



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, September 4, 2025**

**8:30 AM**

**3rd Floor Board Room**

### I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Executive Committee meeting was held Thursday, September 4, 2025. Recording Secretary Figliozzi called the meeting to order, established in person quorum and requested remote attendance approval to all President Lenert to Chair the meeting via remote at 8:30 AM. The meeting was held at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134.

### Remote Attendance Approval

*President Lenert*

**PRESENT** President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert (Remote)  
Commissioner Jon Gripe  
Commissioner Michelle Gumz (In person at 8:37AM)  
Commissioner Mo Iqbal  
Commissioner Leslie Juby  
Commissioner Anita Lewis  
Commissioner Bill Roth  
Commissioner Rick Williams

**ABSENT** Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann

**Also Present:** Commissioners: Linder; Exec. Dir. Habarthur; Dep. Dir. Monroe, Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez & staff Tegge; Dir. of Finance Petschke; HR Dir. Clough; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Ops. Jensen; Chief of Police Burger; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi & staff Rafferty and Attorney Price and members of the public.

### II. Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2025

**RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**MOVER:** Jon Gripe

**AYE:** Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth,  
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 August 2025.

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

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission

**MOVER:** Mo Iqbal

**SECONDER:** Jon Gripe

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

**ABSENT:** Michelle Gumz, Cherryl Strathmann

**V. Land Acquisition**

**TMP-25-728 Resolution Authorizing a Utility Easement with METRONET for the Installation and Maintenance of Fiber Optic Service at the Great Western Trail in Campton Township**

*Dir. of Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the easement with Metronet.*

The District maintains over 200 miles of linear trail across the county, including the Great Western Trail. This east-west regional trail nearly bisects the county. The 18-mile path begins at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve in St. Charles and extends to eastern Sycamore in DeKalb County at its western terminus. In April 2025, the District was contacted by representatives of Metronet with a request to install a fiber optic service line through a section of the Great Western Trail to provide services to the Campton Hills subdivision on Hidden Oaks Road. The proposed easement permits Metronet to construct and maintain a 1 1/2" conduit underground by directional bore, so as to not disturb the land, trail or public use through the entire easement.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**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, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth, Rick Williams

**ABSENT:** Michelle Gumz, Cheryl Strathmann

**TMP-25-886 Resolution Authorizing the District to Apply for IDNR OSLAD Grant Funds For Acquisition Funding Assistance of a Property in Dundee Township, Adjacent to Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve**

*Dir. of Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the resolution to apply for an OSLAD grant. In March 2025 the District entered into a lease agreement with the Conservation Foundation for the use and maintenance of approximately 122.092 acres of land in West Dundee adjacent to Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve, locally known as the "Galvin" parcels. In May 2025, the District submitted an application for acquisition funding assistance through the IDNR, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for up to \$750,000.00. The IDNR 'highly recommends' acquisition applicants apply for both LWCF and OSLAD programs although only one program will be awarded. Staff is requesting permission to apply for the IDNR OSLAD Grant to assist with funding the acquisition which, if awarded, would reimburse up to 50% (\$1,125,000.00 cap) for the purchase of the property.*

**DISCUSSION:** None. (Commissioner Gumz arrived in person at 8:37AM.)

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

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission

**MOVER:** Rick Williams

**SECONDER:** Jon Gripe

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

**ABSENT:** Cheryl Strathmann

**VI. Finance and Administration**

**TMP-25-1021 Resolution Approving the Purchase of One 96" Toro 7500 Z Master for the Operations Department**

*Dir. of Operations Jensen presented the purchase of a mower for the operations department.*

Funding was approved in the fiscal year 2025/26 budget for the replacement of mower #306, a 2008 Toro 4000D Groundsmaster with 2,561 hours. The Toro 4000D mowers were originally

purchased in 2008-2009 as wide area finish mowers for North and South Operations. These machines are part of Toro's commercial line, specifically designed for golf course use. These specialized models have functioned well enough for staff to operate them until the end of their usable life, but a model change is recommended to better meet the District's needs at a reduced price point. The District purchased a Toro 7500 Z Master with a 96" cutting deck last year. This relatively new model from Toro is in use in the South Operations division and has proven durable, efficient, lighter, and easier to secure when trailering. The cost of a Toro 7500 Z Master is almost half that of a 4000D. The 96" Toro 7500 Z Master is available through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Agreement, with Ralph Helm Inc. of Elgin, Illinois, being an authorized dealer. The Sourcewell contract offers a 27% reduction off of MSRP, for a savings of \$12,299.58.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

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

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission

**MOVER:** Michelle Gumz

**SECONDER:** Rick Williams

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

**ABSENT:** Cherry Strathmann

**TMP-25-1019 Resolution Approving the Purchase of Two 2025 Ford F-150 Police Responder Pickup Trucks for the Public Safety Department, One 2025 Ford F-450 Crew Cab Truck, and One 2025 Ford F-550 Extended Cab Dump Truck for the Natural Resources Department**

*The District's Fleet Supervisor Sparks, presented the purchase of various trucks for the public safety department and the Natural Resource department. All four vehicles being presented are part of the District's replacement schedule. For Public Safety, the two Ford F-150 Police Responder 4x4 pickup trucks will replace squads #224 and #225. Squad #224 is a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe with 119,000 miles, and #225 is a 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe with 149,000 miles. These vehicles provide daily patrols and security presence on District property, as well as provide emergency response to calls for service. The cost of one 2025 Ford F-150 Police Responder 4x4 pickup is \$48,940. Additionally, \$15,248 is being requested to outfit the trucks with needed emergency lighting, sirens, and protective controls, for a single unit cost of \$64,188, and a total cost for two vehicles of \$128,376, as presented. A 2025 Ford F-450 Crew Cab 4x4 will be replacing truck #66, a 2008 Ford F-450 with 64,000 miles assigned to Natural Resource Management (NRM). This truck is used to transport medium to heavy equipment, as well as staff and materials to properties throughout the County. It is being equipped with an aluminum flatbed and a 30,000-pound gooseneck ball, capable of safely using the District's current trailer inventory, as well as providing versatility to meet future demands. The cost of this vehicle is \$77,500. A 2025 Ford F-550 Extended Cab, 4x4 dump truck will be replacing truck #67, a 2012 Ford F-550 dump truck with 57,000 miles, also assigned to NRM. This vehicle serves as the only dump truck assigned to NRM and is responsible for transportation of heavy equipment, bulk material hauling needs, and is fitted with a temporary water tank to support prescribed burns. Total cost of the F-550 chassis and dump box is \$99,209. The two Ford F-150 Police Responder pickups, Ford F-450, and Ford F-550 are available through the State of Illinois Procurement Contract with Morrow Brothers Ford, Greenfield, Illinois, as the qualified, lowest bidder for each.*

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Gripe asked about the police vehicles and reasons why the District purchased flatbed trucks rather than SUVs. Sup. Sparks explained that the Public Safety department utilizes trucks for cargo, such as ATVs to access certain areas of the preserves.*

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

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission

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

**TMP-25-1023 Resolution Authorizing A One-Year Fuel Contract**

*Dir. of Finance Petschke presented the fuel contract.* The District partnered with Kane County in July 2025 to be included on the joint fuel bid that included the City of Aurora, Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT) and various other County departments. The results from the Kane County bid were: The bid was structured so that the base cost of the fuel is determined from the Oil Price Information Service (OPIS) low rack pricing on the date of the delivery, and the quoted per-gallon mark-up contained within the bid. Due to the District having smaller above ground tanks (500 – 1,500 gallons), the mark-up quoted by the vendors was higher as compared to the County, which takes full semi-loads per delivery. J.T. Barrier LLC had the lowest mark-up fee rate for this contract on unleaded gasoline at \$0.115 and B5 biodiesel at \$0.125 per gallon, which is a reduction compared to the current rate of delivery of \$0.13 per gallon for both gasoline and B5 biodiesel.

**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, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth, Rick Williams  
**ABSENT:** Cheryl Strathmann

**TMP-25-1025 Resolution Approving the Forest Preserve District’s Holiday Schedule for 2026**

*Dir. of HR Clough presented the 2026 holiday calendar.* In 2025, the Board of Commissioners approved a holiday schedule which aligns with the Kane County Court Holiday Calendar, is consistent with the scheduled closures for Kane County offices, including IT services. This schedule met the recommendations of the District’s compensation and classification study’s benefits analysis for competitiveness in recruitment and retention. To maintain this consistency, and to continue to provide competitive paid time off benefits, staff is proposing the approval of the same schedule of holidays for 2026, with the exception of one (1) holiday, the day after Christmas, which has been removed for a total of fifteen (15) paid holidays.

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Iqbal remarked that this District has two additional holidays than the state. He stated that people who work in the private sector do not receive these additional holidays and felt it was foolish to move forward. He indicated that the Spring Holiday should not be observed and that Christmas Eve should be a half day. Commissioner Roth remarked that the District has matched the County Board and felt that the Committee should not be taking these days away from the employees. Additionally, holidays are seen as a benefit for working in the government sector.*

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

**VII. Planning & Utilization**

**TMP-25-1015 Resolution Approving a Bid for the Resurfacing of Hughes Creek Golf Club Cart Paths and New Cart Path Construction at Settler’s Hill Golf Course**

*Landscape Architect Tegge presented the new cart path.* The existing cart paths at Hughes Creek Golf Club were installed in phases from the late 1990s to the early 2000s and are showing significant signs of deterioration and failure in large sections. In early 2025, half of hole #4 up to hole #9 green were resurfaced. This project will focus on pulverizing-in-place and resurfacing cart paths near the clubhouse, from hole #1 to the bridge at hole #4. Additionally, minor path adjustments will be made near the clubhouse and at green #1. The additional surface course will add approximately 3” of height to the path, and will be backfilled and seeded to maintain a smooth transition. In between holes #3 and #4, additional portions of the cart path will be converted from decomposed granite to either limestone or asphalt. The Settler’s Hill Golf Course underwent a major renovation in 2022; the whole course was redesigned; a driving range was added and the new course was laid out in such a manner as to create a “returning nines” flow centered on a future clubhouse location. Conceptual engineering in 2023 on a minimally-acceptable club house proved to be prohibitively expensive at an estimated cost of \$12M. The golf course architect from the course’s redesign, Greg Martin, was consulted to revise the course hole numbering to apply the returning nines concept with the existing clubhouse as the hub. This revision involves building a new path from the current tee box at #6 and connect to current tee box #15. A new split path will be built just west of the clubhouse to allow golfers to drive up to the new #10 tee and return down the same path after the new #18 (see map). The bid was publicly advertised and the qualified, lowest bidder was Maneval Construction of Ingleside, Illinois, with a base bid cost of \$270,365.70 to complete both projects. Additionally, a contingency of \$27,036.57 shall be set aside to cover any unanticipated construction costs, bringing the total overall project cost to \$297,402.27.

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Williams remarked that the cart paths are in poor condition and need to be addressed. President Lenert commented that the courses are an asset and the District needs to attend to the appearance of both courses. He expressed his support of this project. Commissioner Gripe asked about additional cart paths. Exec. Dir. Haberthur explained that the project is phase- based, noting the current project is in phase 2 of the renovations; the project will continue as budget allows.*

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

**TMP-25-1012 Resolution Authorizing a Bid For Native Seed Purchases to Restore Lands at Various Preserves**

*Dir. NRM Chess presented the bid to purchase native seed.* 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. This year’s seed bid represents a project-driven approach to determining seed needs. This is the fourth-year mixes were bid by option with seeds bagged by species. This approach both maximizes value and ensures quality of the delivered product. All of the seed specified in our bid is slated to go onto the ground this winter, to support ongoing restoration projects. The bid was publicly advertised with six vendors responding.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Roth asked if the District distributes all the seed within the year. Dir. Chess responded that yes, all of the seed would get dispersed. Commissioner Roth asked about shelf life of the seed. Dir. Chess, explained that some species do well in cold temperatures, however staff does their best to disperse all of the seed.

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

### **TMP-25-1013 Resolution Approving Bids for Tree and Brush Clearing at Portions of 11 Forest Preserves**

*Dir. of NRM Chess presented the approval of the bid for tree and brush clearing. The objectives of these projects are to remove non-native brush and small mesic trees in degraded oak woodlands and large-scale tallgrass prairie restorations. Woody invasive species, such as common buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica) and bush honeysuckle (Lonicera spp.), are some of the other primary threats to biodiversity in Kane County's forests. These species create a thick mid-story cover that prevents light from reaching native understory plants. They also grow very well in shade; oak saplings do not. This adaptation prevents the regeneration of native trees. Grassland invasive species, like callery pear (Pyrus calleryana), have similar impacts to prairie communities by choking out the native grasses and forbs. Mechanical removal of these invasive species, combined with chemical follow-up, will help to restore the ecosystems to a healthier condition. This, in turn, will provide better habitat quality for the entire suite of wildlife that these preserves support. Contractors were sought to bid on clearing projects across numerous, heavily-infested forest preserves.*

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Iqbal asked what the difference was regarding the specifications of a tree and brush. Dir. Chess responded that within the specifications, there are different sizes, classes of species that are labeled as tree or brush. He noted examples such as buckthorn and honey suckle. He added that staff would work on the small trees and brush that are native and eliminate the invasive species. Commissioner Gripe asked how staff supervises the projects. Dir. Chess explained that during the clearing, staff walks the area and reviews the work being performed.

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

### **TMP-25-887 Resolution Authorizing the District To Apply for IDNR OSLAD Grant Funds for a Wildlife Observation Platform and Supporting Improvements at Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve**

*Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the authorization request to apply for an OSLAD grant. Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve contains the first wetland mitigation bank created by the District. The volume and diversity of birds that have returned to this wetland is unrivaled by any previous projects completed by the District. Multiple state and federal threatened and endangered species have been seen utilizing the site, and the word of this success is widespread amongst the "birding" community. As a result, birders have inundated the site hoping for glimpses of these rarities. This increase in visitors to the preserve*

has created issues with the establishment of the wetland plants required for the mitigation bank. The proposed wildlife-observation platform was included as one of six promised capital projects for the 2024 Land Acquisition & Preserve Improvement Referendum. This project is comprised of the construction of a raised observation deck overlooking a reconstructed wetland popular with marsh birds and waterfowl. It will allow visitors of varying physical abilities access for bird watching with as minimal damage to the plant community as possible and no impact to the mitigation bank. Staff is requesting permission to apply for the IDNR OSLAD Grant to assist with funding the proposed improvements which, if awarded, would reimburse up to 50% (\$600,000.00 cap) for development and engineering.

**DISCUSSION:** *President Lenert was excited to see the illustrations and is looking forward to the project.*

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

**VIII. Executive**

*None.*

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

*None.*

**X. Communications**

*Exec. Dir. Haberthur introduced the newly hired Deputy Executive Director Ashley Monroe to the District. Commissioner Iqbal remarked on the remote attendance requirements, noting that remote attendees are required to show themselves on video. Commissioner Gumz stated for clarification, that the OMA statute does not require the attendee to have a live video in order to attend a meeting. Attorney Price added that Commissioner Gumz was correct, video is not required. Commissioner Williams explained that Kane County Board implemented the requirement of video when a Board member attended remotely, however that was a procedure that was added to their body of government, not the Forest Preserve District.*

**XI. President's Comments**

*None.*

**XII. Financial Reports**

*Reports A-C were placed on file.*

A. Bond Investment Analysis Report through July 2025

B. Cash & Investment Report through July 2025

C. Income Statement through July 2025

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

**XIII. Adjournment:**

*This meeting adjourned at 9:13AM.*

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

Gabriella Figliozzi  
Recording Secretary