



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, March 6, 2025

8:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Executive Committee meeting was held Thursday, March 6, 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.

Remote Attendance Approval

None.

PRESENT President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert
Commissioner Jon Gripe
Commissioner Mo Iqbal (Arrived in person at 8:34AM)
Commissioner Leslie Juby
Commissioner Anita Lewis
Commissioner Bill Roth
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann
Commissioner Rick Williams

ABSENT: Commissioner Michelle Gumz

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

II. Approval of Minutes from December 5, 2024 and February 6, 2025

A request was made to separate the dates for the approval of the minutes.

Approval of the Minutes of December 5th, 2024

RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Rick Williams

AYE: Jon Gripe, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

ABSTAIN: Leslie Juby

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal

Approval of the Minutes of February 6, 2025

RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOVER: Bill Roth

AYE: Jon Gripe, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal

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

None.

IV. Presentation and Approval of Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem from February 2025. *(Commissioner Iqbal arrived in person at 8:34AM)*

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

V. Finance and Administration

TMP-25-240 Resolution Authorizing a Contract Extension for Money Manager Services from Sawyer Falduto Asset Management, LLC Forest Preserve District Commission

Finance Manager Carrano provided a brief presentation of the contract extension with Sawyer Falduto Asset Management. In June of 2015, the Commission approved a two-year contract for money manager services with Sawyer Falduto Asset Management, LLC based on results of an RFP. This contract was extended by the board in April 2017 for an additional 8 years, which will be expiring in June, 2025. Their proposal included a guaranteed fee of 0.15% of market value of assets under management for a period of ten years. Included within this fee are the following:

- Investment Policy drafting, review and updating as needed
- Acceptance of Fiduciary Responsibility
- Fixed Income Management
- Coordination of Custodial Services
- Monthly Statements via Schwab Institutional
- On-line Access via Schwab Institutional
- Quarterly Performance Reports
- Attendance at Quarterly Board Meetings or with Finance Department
- Direct Access to the Sawyer Falduto Managing Partners

Sawyer Falduto Asset Management, LLC. have agreed to lock in their guaranteed fee of 0.15% of market value of assets under management for an additional 10-year period. Staff believes that this extension would increase investment returns and better utilize funds that are designed to be set aside for a longer period. All investments made by Sawyer Falduto can be sold on the open market if the District needed access to the funds.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

TMP-25-116 Resolution Approving Modifications to the Organization Ordinance:
Chapter III- Officers of the District: Section B - Duties of Officers and
Section C - Compensation of the President and Commissioners

HR Dir. Clough presented the modifications to the Organization Ordinance. On an annual basis, staff reviews and prepares necessary changes to the District's Organization Ordinance for the Commission's approval. Two revisions described below were prepared for the Committee in January, 2025 and were returned to staff for further revision. Each modified clause has been revised for further consideration. In addition, limited changes have been made to update job titles, dates of record and make other points of clarification throughout the document.

The first revision to Chapter III, Section B – Duties of Officers, was made at the direction of the President. At the request of the Committee, the language has been revised for clarity and ease of understanding. The changes are intended to expedite the appointment of committee members when vacancies occur and to establish a Vice Chairperson position for District committees. This allows for continuity of duties and responsibilities in the absence of the Chairperson. The Chairperson and committee appointments of the President, as modified, are temporary in nature and require ratification by the Full Commission at its next scheduled meeting. The second revision to Chapter III, Section C – Compensation of President and Commissioners was discussed and directed by the Commission in Fall, 2024 but was held for additional discussion and approval post-election. Similarly, modifications were made at the direction of the Committee. The ordinance was amended to add clarifying language on the compensation of Commissioners' attendance at Full Commission and Committee meetings for which they are listed on the roll call. The revision also confirms the District's practice of compensating Commissioners who attend meetings remotely, except in situations in which meetings are canceled due to a lack of quorum. Under these circumstances, only those commissioners who are both assigned to the Committee and who appear in person are eligible for per diem.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Kious referred to the language in the ordinance stating that the President has the authority to appoint an attorney. He questioned if this would need to be approved through committee. President Lenert responded that he preferred as President, to get approval through committee and let the Full Board decide.*

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

There was a change in the Agenda order, TMP-25-276 was moved after item IX. Closed Session.

VI. Land Acquisition

TMP-25-245 Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Easement Agreement
Between the Forest Preserve District of Kane County and the Village of
Algonquin

Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the easement agreement with Village of Algonquin. Located in the northwest corner of section 8 in Dundee Township, the 28 acres that make up Willoughby Farms Forest Preserve, provide natural resource benefits that bely its diminutive size. Bookended by the City of Algonquin's Broadsmore Park to the north and Dundee Township Park District's Grandview Park, this collection of protected open spaces highlights how best our organizations' respective missions can benefit the public.

The city of Algonquin is looking to improve recreational access to Broadsmore Park by installing a bike path along the northern boundary of Willoughby Farms. The proposed intergovernmental easement agreement permits the Village of Algonquin to construct and maintain the proposed bike path while retaining District ownership of the land and without any deleterious impacts.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Kious commented that the Village of Algonquin is excited to move this forward to continue to improve recreation in their area.*

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

TMP-25-272 Resolution Authorizing a Purchase of a Parcel Approximately 0.59 +/- acres in Dundee Township

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the purchase of the parcel adjacent to the Sleepy Hollow Ravine.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Juby questioned why the District was willing to purchase a parcel for the high price. Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks Lopez explained that the parcel was a single-family lot for sale. The unique opportunity for the District was that this lot allows staff to have an entrance to the Sleepy Hollow Ravine. The District does not currently have an access point to enter into the Ravine with the appropriate tools needed to do restoration work.*

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

VII. Planning & Utilization

TMP-25-242 Resolution Approving a Bid for Construction of the Centennial Project at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve

Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the bid for the Centennial construction project.

The rare plant and natural beauty endemic to the kame known as Johnson's Mound not only ensured that it was our very first Forest Preserve, but inspired the creation of our whole District. On June 8th, 2025, we will be gathering with all of our friends and supporters to celebrate 100 years of conservation in Kane County. Dozens of new acres of prairie have already been sewn, a unique public art piece known as 'Guardians' has been commissioned and no less than 800 oaks and native trees will be planted to create a centennial grove. All of this to both memorialize the efforts of those who protected the land before us and as a commitment to care for the land for future generations. Additional rejuvenation and development is needed at the site to bring preserve users to both the centennial memorial area as well as take them to a new council ring which will be located in the vicinity of the historic Shabbona Elm tree that once towered over these woods. The construction project consists of the following:

Base Bid:
ADA accessible limestone trail extension from lot to centennial memorial
"Carriage Walk" path creation to new council ring
Installation of limestone memorial stones

- Alternate #1: Limestone-boulder council ring construction
- Alternate #2: Seal-coating and striping of lower parking lots

The District publicly advertised the bid to 50 vendors and received two responses. The lowest, qualified bid was received from Obsidian Asphalt, Inc. (West Chicago, IL) in the amount of \$129,023.75. District staff recommend an additional contingency amount of \$15,000.00 in the event of any unanticipated expenses occur with this project.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Gripe asked about the Sponsorship levels and tree planting. Exec. Dir. Haberthur explain the various levels of sponsorship, more information can be found on the provided on the District's Foundation site: <https://kaneforestpreservefoundation.org>*

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

TMP-25-271 Resolution Approving a Bid to Purchase and Install Wetland Plugs at Hoscheit Woods Forest Preserve

Native plants are the basis of all native ecosystems, and therefore are the basis of our work in the Natural Resource Management department. Our native insects coevolved with these plants, and cannot survive on imported plants. In turn, all of our fauna that prey upon our native insects cannot do so if those insects are not present due, to non-native or low-diversity plants occupying the space of our native plants. The District typically conducts large scale restoration efforts through the heavy use of native seed planting. Seed can be broadcast during the dormant season and cover most types of terrain.

One notable exception to this is with wetland communities. Areas that experience constant or seasonal flooding present a difficult challenge to the use of seed in restoration, as the seed is often washed away before reaching the soil or germinating. To combat this issue, wetlands are frequently restored through the planting of native plugs. In 2022, the District restored 77 acres of tallgrass prairie at Hoscheit Woods Forest Preserve. Within that area is a 1.6-acre prairie pothole. As a seasonally wet pocket, this pothole is inundated in the spring but dries throughout the summer. Now that the prairie is well established surrounding this wetland, the District is seeking to complete the vegetative restoration of this pothole by planting wetland plugs appropriate for the changing hydrologic conditions present on site.

Bids were sought for a base project of 7,500 plugs, spread across 53 species, to be planted, watered and guaranteed for a full year of survival of 80% of the plugs planted within the 1.6-acre pothole at Hoscheit Woods. An option was also presented to plant an additional 2,500 plugs within that same area. The bid was publicly advertised with eight (8) vendors responding. The lowest qualified bid for the base bid was received from McGinty Brothers, Inc. of Long Grove, Illinois in the amount of \$28,907.50. The bid for the option from McGinty Brothers, Inc. was \$10,235.00 for a combined total cost of \$39,142.50.

DISCUSSION: *President Lenert noted that the additional plugs that were added are within budget. Commissioner Juby asked about the rate of survival standard at 80%. Dir. of NRM Chess responded that the percentage rate is based on the survival of the first year, he noted that it is difficult to calculate exact amounts, however this is the District's standard amount. If the percentage were increased to a 90%, the price of the bid would essentially be more expensive. Exec. Haberthur noted that when the District has planted in house, hitting the 80% has been a challenge unless staff is consistently watering.*

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

VIII. Executive

TMP-25-293 Resolution Authorizing a Purchase of Parcels Totaling
Approximately 84 +/- Acres in Rutland Township Forest Preserve
District Commission

President Lenert presented the purchase of the parcels in Rutland Township.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Williams expressed his concerns with the purchase price. Exec. Dir. Haberthur explained that the District has been in negotiations with this sale for an estimated 5 years. This has been a challenge due to the competitive commercial pricing the owners had experienced. Commissioner Williams asked about the request of the sellers to implement a no-hunting policy. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that, yes, the no hunting on the property will be implemented during the lifetime of the sellers. He added that this property ties into Freeman Kame and would allow for future construction of amenities with extremely high-quality nature. Commissioner Gripe noted that the high quality was the selling point, one of the last highest quality available parcels the District could own in Kane County.*

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

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

The Committee moved into Executive Closed Session to discuss license agreements and potential litigation at 9:00AM.

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

The committee returned to Open Session at 9:12AM on a motion by Roth, second by Iqbal. Roll Call vote was taken, unanimous vote.

TMP-25-276 Resolution Authorizing a One-Year (1) Retroactive Payment for
Reimbursement of Unpaid Per Diem at Full Commission Meetings to
Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Kane
County, Illinois

President Lenert presented the resolution to authorize retroactive payment of per diem.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Iqbal requested clarification to the waiver, he stated that the request for payment should not be complete and final. It should be optional. President Lenert responded that the payment is optional.

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Leslie Juby

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

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

X. Communications

Dir. of Community Engagement Metanchuk provided an update on the Maple Sugaring Days event, thanking Commissioners Kious, Allan and Roth who attended and assisted during the event. She promoted the upcoming special exhibit called "Time Flies" celebrating Fly-Fishing Heritage for the 100-year Anniversary at Creek Bend Nature Center.

XI. President's Comments

None.

XII. Financial Reports

Reports A-C were placed on file.

A. Bond Investment Analysis Report through January 2025

B. Cash & Investment Report through January 2025

C. Income Statement through January 2025

RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Mo Iqbal

SECONDER: Rick Williams

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

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:16AM.

RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

MOVER: Jon Gripe

SECONDER: Leslie Juby

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

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

Gabriella Figliozzi
Recording Secretary