



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, June 5, 2025

8:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Executive Committee meeting was held Thursday, June 5, 2025. President Pro-Tem Sanchez 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

None.

PRESENT Commissioner Jon Gripe
Commissioner Michelle Gumz
Commissioner Mo Iqbal
Commissioner Leslie Juby
Commissioner Anita Lewis (In person at 8:32AM)
Commissioner Bill Roth
Commissioner Rick Williams

ABSENT: President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann

Also Present: Commissioners: President Pro-Tem Sanchez, Kious (Remote), Molina (Remote), Penesis (Remote); Exec. Dir. Habarthur; Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez; Dir. of Finance Petschke & staff Carrano; Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk & Kovach; HR Dir. Clough; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Ops. Jensen; Chief of Police Burger; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi & staff Rafferty and Attorney Hodge and members of the public.

A motion and a second was called to appoint President Pro Tem Sanchez as Executive Committee Chair for the purposes of the June 5, 2025 meeting in President Lenert’s absence.

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

II. Approval of Minutes from May 8, 2025

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

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

None.

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

(Commissioner Lewis arrived in person at 8:32AM)

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Michelle Gumz

SECONDER: Bill Roth

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

ABSENT: Bill Lenert, Cheryl Strathmann

V. Finance and Administration

TMP-25-654 Resolution Approving the 2026 Update to the 2015 Comprehensive Master Plan

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the updates in the Master Plan. The District has been utilizing a holistic master-planning process for more than 20 years. With a focus on collaboration with residents, board members and staff, this planning has enabled the District make continual progress towards meeting our mission-driven goals. During this time frame, master planning has led to the protection of an additional 11,000+ acres of land, and the actualization of millions of dollars in natural areas restoration, site development, facility construction, and large, capital infrastructure projects. A new, 10-year, adaptive-strategy master plan, known as the District's 2035 Plan, is in the final stages of review. However, successful passage of the 2024 Land Acquisition & Preserve Improvement Referendum necessitated additional revisions to the document, to ensure that it serves as the framework for future developments. Therefore, an extra 2026 Update to the 2015 Comprehensive Master Plan has been prepared as an interim master plan, to ensure no lapse in planning coverage, and so financial reports associated with the Master Plan are current and reflect the 2025/26 Fiscal Year. The 2026 Update contains financial reports on the District's Land Acquisition and Construction & Development funds, and highlights the top 20 upcoming capital projects.

The plan also features details on some of our most exciting referendum promises — including a new wildlife-viewing platform at Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve, expansion of the bison reintroduction project at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve, and engineering and construction of a new Urban Ecology Field Station in Aurora.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Juby spoke on behalf of the Geneva residents, asking what the District has planned for the restoration of the historic limestone fence that runs along Rt. 31 by Fabyan Forest Preserve. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the restoration plan would be included in the 2035 Master Plan. Commission Juby noted that the wall has been deteriorating and was concerned. Commissioner Gripe asked if a project had to be in the Master Plan to be a budgeted expense. Dir. Haberthur explained that the District prioritizes projects by budget, however, projects can be brought forward if the urgent need is present, such as the limestone fence in this case. He noted that the District can setup a meeting with Preservation Partners to get the plan set, noting that the funding to fix the fence would currently cost an estimated \$1.2M total to restore.*

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Michelle Gumz

SECONDER: Leslie Juby

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

ABSENT: Bill Lenert, Cheryl Strathmann

TMP-25-599 Ordinance Amending “An Ordinance Setting the Salary Ranges of Employee Positions for the Forest Preserve District of Kane County”

HR Dir. Clough presented the recommendation of the modifications of the salaries. The Commission approved a new step schedule compensation model in 2024 that adjusted salary ranges for the first time since 2017. The new compensation plan was implemented to support the District’s intention to recruit and retain employees by offering competitive pay. The new plan placed employees’ pay closer to the regional average of pay for each position compared to other local agencies. The step schedule has been updated to reflect a 2.9% increase to all salary ranges effective July 1, 2025, consistent with the FY2025-2026 annual budget approved by the Commission on May 13, 2025. This adjustment ensures the District’s compensation plan stays in line with the market, and is consistent with the recommendations of the comprehensive study of the District’s compensation and classification plan completed in 2024. This annual review process includes the assignment of new, reclassified, and retitled positions to the step schedule since the last commission approved update, which was August, 2024. They include:

Reclassified: Plant Technician to Plant Ecologist

Retitled: Buyer (Previously titled Procurement Administrator)

Employee compensation is adjusted consistent with the increase to the step schedule.

The FY2025-2026 annual budget included an economic factor adjustment to all ranges in the salary schedule of 2.9%. The financial impact for the economic factor increase is \$171,352.00.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Leslie Juby

SECONDER: Jon Gripe

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

ABSENT: Bill Lenert, Cheryl Strathmann

VI. Planning & Utilization

TMP-25-614 Resolution Approving a Bid for Cattail Control At Six (6) Forest Preserves

NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for the cattail control. Native broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*) was once abundant across the Kane County landscape comprising an important role in the composition of marshes. Over time, the introduced narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), and hybrid cattail (*Typha x glauca*) have largely replaced the native species. Hybrid cattail is an aggressively spreading species that often forms monotypic stands of itself, at the exclusion of native flora and fauna. Its dense growth habit minimizes its utility to native wetland fauna; ducks cannot swim through mature stands, and its quickly closes open pockets of water used by turtles to bask. Drought conditions present over the previous couple summers have exacerbated this issue by presenting low water level conditions ripe for cattail invasion. To combat this spread, the District utilizes a variety of treatment methods including mechanical and chemical control. As cattail populations commonly occur in standing water, access can be difficult without the use of specialized amphibious equipment that the District does not own. Accordingly, contractors were sought to bid on summer 2025 control projects of multiple, separate infestations of cattail across six preserves.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Juby asked what the District’s plan was to eradicate the rapidly growing cattails. Dir. Chess explained that this is the third year of drought, which has caused lower water levels and has increased the cattail growth. The District has contracted for physical chemical control by application including booms. This will help raise the waters in the open water pockets, in order to minimize the growth of the cattails and allow wildlife to re-enter the habitat. Commissioner Juby asked about the wildlife and the chemical application. Dir. Chess explained that the application method is aquatic approved, specific to the cattail only and this has been a standard*

practice, application happens in late summer due to nesting birds, etc. Commissioner Gripe asked what the goal is for eradicating the cattails in these areas. Dir. Chess responded that the hope is for open water and restore the habitat for the sensitive wildlife.

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

TMP-25-624 Resolution Approving a Bid for Fuel Software and Fuel Delivery Replacement at Six (6) District Fueling Sites

Ops. Dir. Jensen presented the bid for the fuel software and delivery replacement. The District currently owns and operates six (6) fuel stations for District vehicles and equipment. Those sites are located as follows:

1. North Operations Maintenance Facility at Muirhead Forest Preserve
2. Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve
3. Natural Resources Management Facility at Mill Creek Forest Preserve
4. Trades and Fleet Maintenance Facility at Campton Forest Preserve
5. Horticulture Facility at Fabyan Forest Preserve
6. South Operations Maintenance Facility at Grunwald Forest Preserve

Each site consists of a fuel containment tank, dispensing pumps, a two-factor authentication panel, and communication hardware. The current OPW (OPW Global) software and Gasboy pump combinations were purchased and installed in the early 1990's. In 2024, the Kane County Information Technology (IT) department contacted the District to express the urgent need to replace this outdated technology as OPW no longer makes repair parts and has discontinued tech support. IT made the same recommendation to other county departments running similar fuel management and delivery systems including the Kane Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Sheriff's Department. The District is the last to make a recommendation for replacement and has determined the current offerings from OPW's DX Fleet is the best fit for the District. Staff was able to visit KDOT, who recently installed the same system, and verify that the software system would meet the District's immediate needs and offer compatibility with future maintenance and repair software available to assist the Fleet Division. The pumps will be replaced with Fillrite FR702VRU cabinets, which have a reputation of being economical, simple, and rugged. Staff completed a thorough analysis of the fuel software companies available through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program; considering costs, annual subscription fees, current needs, and future capabilities. Petroleum Technologies Equipment, Inc. of Lyons, IL is the authorized regional distributor for the DX Fleet software and Fillrite pumps at a cost of \$135,468.00. Combining the software and pump package allowed the District to realize an additional 10% savings on the pumps. Additionally, staff is recommending a 5% contingency of \$6,773.40 to cover any unforeseen installation costs or modifications needed to existing containment tanks and stands that will remain in use, for a project total of \$142,241.40.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Williams asked about the yearly cost for the fleet subscription. Dir. Jensen responded that the annual cost is \$900 per site. Dir. Jensen noted that Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT) contracted the same vendor and are pleased with the installation.*

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

Rick Williams
Bill Lenert, Cherryl Strathmann

ABSENT:
VII. Executive

TMP-25-655 Presentation and Approval of an Emergency Purchase of an HVAC System for the Settler's Hill Golf Course Clubhouse

Exec. Dir. Haberthur discussed an item that was late breaking. The HVAC system at Settler's Hill golf course had failed and needed replacing. District staff solicited three quotes with a significant price range. With the approval by President Lenert, staff was able to move forward with the purchase. Funds are available and can be allocated from a previous Settler's Hill golf course capital project. Commissioner Gumz requested Dir. Jensen to identify the discrepancy in the costs. Dir. Jensen explained that the higher priced bid included re-ducting the whole system to tie into the existing set up, additionally, vendors that are a bigger commercial companies tend to price high. Exec. Dir. Haberthur noted that typically, these bids would be sent out with a request for proposals (RFP) and the District could compare more detail to detail. However, this situation was an urgent need to get the HVAC system replaced. Commissioner Williams asked if this was a failure on Golf Visions, not attending to the system sooner. Dir. Jensen responded that the oldest machine was 26 years old. Exec. Dir. Haberthur explained that one of the biggest items on the capital improvements list was the HVAC system. Golf Visions had not addressed it due to the large expense.

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

TMP-25-650 Release of Closed Session Minutes

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the release of the closed session minutes. The Executive Committee 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 11/06/2020, 02/4/2021, 07/08/2021, 10/05/2023, 02/08/2024, and 04/03/2025. The Committee has determined that there is no longer a need for confidentiality as to all or part of the Closed Session minutes of 10/03/2024, 02/06/2025, 03/06/2025, and 05/08/2025.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

RESULT: **APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Leslie Juby
SECONDER: Bill Roth
AYE: Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Bill Lenert, Cherryl Strathmann

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

IX. Communications

Exec. Dir. Haberthur introduced Dan Forbes of Speer Financial, Inc. the District's independent municipal advisors, and Kyle Harding, partner, and co-practice group leader of Chapman and Cutler's Public Finance Department, the District's Bond Counsel. In the next two Commission cycles, the District will be presenting the non-referendum bonding opportunity. Dir. Haberthur explained that the District has the authority to issue non-referendum bonding. Per bond Counsel,

the District has the ability to issue \$50M. With that amount, \$40M would be applied towards the land acquisition fund and \$10M would fund capital projects. A presentation was given at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting. Dir. of Finance Petschke, explained that the District is looking to issue a \$50M bond, he stated that residents would see a decrease in taxes payable for 2027 compared to 2024 prior to the voter approved referendum. Additionally, the District will realize an estimated \$5.4M with the proposed accelerated model.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Iqbal asked if the District would prepare a formal report with bullet points, similar to the public referendum. Exec. Dir. Haberthur explained that staff has been working on a fact sheet for this data. Dir. Petschke stated that the next steps include a BINA Notice, the intent to issue bonds, a public hearing, then a formal ordinance and supporting documents would be presented in the next Commission cycle. Mr. Harding explained that the public notice was published May 30, 2025. The two corporate actions required by the Full Commission in order to issue the bonds. The first is the Bond Issue Notification Act Hearing (BINA) hearing, a simple action item on the agenda, and then lastly, the ordinance will be presented at the next full commission cycle, with approval at the July Full Commission meeting. Mr. Harding explained the debt limit and differences between the Forest Preserve District and Kane County government. Commissioner Iqbal asked what the benefit was in retiring bonds now. Dir. Petschke explained the difference in the structure that is being established is an accelerated rate to reduce the debt payment and savings on interest.

Community Engagement Director Metanchuk promoted the Centennial Celebration on June 8, 2025 at 12PM. The Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve ribbon cutting has been moved to a future date in the fall. More information will be provided.

X. President's Comments

None.

XI. Financial Reports

Reports A-C were placed on file.

A. Bond Investment Analysis Report through April 2025

B. Cash & Investment Report through April 2025

C. Income Statement through April 2025

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOVER: Rick Williams

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

ABSENT: Bill Lenert, Cheryl Strathmann

XII. Adjournment

This meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.

RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Jon Gripe

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

ABSENT: Bill Lenert, Cheryl Strathmann

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

Gabriella Figliozzi

Recording Secretary