



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

Forest Preserve District Executive Committee Agenda

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

Thursday, January 9, 2025

8:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Executive Committee meeting was held Thursday, January 9, 2025. President Lenert called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Due to lack of quorum in person, the meeting was held as discussion only, all items would be moved to the Full Commission meeting on January 14, 2025.

Remote Attendance Approval

Commissioners: Bates, Sanchez

PRESENT President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert
Commissioner Mavis Bates (Remote)

ABSENT Commissioner Dale Berman
Commissioner Anita Lewis
Secretary Forest Preserve District Myrna Molina
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann
Commissioner Vern Tepe

Also Present: Commissioners Gripe, Kious, Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez, staff Tegge; Dir. of Finance Petschke & staff Carrano, Marano; Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk & staff Kovach; HR Dir. Clough & staff Misner; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Ops. Jensen & staff Darby, Sparks; Chief of Police Burger; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi & staff Rafferty; Attorney Hodge and members of the public.

II. Approval of Minutes from December 5, 2024

Minutes were deferred to next month due to lack of quorum.

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

None.

IV. Presentation and Approval of Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem for December 2024

Commissioner Allan asked about the Full Commission meeting per diem, asking if the Board decided to request payment for attending the regularly scheduled Forest Preserve Full Commission meeting prior to the Kane County Board meeting. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the decision was made to pay the Commissioners in attendance at the Full Commission meeting since the per diem language at the Kane County Board had been modified to reflect

salary and not per diem. Commissioner Allan explained that the original thought of implementing the per diem at the Forest Preserve was to hold the Commissioners accountable by getting paid for making the effort to show up at the meeting. She felt that it did not seem right to be getting paid for a meeting that the Commissioners would already be in attendance for the Kane County Board. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the Organization Ordinance would be presented at the next Finance and Administration Committee meeting for further discussion opportunities regarding the per diem and other matters.

All items were moved to the Full Commission meeting for approval.

V. Finance and Administration

TMP-24-3334 Landscapes Golf Management (LGM) Initial Budget Presentation
Dir. of Finance Petschke introduced LGM, noting the stub budget being presented is due to the changes within the current budget that will be amended to reflect this implementation.

DISCUSSION: LGM Vice President of Operations Mike Williams, commended the District staff and everyone who has been involved working so quickly and diligently to get both golf courses up and running. He introduced Rick Walrath, PGA Master Professional and Regional Operations Manager and David Impastato, General Manager.

LGM Williams discussed various changes, such as a new logo, he explained that having new branding allows for a re-introduction of the golf courses with new management. Walrath introduced the new website: www.Kaneforestgolf.com. This is a centralized site that includes both Settler's Hill and Hughes Creek golf courses. Walrath discussed programming, events and leagues preparing for the upcoming season.

Commissioner Gripe commented that the current Hughes Creek and Settler's Hill websites state they are no longer available and wants to know what the plan was to explain to current regulars. Walrath responded that, due to the websites being owned by the previous management company, there wasn't anything LGM could post, or do with the websites. David Impastato responded that he has been receiving a number of phone calls by the general public, giving the opportunity to explain and give the new contact information. Commissioner Kious expressed his enthusiasm of the new changes and branding.

President Lenert asked what the golfing rates would look like this coming season. Walrath responded that staff is currently reviewing the competitor rates, noting that the initial intension is to provide the same rates as last year, however the plan is to streamline the rates at both courses. Commissioner Bates asked what pesticides are used on the course and requested to minimize pesticides all together. Walrath responded that LGM has been very conscious of what has been used, he noted that the products are at the direction of the District. He explained that LGM has managed other courses with sensitive environments, therefore LGM has the ability to adhere to those types of guidelines. There was discussion on various purchases needed, such as flags, hole markers, etc. Impastato responded that items do add up and the expenses for year one will be focused on prioritization.

Commissioner Bates discussed native plantings and how they would be protected. Walrath responded that native plantings in the golf community is a hot topic. He noted that natural areas are a benefit to the courses. He noted that LGM is conscious about invasive species.

Exec. Dir. Haberthur commented that LGM has been very conservative with their current budget plan for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Gripe noted that he was pleased to hear that staff is discussing the native and invasive species management together with the golf management.

Item moved to Full Commission.

TMP-24-3269 Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) Ford F-250 Utility Truck and Two (2) Ford F-450 Dump Trucks for Use by the Operations Department Through the State of Illinois Bid Contract Program

Dir. Of Ops. Jensen presented the bid to purchase three trucks for the Operations Department. Funding was approved in fiscal year 2025 for the replacement of trucks #104, #326, and #428. Truck #104 is a 2010 Ford F-350 with utility boxes and currently the primary vehicle for shared use by the Sign Specialist and the Fleet Mechanic within the Trades Division. This truck will be replaced with a gasoline powered Ford F-250 4x4 with utility boxes, retaining the vehicle's on-board tool and material storage ability on a slightly smaller chassis at a cost of \$72,104. Trucks #326 of North Operations and #428 of South Operations are both 2014 Ford F-450's and heavily relied upon for snow removal operations throughout the District, as well as performing larger equipment towing and material hauling requirements throughout the year. Both of these trucks are being replaced with diesel powered Ford F-450 4x4 dump trucks with snowplows and upgraded stainless-steel dump bodies and salt spreaders. The District began transitioning to the stainless-steel options in 2016. This option has a higher initial cost; however, those costs have been recovered in the reduced corrosion incurred and has resulted in lower maintenance and repair costs, most notably the need for sandblasting and painting the dump bodies throughout the life cycle of the vehicle. The purchase cost for one (1) outfitted dump truck is \$123,319, for a combined \$246,638 for both dump truck replacements as presented. All three (3) vehicles are being requested to be purchased through the State of Illinois procurement contract with Morrow Brothers Ford Inc, Greenfield, Illinois for a total cost of \$318,742.

Funds totaling \$75,000 were budgeted for the replacement of Truck #104, funds totaling \$132,000 were budgeted for the replacement of Truck #326, and funds totaling \$132,000 were budgeted for the replacement of Truck #428 in the 2025 fiscal year. Sufficient funds are currently available within the respective accounts to cover the total cost of \$318,742 for the three trucks.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Roth noted that Covid-19 created a supply shortage, he asked if staff have been able to recoup. Dir. Jensen responded that yes, the truck availability has been returning, so staff has been able to purchase what is needed. President Lenert commented that he was pleased to see the stainless-steel options that lower the expenses with maintenance and allow the equipment lasts longer.*

Item moved to Full Commission.

VI. Planning & Utilization

TMP-24-3311 Resolution Approving a Bid for the OSLAD Grant Project for the Mill Creek Greenway Forest Preserve Archery Range

Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the OSLAD grant project, noting the area close to the barn would be cleaned up, this was not in the original grant project plans. However, the project does neighbor the boundary line, therefore it was added to the project costs. In 2022, the District received an Open Space and Land Acquisition Development (OSLAD) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for the Mill Creek Greenway Archery Range Project. The project includes a new entry road and parking lot, prairie restoration and stormwater detention pond, 3 archery fields, a raised archery platform, covered shelters and a combination restroom and shelter. The OSLAD grant will reimburse the District 50% of the preliminary engineering and construction costs up to a total of \$600,000.00, following the completion of the project. Bids were publicly advertised, with 6 bidders responding. The

responsible, lowest bidder was Evans & Son, Inc. with a base bid plus alternate of \$1,174,046.70. Additionally, \$43,557.61 shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs, that may arise during construction for a total project amount of \$1,217,604.31. Funds totaling \$1,250,000.00 were allocated in Fiscal Year 2024/25. Funds totaling \$181,601.95 have been spent on permitting, engineering and native seed purchase, \$1,068,398.05 are currently available. The additional funds needed to cover this expense, \$149,206.26 are available from savings realized in the following projects to cover the additional expense:

- Jon J. Duerr OSLAD #31003 in the Construction & Development Fund, account #03-35-35-5070, remaining balance of \$47,065.89;
- Big Rock RTP #31014 in the Construction & Development Fund, account #03-35-35-7050, remaining balance of \$67,834.91;
- Brunner Family #30902 in the Construction & Development Fund, account #03-35-35-7050, remaining balance of \$14,979.02;
- LeRoy Oakes RTP #30606 in the Construction & Development Fund, account #03-35-35-5070, remaining balance of \$17,898.59;
- Otter Creek Drain Tile Project #31001 in the Construction & Development Fund, account 03-35-35-5070, remaining balance of \$1,427.85.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Gripe asked about the 3 % contingency and if that was a standard amount. Dir. Rooks-Lopez responded that the District is comfortable with this particular amount for this project. She noted that the standard contingency requested is 10%. Commissioner Roth stated that material costs increased significantly during the pandemic, COVID-19. He asked if the amounts have since lowered. Dir. Rooks-Lopez responded that costs have maintained, she noted that the District has been able to keep the projects on track financially, which allowed the contingencies to be allocated for this project.*

Item moved to Full Commission.

TMP-24-3314 Resolution Approving a Bid for the RTP Grant Trail Restoration Project at Big Rock Forest Preserve

Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the RTP grant project. In 2023, the District received a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for the Big Rock Forest Preserve Trail Restoration project. The project includes restoration of an existing segment of limestone trail, a brand-new segment of limestone trail to connect users to the bridge crossing at Big Rock Creek, and a new grass trail to connect users back to the southern parking lot. The RTP grant will reimburse the District 80% of the construction costs up to a total of \$200,000.00, Upon completion of the project. The District conducted a formal bid process for the project. Bids were publicly advertised, with 5 bidders responding. The responsible, lowest bidder was Evans & Son, Inc. with a base bid of \$210,640.09. Additionally, \$10,000.00, shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs, that may arise during construction for a total project amount of \$220,640.09. Funds totaling \$300,000.00 were allocated in Fiscal Year 2024/25 in the Land Area Development Account # 03-35-35-7050, project # 31014, for the construction of the trail work of which sufficient funds of \$297,955.00 remain.

DISCUSSION: *President Lenert commented that grant funded projects allow the District to continue moving forward and make it financially feasible.*

Item moved to Full Commission.

VII. Appointments

TMP-25-007 2025 District Appointments

President Lenert presented the District's Organization Officers and Committee Roster Appointments for the 2025 calendar year. He requested an amendment to include Commissioner Molina to the Planning and Utilization Committee meeting. The amended list will be presented at the Full Commission meeting for discussion and approval. **DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Kious asked about the even number of voting members and what would happen with a tie vote. President Lenert responded that the Commissioners could work that out if it were to happen.

VIII. New or Unfinished Business

None.

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

None.

X. Communications

Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk presented the Polar Palooza event Sat Jan 18th. She promoted the upcoming Environmental Education programs found in the Treeline Newsletter. Dir. Metanchuk reported that the Kane Forest Foundation has partnered with Riverland's Brewery company for the District's annual Maple Sugaring event. There will be beer for sale in a designated beer tent and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Kane Forest Foundation.

XI. President's Comments

None.

XII. Financial Reports

Reports A-C will be moved to the Full Commission meeting for approval.

A. Bond Investment Analysis Report through November 2024

B. Cash & Investment Report through November 2024

C. Income Statement through November 2024

XIII. Adjournment

Discussion ended at 9:24AM.

Bill Lenert, President
Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

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Recording Secretary