



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

Forest Preserve District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

President Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth,
Cherryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

Thursday, July 3, 2025

8:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Executive Committee meeting was held Thursday, July 3, 2025. President Bill 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.

Remote Attendance Approval

Commissioner Iqbal.

PRESENT: President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert
Commissioner Jon Gripe
Commissioner Mo Iqbal (Remote)
Commissioner Leslie Juby
Commissioner Anita Lewis
Commissioner Bill Roth
Commissioner Rick Williams

ABSENT: Commissioner Michelle Gumz
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann

Also present: Commissioners: Allan, Kious, Molina; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez & staff Tegge; Dir. of Finance Petschke & staff Carrano; Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk & staff Kovach; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Ops. Jensen & staff Sparks; Safety & Wellness Coordinator Misner; Police Officer Kotlarz; Admin. Specialist Rafferty; Attorney Hodge, Attorney Sterk of Ancel Glink and members of the public.

II. Approval of Minutes from June 5, 2025

RESULT: **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

MOVER: Bill Roth

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis,
Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

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

None.

IV. Presentation and Approval of Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem from June 2025

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

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Anita Lewis

SECONDER: Rick Williams

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis,
Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

V. Finance and Administration

TMP-25-770 An Ordinance Providing for the Issue and Sale of Not to Exceed \$50,000,000 of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds for Land Acquisition and Development and for the Levy of Taxes to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Such Bonds.

President Lenert presented the ordinance.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Rick Williams
SECONDER: Jon Gripe
AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

TMP-25-763 Resolution Authorizing a Four-Year Professional Service Agreement for Legal Counsel Services with Ancel Glink, P.C.

President Lenert presented the agreement for legal counsel services. Kinnally Flaherty Krentz Loran Hodge & Masur P.C. has been the District's general legal counsel since 1991. *(Commissioner Daugherty arrived via remote at 2:07PM)* The District issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for general legal counsel at the direction of the board in May 2025. There were seven qualified respondents to the RFP. Staff selected the top three firms from those respondents, and interviewed them to determine the most qualified based upon related experience, qualifications, firm approach, and the proposed pricing that best fit the District's needs. Ancel Glink P.C. was the firm that was rated highest among the very qualified pool of respondents. They currently have 45 attorneys and have a long history of successful and innovative work on behalf of forest preserve districts, park districts, and other governmental bodies. The firm concentrates on the representation of units of government, and they have the depth and breadth of experience among their attorneys serving those agencies. In conjunction with the Illinois Association of Park Districts, they also assist in the pursuit of new legislation for the benefit of their clients. The firm also has a focus on educating both local government officials and employees by providing customized training courses, a blog that they call the "Municipal Minute" and an electronic newsletter called "Ancel Glink Today." The proposal from Ancel Glink excludes "specialty" representation such as litigation and collective bargaining. If the District utilized representation for any of these services it would be billed in quarter-hour increments at a rate of:

- \$300 per hour for Partners and Sr. Counsel
- \$250 per hour for Associates
- \$125 per hour for Paralegals

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Bill Roth
SECONDER: Leslie Juby
AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

TMP-25-749 A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) Tandem Axle Dump Truck for Use by the Operations Department Through the State of Illinois Procurement Contract.

Dir. of Operations Jensen presented the resolution for a purchase of one tandem axle dump truck for use by the Operations Department through the State of Illinois Procurement Contract. Budgeting was approved in fiscal year 2026 to replace truck #416, a 2006 International 7400 Workstar assigned to Operations. It is one of two of the District's largest trucks in the fleet, with the highest towing and hauling capacity. Although it is assigned to South Operations, it is shared with all departments, as needed. The District is recommending replacing truck #416 with an International HV607, available through the State of Illinois Procurement Contract with Rush Truck Center of Springfield, Illinois. Funding is currently available for the total cost of \$169,187. Staff recommends the purchase of this replacement.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Rick Williams

SECONDER: Anita Lewis

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis, Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

TMP-25-752 A Resolution Approving the Bid for the Chassis Cab Upfitting for Three Ford F-450 Trucks.

Dir. of Operations Jensen presented the bid for the chassis cab upfitting. Trucks #322, #324, and #425 had originally been budgeted for replacement during Fiscal Year 2023/24. Due to vehicle shortages, the completely upfitted and ready-to-utilize vehicles were unavailable. Therefore, the District took advantage of an opportunity to purchase available chassis cabs, in an effort to source the much-needed replacements for the District's fleet. Three Ford F-450 chassis cabs were received during Fiscal Year 2024/25, after being delayed for a year due to manufacturer shortages. This upfitting proposal includes the purchase and installation of the necessary equipment on those chassis' cabs. Each of the three chassis cabs will receive an 11' stainless steel dump body with trunnion mount, telescopic hoist, a stainless steel, under tailgate, direct-drive salt spreader, a 9'6" Western MVP snowplow, a 2.5" receiver hitch, top mount and corner safety strobe-light package with power distribution panel, and DOT-required marker lights and reflecting striping, at a cost of \$71,354 per truck, a total cost of \$214,062. Henderson Products, Inc. is a qualified distributor through National Purchasing Partners Government (NPPG), a cooperative purchasing group that satisfies the public bid requirements. NPPG has recently become more competitive, compared to other governmental procurement options, and allows the District to recognize a combined \$16,125 of savings compared to the retail price.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Rick Williams

SECONDER: Bill Roth

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis, Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

VI. Land Acquisition

TMP-25-731 A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental easement Agreement Between the Forest Preserve District of Kane County and the Village of Carpentersville at Fox River Shores Forest Preserve.

Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the easement for a Village of Carpentersville subdivision at the corner of Kinds Road and Algonquin Drive for Habitat for

Humanity. In order to do this, they will need a stormwater management plan set, this requires an easement from the District as the Forest Preserve land is adjacent to the subdivision land. Village of Carpentersville will be maintaining the easement.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Anita Lewis

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis, Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

VII. Planning and Utilization

TMP-25-751 A Resolution Approving the Purchase of One (1) Schulte XH1500 Mower for the Natural Resource Management Department.

Dir. of Natural Resources Chess discussed and presented the resolution to purchase a Schulte XH1500 for the Natural Resource Management Department. The Natural Resource Management department currently owns and operates two Schulte mowers, which are used countywide to control biennial and perennial weeds, such as Canada thistle. The mowers are out this time of year for weed management and to create burn breaks in the fall. Both of the mowers are old, they were purchased in 2001 and 2004. Both mowers have gone through many mechanical replacements and are now starting to break down the steel. Tuesday of this week, one of the mowers was out at Dick Young Forest Preserve, when a crack in the axle developed and one of the wheels began to fall off. The mower was then taken off the field. Budget for a replacement was approved in fiscal year 2026 budget. Staff are requesting utilization of the Sourcewell Joint Purchasing Program to purchase through German-Bliss Equipment, that is our local Schulte dealer. This Sourcewell contract provides a 32% reduction off of MSRP, for a total purchase price of \$45,171.60. The District has sufficient funds to cover the cost and staff recommend moving forward.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Gripe complimented staff on their work. He stated he was unfamiliar with the Schulte brand. Dir. Chess explained that Schulte is a Canadian company and has a big market in agriculture.*

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

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Jon Gripe

SECONDER: Anita Lewis

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis, Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

TMP-25-758 A Resolution Approving a Bid for Construction of Phase II Site Improvements at Brunner Family Forest Preserve.

Landscape Architect Tegge presented the resolution to accept a bid for construction of phase two site improvements at Brunner Family Forest Preserve. Tegge explained that the District recently completed phase one of the improvements at Brunner Family Forest Preserve. This would be phase two improvements. Staff is seeking approval for a bid for construction with Obsidian Asphalt Paving, in the amount of \$459,706.71 and an additional \$15,293.29 will be set aside for contingency, bringing the total to \$475,000. This would be primarily trail improvements, trails marked in the project map will be upgraded to asphalt and drainage improvements will be done.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Jon Gripe

SECONDER: Rick Williams
AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

TMP-25-732 A Resolution Approving a Contract with Wight & Company for Professional Design and Grant Assistance Services for a Wildlife Observation Platform at Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve.

Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the resolution to approve a contract with Wight & Company, for professional design and grant assistance services for a wildlife observation platform at the Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve. Muirhead Springs was the District's first wetland mitigation bank. It is currently going into its second year of growing phase. During this process, staff noted an increase in volume and diversity of birds coming to the area, including federally endangered and threatened species. The site has become incredibly popular in the birding community. The increase in visitors has created some issues, with getting the plant material to grow in for the wetland mitigation. For the 2024 referendum, the District submitted a project to build a wildlife observation deck at the site. The deck would be a multi-tier platform that would be ADA-accessible. To do this, the District would like to submit for an OSLAD grant, the State's Open Space Land Acquisition & Development grant. OSLAD opened officially on Tuesday this week. OSLAD has a maximum of \$1.2 million, with a \$600,000 grant match. Due to the nature of this project staff are requesting approval of a contract with Wight & Company, to help us design and prepare for that grant application. The grant application requires preliminary site plans. Staff advertised an RFP for the project and received six firms submit for the project. After conducting interviews, staff selected Wight & Company. The proposal is for \$26,000, with \$1,000 for contingency. The total project cost not to exceed \$27,000. The award for the OSLAD grant will be announced in January. At that point, staff would ask Wight & Company for a full set of CDs. \$50,000 was set aside for this project, and staff recommend moving forward with Wight & Company.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Gripe asked if the platform would look like the platform photo in Dir. Rooks-Lopez's presentation. Dir. Rooks-Lopez confirmed that is what staff are hoping to do. Commissioner Lewis asked how far back into the preserve the platform would be placed. Dir. Rooks-Lopez replied that it would remain to be seen. There is a scheduled meeting on July 16th, where staff will walk the site with Wight & Company, to pick out the location. The drawing in the presentation is based on the current access point that contractor V3 has been utilizing while constructing the wetland mitigation. Staff would not want to place the deck too far from the parking lot. Exec. Dir. Haberthur stated that Dir. Rooks-Lopez is proposing a rest stop on the trail, between the parking lot and the platform site. Dir. Rooks-Lopez confirmed, stating that there is nearly no shade at Muirhead Springs FP, and the midway rest stop would provide shade-relief. Commissioner Lewis asked where the nearest restroom would be. Dir. Rooks-Lopez explained there is an existing rest room next to the picnic shelter. Commissioner Kious asked if there are any examples of these types of structures. Exec. Dir. Haberthur stated that Dixon Waterfowl Refuge in Hennepin, IL has a non-ADA-accessible example. The concept photo is from a structure located on the east coast. President Lenert asked what staff would expect the cost to be. Dir. Rooks-Lopez explained that, tentatively, \$1.2-1.5 million. Concepts would be presented to the Board for approval.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Anita Lewis
SECONDER: Rick Williams
AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

TMP-25-726 Resolution Approving a Contract with Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd. for Professional Engineering Services.

Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented a resolution to approve a contract with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. for professional engineering services at the recently acquired Huntley property. The District purchased 298 acres in Huntley last year, at the intersection of Interstate 90 and Illinois Route 47. At the time of acquisition, the District was unaware that there was an access issue at the property. The current access is located southbound on IL-47, just after merging onto the exit ramp of eastbound I-90. During acquisition, staff worked with Village of Huntley and the property owner just to the south to set up a new proposed access. Staff will be seeking approval through the Illinois Department of Transportation for the proposed access. Back in 2021, Burke Engineering worked with Huntley on a study for traffic lights along IL-47. Burke Engineering would come into this current project with knowledge of what Huntley and the State are looking for. Staff reached out directly to Burke Engineering and asked them to put together a proposal for the design, engineering, and permitting through IDOT to establish the new access. Aside from the safety issue, coming off of I-90, another key reason staff would like to move forward with this now is because the property to the southeast has recently been sold to a commercial developer. It is important for the District to establish the access point with the State, before the commercial property comes in from the south. If an access point is put in to the south, the District would lose a batch of oak trees that staff worked hard to preserve. Burke Engineering's proposal for engineering and permitting services came in at \$34,200, with an additional \$4,000 in contingency, for a total project cost of \$38,200.

***DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Williams asked if staff have had any conversations with the property owner to the west. Exec. Dir. Haberthur replied that staff have not been able to make contact. A postal letter will need to be sent. That property is unlikely to be developed, due to the site being very wet. Commissioner Roth asked if a bridge will be put in over the wet area. Dir. Rooks-Lopez replied that the project sketch is only a preliminary proposal for IDOT, and that no plans have been made yet. Commissioner Allan asked if the access can be moved further south and away from the oaks. Dir. Rooks-Lopez responded that the placement on the proposal is part of an agreement with the property owner to the south. They are looking to develop the property for commercial purposes, and they want to make sure that the access does not interfere with their commercial purposes. IDOT only allows fully lit intersections every 2,500 feet, which also determines where we can put the access. Commissioner Roth asked if the access would be a lighted intersection. Dir. Rooks-Lopez responded that in the future, once the commercial development is done, a light will be put in. Commissioner Williams asked if the District will have to share the cost. Dir. Rooks Lopez explained that the cost is being picked up by the commercial development.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Jon Gripe
SECONDER: Anita Lewis
AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cheryl Strathmann

TMP-25-727 Resolution Approving a Contract with WBK Engineering for Professional Engineering Services to Relocate the Eakin Creek Crossing at Rutland Forest Preserve.

Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented a resolution for a contract with WBK Engineering for professional engineering services to relocate the Eakin Creek crossing at Rutland Forest Preserve. The north half of Rutland Forest Preserve, north of Big Timber Road, has been developed. The southern half is farm field. The District currently has an easement agreement with the current adjacent private property owner to get to the creek crossing to the farm field. In 2017, staff worked with WBK Engineering to develop a better solution. The support footings on the current crossing over the creek are beginning to fail. The proposal is to create a new access east

of the current one, so the District can have direct access without need for the easement through the neighboring private property. WBK Engineering has been asked to update their drawings and redo permitting for the project. The new structure would be a culver crossing wide enough for District vehicles, farm equipment, and future pedestrian crossing. WBK Engineering's proposal for engineering and permitting services is \$27,760, with an additional \$3,000 in contingency, for a total project amount of \$30,760.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Gripe asked about the safety of the current crossing. Dir. Rooks-Lopez said staff can work with WBK can look into a temporary fix in the meantime. President Lenert asked what the District's liability is, regarding the current crossing. Attorney Hodge recommended consulting with PDRMA on best course of action. Signage would make sense, to keep the public from accessing it. Commissioner Williams asked if the private property owner was willing to sell. Exec. Dir. Haberthur stated they are not a willing seller at this time.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Bill Roth
SECONDER: Anita Lewis
AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

VIII. Executive

None.

IX. Closed Session to Discuss Land Acquisition, License Agreements, Potential Litigation and Personnel – None.

X. Communications

Community Engagement Director Metanchuk promoted the upcoming nature programs over the summer: Learn to Fish, Learn to Kayak, and regular hikes. The TreeLine Newsletter has more information. Summer camps are going on, keeping Barb and her team busy. Kudos to her and her team for all they are accomplishing. Today at 10:00 AM, a Senior Stroll will take place at Fabyan Forest Preserve in Geneva. Volunteer seed harvest is now taking place every Wednesday, next weeks will take place at Hoscheit Woods Forest Preserve, from 10:00 AM to noon. The Kane Forest Foundation is holding a golf fundraiser on Thursday, September 11th. More information is on the table or from Dir. Metanchuk.

XI. President's Comments

President Lenert thanked everyone for being at today's meeting. There was a lot on the agenda, a number of important things that needed to be handled.

XII. Financial Reports

Reports A-C were placed on file.

A. Bond Investment Analysis Report through June 2025

B. Cash & Investment Report through June 2025

C. Income Statement through June 2025

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
MOVER: Bill Roth
AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

XIII. Adjournment

This meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM.

RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Jon Gripe

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Anita Lewis,
Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Cheryl Strathmann

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Cait Rafferty

Cait Rafferty

Recording Secretary