, 2026 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.

II. Roll Call

Remote Attendance Approval

Commissioners Molina, Sanchez, Strathmann

PRESENT	President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert
	Secretary Forest Preserve District Mo Iqbal
	Commissioner Jennifer Abbatacola
	Commissioner Alex Arroyo (Arrived in person @ 8:44AM)
	Commissioner Mavis Bates
	Commissioner Sonia Garcia
	Commissioner Leslie Juby
	Commissioner Chris Kious
	Commissioner Michael Linder
	Commissioner Ted Penesis
	Commissioner Bill Roth
	Commissioner Clifford Surges (Arrived in person @8:47AM)
	Commissioner Bill Tarver
	Commissioner Vern Tepe
	Commissioner Rick Williams
	Commissioner David Young
	Commissioner Kim Young
REMOTE:	Commissioner Myrna Molina
	Commissioner Jarett Sanchez
	Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT:	Commissioner Deborah Allan
	Commissioner Jon Gripe
	Commissioner Michelle Gumz
	Commissioner Anita Lewis

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance

President Lenert asked Chief of Police Burger to lead the pledge.

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

None.

V. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes of March 10, 2026

RESULT: **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
MOVER: Chris Kious
AYE: Jennifer Abbatacola, Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, 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**,** Kim Young
ABSENT: Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

VI. Presentation and Approval of the Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem from March 2026 (remote attendees cannot response verbally, sending a chat that they are yes recorded.

RESULT: **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Bill Tarver
SECONDER: Ted Penesis
AYE: Jennifer Abbatacola, Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, 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**,** Kim Young
ABSENT: Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

VII. Presentations

Birds of Muirhead Springs - By District Wildlife Biologist Sadie Dainko

District Wildlife Biologist Sadie Dainko, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the migratory bird success in Muirhead Springs, results of the wetland mitigation bank project. (Arroyo arrived in person at 8:44AM) (Commissioner Surges arrived in person at 8:47AM) A notable result recorded was the rare species that have resulted in the area due to the project.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Bates asked about certain species called loons, aquatic birds. Ms. Dainko responded that yes, they have been spotted in Muirhead Springs. Exec. Dir. Haberthur commented on the offspring that was seen as well of the Wilson's Phalarope. The last recoded successful fledging in Kane County was 2008.*

VIII. Executive

FP-R-26-04-3216 Resolution Approving the 2026 Committee Appointments

President Lenert presented the addition of newly appointed Commissioner Jennifer Abbatacola to the Land Acquisition and Planning and Utilization Committees.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

RESULT: **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Rick Williams
SECONDER: Bill Tarver
AYE: Jennifer Abbatacola, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young**,** Kim Young
ABSENT: Deborah Allan, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis

FP-R-26-04-3217 Resolution Ratifying the Action of the Executive Director in the Execution of an Emergency Septic Repair Contract at the Paul Wolff Campground

President Lenert presented the ratification of the emergency purchase.
The Forest Preserve District manages two campgrounds, open seasonally, from May 1 to late October. Paul Wolff Campground is the northernmost of the District's two campgrounds. It is located within Burnidge Forest Preserve in Elgin. Paul Wolff Campground is serviced by two septic systems. The system located in the front of the campground is the larger of the two, and is the primary component of the RV dump station. This station is utilized daily while the campground is in operation, as the service is part of the reservation fee. For non-registered guests, the District charges $15 per use. In March 2026, staff discovered that the concrete cap of the septic tank that services the RV dump station had experienced an unexpected failure, tied to the unit's age and the winter freeze/thaw cycle. The system was installed in the 1980s and consists of five settling tanks, connected with a single-piece concrete cap. A portion of the cap over the first tank collapsed, removing the earth covering it, and creating a large void in the ground. To ensure minimal interruptions in campground operation, the septic system repairs need to be completed by May 1. Due to the emergency nature of the repairs, the Executive Director granted approval to contract Stark & Sons for $39,677 for services, as stated. Funding is currently available in the Operations Land Area Development fund, due to savings from closing Project #11015 ($78,000). These savings will be used to cover the emergency repair of $39,677 with Stark & Son Trenching Inc., of Hampshire, Illinois.
DISCUSSION: *None.*

RESULT: **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Cliff Surges
SECONDER: Mo Iqbal
AYE: Jennifer Abbatacola, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young**,** Kim Young
ABSENT: Deborah Allan, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis

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

The Commission moved into Executive closed session at 8:57AM to discuss personnel.

RESULT: **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Bill Roth
SECONDER: Chris Kious
AYE: Jennifer Abbatacola, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young**,** Kim Young
ABSENT: Deborah Allan, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis

The Commissioner returned to open session at 9:25AM on a motion by Roth, second by Kious, voice vote unanimous.

X. New or Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Communications

Community Engagement Dir. Metanchuk promoted the annual Earth Day tree planting event. She encouraged all to arrive sharply at 10AM. The Kane Foundation native plant sale will be held Saturday, April 25, starting at 9AM to 12PM at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve. Dir. Metanchuk promoted the new bird exhibit in the LeRoy Nature Center that will be displayed through May 17, 2026. Lastly, the campgrounds open May 1 as well as the Forest Preserve where the bison are being held, sunrise to sunset.

XII. President's Comments

President Lenert shared the news that an individual that passed away had given the Forest Preserve District $1.5M as a gift. He expressed his upmost gratitude and thanked the Bowen family.

Secondly, President Lenert shared that the annual budget has been balanced and that would be presented in the coming month. Commissioner Tepe commented that the individual who gave the funds loved the Forest Preserve and noted that the District should consider a recognition for the gift.

XIII. Department Reports

RESULT:	**PLACED ON FILE BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
MOVER:	Chris Kious
AYE:	Jennifer Abbatacola, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young**,** Kim Young
ABSENT:	Deborah Allan, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:34AM

RESULT:	**APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Mo Iqbal
AYE:	Jennifer Abbatacola, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young**,** Kim Young
ABSENT:	Deborah Allan, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi _____