



Government Center  
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A  
Geneva, IL 60134

## Forest Preserve District Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

8:30 AM

County Board Room

### I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Full Commission meeting was held Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at the Kane County Government Center located at 719 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva, IL 60134. President Lenert called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

### II. Roll Call

#### Remote Attendance Approval

*Commissioners Berman, Daugherty, Molina*

**PRESENT:** President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert  
Secretary Forest Preserve District Mo Iqbal  
Commissioner Deborah Allan (Arrived in person at 8:36AM)  
Commissioner Sonia Garcia (Arrived in person at 8:37AM)  
Commissioner Michelle Gumz  
Commissioner Leslie Juby  
Commissioner Chris Kious  
Commissioner Anita Lewis  
Commissioner Michael Linder  
Commissioner Ted Penesis  
Commissioner Bill Roth  
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann  
Commissioner Clifford Surges  
Commissioner Bill Tarver  
Commissioner Vern Tepe  
Commissioner Rick Williams  
Commissioner David Young

**REMOTE:** Commissioner Dale Berman (Arrived via remote at 8:36AM)  
Commissioner Myrna Molina

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Alex Arroyo  
Commissioner Mavis Bates  
Commissioner Gary Daugherty  
Commissioner Jon Gripe  
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez

**Also Present:** Exec. Dir. Haberthur, Dir. of Finance Petschke; Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez; HR Dir. Clough; NRM Dir. Chess; Ops. Dir. Jensen; Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk & Staff Kovach, intern Purser; Chief of Police Burger; Attorney Price; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi, KCIT staff Peters and members of the public.

### III. Pledge of Allegiance

*President Lenert asked Commissioner Gumz to lead the pledge.*

### IV. Public Comment (Each Speaker is limited to 3 minutes)

*None.*

**V. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes of July 8, 2025**

**RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**MOVER:** Chris Kious

**AYE:** Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Jarett Sanchez

**VI. Presentation and Approval of the Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem of July 2025**

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Michelle Gumz

**SECONDER:** Bill Tarver

**AYE:** Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Jarett Sanchez

**VII. Presentations**

*None.*

**VIII. Finance and Administration**

**FP-R-25-08-3173 Truck for Use by the Operations Department Through the State of Illinois**

*Ops. Dir. Jensen presented the purchase of 1 truck for the Operations Department.*

Funding was approved in the fiscal year 2025/26 budget for the purchase of a compact pickup truck. The compact pickup truck is currently being utilized within the District and has proven capable of safely transporting up to four staff and has the ability to carry basic tools, materials and supplies as needed for supporting operational needs. They offer better fuel economy than a full-size pickup, yet retain the hauling capabilities. This truck will replace a Chevy Colorado (vehicle #07) that is currently in the Operations department fleet. Vehicle #07 is relatively low-mileage, and still has approximately 5 years of serviceability until replacement. This vehicle will be transferred to the Community Engagement department and represents the only vehicle in that department's fleet. This light-duty truck will become the "pool-vehicle" for the District's naturalist staff and will be utilized in all manner of programming as naturalists serve the county.

A Ford Ranger Crew Cab 4x4 is being recommended and is available through the State of Illinois Procurement Contract with Morrow Brothers Ford, of Greenfield, Illinois for a total cost of \$44,281. *(Commissioner Allan arrived in person at 8:36AM) (Commissioner Berman arrived via remote at 8:36AM) (Commissioner Garcia arrived in person at 8:37AM)*

**DISCUSSION:** *None.*

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Rick Williams

**SECONDER:** Ted Penesis

**AYE:** Deborah Allan, Dale Berman, Sonia Garcia, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Jon Gripe, Jarett Sanchez

**IX. Land Acquisition**

*None.*

**X. Planning and Utilization**

*None.*

**XI. Executive**

**FP-R-25-08-3174 Resolution Approving a Construction Contractor Change for the Big Rock Forest Preserve RTP Trail Restoration Project**

*President Lenert presented the change in vendor for the Big Rock Forest Preserve RTP project. On January 14th, 2025, The District awarded the construction project to the lowest (and at that time, qualified) bidder, Evans & Son, Inc. A multitude of issues including construction delays and communication lapses forced the District to take action to declare Evans & Sons in default and to terminate the Contract. The District also served the required notice upon the Surety. All parties agreed that Evans and Son, Inc. were not capable of undertaking the project and meeting the substantial completion date of August 1, 2025. The District consulted with legal counsel and the Surety to determine the best course of action to keep the project moving. This involved not only terminating the contract with Evans and Son, Inc. but also finding a replacement (covering) contractor. The District reached out to the second lowest bidder, determined it was qualified, and further confirmed it would honor their original bid price to perform the work.*

***DISCUSSION:** Attorney Price emphasized his experience with surety work. He assured the Board that District staff was quick to mitigate the situation with Evans and Sons. The company Evans and Sons have been in good standing for many years, it was a well-known vendor among various Districts. However, Evans and Sons found themselves in trouble with losing key staff and then in turn the labor union with their performance. District staff took control of the situation right away, and were able to move to the next lowest bidder that will be performing the rest of the project. President Lenert briefly covered the budgeted amount for the project and the change in vendor with no additional cost out of pocket for the District.*

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Michelle Gumz

**SECONDER:** Leslie Juby

**AYE:** Deborah Allan, Dale Berman, Sonia Garcia, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Jon Gripe Jarett Sanchez

**FP-R-25-08-3175 Resolution Approving a Construction Contractor Change for the OSLAD Grant Project at Mill Creek Greenway Forest Preserve Archery Range**

*Dir. of Planning and Land Protection presented the change in vendor for the Mill Creek Forest Preserve OSLAD project. On January 14th, 2025, The District awarded the construction project to the lowest (and at that time, qualified) bidder, Evans & Son, Inc. A multitude of issues including construction delays and communication lapses forced the District to take action to declare Evans & Sons in default and to terminate the Contract. The District also served the required notice upon the Surety. All parties agreed that Evans and Son, Inc. were not capable of undertaking the project and meeting the substantial completion date of August 1, 2025. The District consulted with legal counsel and the Surety to determine the best course of action to keep the project moving. This involved not only terminating the contract with Evans and Son, Inc. but also finding a replacement (covering) contractor. The District reached out to the second lowest bidder, determined it was qualified, and further confirmed it would honor their original bid price to perform the work. Earthwerks has agreed to offer a small credit for some work that had been performed by Evans & Sons.*

***DISCUSSION:** None.*

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Deborah Allan

**SECONDER:** Mike Linder

**AYE:** Deborah Allan, Dale Berman, Sonia Garcia, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Jon Gripe, Jarett Sanchez

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

*None.*

**XIII. New or Unfinished Business**

*Commissioner Surges commented on the change in the water flow of the Fox River on the north end of the County due to the removal of the Carpentersville dam. He expressed concerns that were brought from a specific business owner that has his events building along the Fox River. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the jurisdiction lies within the (Illinois Department of Natural Resources. (IDNR) and we have been looking into it with the state and how the waters and sand bars have been up and down.*

**XIV. Communications**

*Dir. of Community Engagement Metanchuk reported on the recent events. The 2025 National Night Out and the Rusty Rodeo events were a success. Lastly, the Foundation will be hosting the annual Foundation Golf Outing on September 11, 2025.*

**XV. President's Comments**

*Exec. Dir. Haberthur commented on the monthly reports included in the agenda packet. He noted that the Natural Resource Department (NRM) continues to work with the endangered Blanding's turtles. The NRM Staff found eggs of an endangered green snake, evidence of the District's conservation efforts. President Lenert commented that the District has secured bonds for land purchase in Kane County.*

**XVI. Department Reports**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED AND PLACED ON FILE BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**MOVER:** Bill Roth

**AYE:** Deborah Allan, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Jon Gripe, Jarett Sanchez

**XVII. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 8:59AM.*

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**MOVER:** Bill Roth

**SECONDER:** Bill Tarver

**AYE:** Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Jon Gripe

Bill Lenert, President  
Forest Preserve District Commission  
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

Gabriella Figliozzi  
Recording Secretary

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Mohammad Iqbal  
Board Secretary