



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

## Forest Preserve District Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

8:30 AM

County Board Room

### I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Full Commission meeting was held Tuesday, October 14, 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.

#### Remote Attendance Approval

*Commissioners Daugherty*

### II. Roll Call

#### PRESENT:

President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert  
Secretary Forest Preserve District Mo Iqbal (In person at 8:36AM)  
Commissioner Deborah Allan (In person at 8:50AM)  
Commissioner Mavis Bates (In person at  
Commissioner Sonia Garcia  
Commissioner Jon Gripe  
Commissioner Michelle Gumz (In person at 8:40AM)  
Commissioner Leslie Juby  
Commissioner Chris Kious  
Commissioner Michael Linder  
Commissioner Myrna Molina  
Commissioner Ted Penesis  
Commissioner Bill Roth  
Commissioner Cheryl Strathmann  
Commissioner Clifford Surges (In person at 8:37AM)  
Commissioner Bill Tarver  
Commissioner Vern Tepe (In person at 8:56AM)  
Commissioner Rick Williams  
Commissioner David Young (In person at 8:34AM)

#### REMOTE:

#### ABSENT:

Commissioner Gary Daugherty  
Commissioner Alex Arroyo

Commissioner Anita Lewis  
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez

**Also Present:** Exec. Dir. Haberthur, Dep. Dir. Monroe, 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; Sgt. Hayes; Attorney Price; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi, KCIT staff Peters and members of the public.

### III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

**IV. Presentations** *(This item was moved to the end of the agenda)*  
**Recognition of the Late Commissioner Dale Berman**

**V. Public Comment (Each Speaker is limited to 3 minutes)**

*Michael Doris, resident of Plato Township spoke in regards to the wetland mitigation project that included a previous limestone trail available for snowmobiling. He asked District staff if snowmobiling would be permitted after construction is complete.*

*(Commissioner Young arrived in person at 8:34AM) Dr. Ross Powell, resident of Blackberry Township spoke in regards to the new development by Crown Community Development in Sugar Grove. Dr. Powell provided a handout to the Commissioners expressing his concern with the recent agreement of stormwater mitigation with Crown Development and Sugar Grove. He stated that the current stormwater run-off has a high potential of contamination as well as overflow causing potential flooding on District land, specifically Hannaford Forest Preserve (Commissioner Iqbal arrived in person at 8:36AM)*

*Bob Raimondi resident of Blackberry Township spoke in regards to the Crown Development and the agreement with the District. He provided a handout to the Commissioners explaining the background information and current concerns regarding the stormwater agreement. (Commissioner Surges arrived in person at 8:37AM) He indicated that the recent excavations could create a future flooding issue.*

*Steve Leffler spoke in regards to bicycling in the Kane County. He requested connectivity of trails from the District to other entities in the County.*

**VI. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes from September 9, 2025**

**RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**MOVER:** Chris Kious

**AYE:** Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Anita Lewis

**VII. Presentation and Approval of the Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem from September 2025**

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Michelle Gumz

**SECONDER:** Ted Penesis

**AYE:** Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Anita Lewis

**VIII. Finance and Administration**

**FP-R-25-10-3187 Resolution Authorizing a Three (3) Year Contract With Automatic Data Processing (ADP) for Payroll, Human Resources, Tax Filing and Record Keeping Services**

*President Lenert presented the contract with ADP. He stated that the price is locked in, after the first year on implementation the District will see a return with the elimination of a payroll position.*

The District currently manages both Human Resource Information System (HRIS) and payroll functions through New World Systems. “New World” is an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system by Tyler Technologies. Tyler no longer sells this outdated software, and will stop supporting this product at an unspecified time in the near future. Given the uncertainty of Tyler’s support for New World, coupled with currently available organizational restructuring opportunities, staff are recommending the contracting of the District’s payroll services and select HR technologies to ADP Inc. This strategic shift offers a cost savings opportunity while introducing a suite of new technologies that will enhance both the District’s financial operations and improve HR functionality. ADP, Inc. agreed to lock in their pricing for the 3-year duration of this agreement. ADP has also agreed to a post contract lock of 3%, which will ensure the increases in the rates charged remain within 3% of the prior year. The District anticipates salary and benefit increases for the Payroll Coordinator position that is being eliminated to be much higher than the rate increases beyond the 3-year initial ADP contract period. Charges from ADP are calculated monthly, based upon the highest headcount of the pay periods that were processed in the prior month. Additional “ADP Comprehensive Services Ancillary Modules” are included in this contract as well, which are all disclosed in the attached contract.

The District anticipates that the base rate for ADP services will be approximately \$5,462.25 (100 employees), while in the peak seasonal months we expect that figure to increase to approximately \$6,816.95 (131 employees). Based on historical employee counts from fiscal year 2025, the District projects an annual fee of approximately \$73,027.20 for payroll, HR, and tax filing services within the 3-year contract period if employee staffing remains consistent. Total savings from eliminating the Payroll Coordinator position and software systems that will no longer be needed are \$113,069.00 annually. Those savings will be offset by a reclassification of the Human Resources Generalist position to a Human Resources Manager position for an increased cost of \$22,083.00. Additionally, the anticipated annual cost for ADP will be \$73,027.20. Therefore, the District will be able to utilize all of the services and technology from ADP while strengthening the support within the Human Resources department and also saving the District \$17,958.80 in the first year. This also ensures that annual increases remain locked for a 3-year period and that subsequent increases are not greater than 3% annually which will generate greater savings in the future compared to the projected salary and benefit increases for the Payroll Coordinator position. The ADP contract will also require a one-time implementation fee of \$8,000.00 that is currently available within the Administrative Department’s contingency account.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**RESULT:** **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Bill Roth

**SECONDER:** Michael Linder

**AYE:** Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Anita Lewis

**FP-O-25-10-0618 Ordinance Approving an Amendment to the Purchasing Ordinance for the Forest Preserve District of Kane County**

*President Lenert presented the amendment to the Purchasing Ordinance, noting that the state increased the threshold from \$30,000 to \$60,000. The state implemented a higher threshold of \$60,000. The District’s Purchasing Policy (the “Policy”) was comprehensively amended in February of 2025. Since that time, Illinois Senate Bill 1612, amending the Downstate Forest Preserve Act was signed into law on August 1, 2025 and became effective immediately (P.A. 104-0114). The new law raises the competitive bidding threshold for Forest Preserve District’s purchases of supplies and materials from \$30,000 to \$60,000. The competitive bidding*

threshold for contracts for work (labor) remains at \$30,000. The District's current Purchasing Ordinance requires competitive bidding for purchases of supplies and materials equal to or greater than a \$30,000 amount. District Finance staff have reviewed the Board approved resolutions for supplies and materials over a 3-year period and determined that there were six (6) resolutions that were passed by the board would have not been necessary under the new \$60,000 threshold. This modification to the policy will improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness while still maintaining appropriate controls for larger purchases. The District's corporate counsel, Ancel Glink, reviewed the Purchasing Ordinance and suggested limited edits to the language.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**RESULT:** **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Michelle Gumz

**SECONDER:** Cheryl Strathmann

**AYE:** Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Anita Lewis

**FP-R-25-10-3188 Resolution Approving the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Estimated Budget for the Purpose of Establishing the 2025 Tax Levy**

*Dir. of Finance Petschke presented a brief summary of the estimated budget for tax levy purposes as well as the impact to the tax payers. He discussed the new construction and CPI components of the tax levy. Dir. Petschke indicated that all funds performed as expected. He indicated that the projected impact to a taxpayer is less, a reduction is projected for taxpayers this coming year. (Commissioner Allan arrived at 8:50AM in person)*

*President Lenert noted that the taxpayers would see a savings a year ahead of schedule according to the referendum promise.*

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**RESULT:** **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Rick Williams

**SECONDER:** Bill Tarver

**AYE:** Deborah Allan, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Anita Lewis

**IX. Land Acquisition**

*None.*

**X. Planning and Utilization**

**FP-R-25-10-3189 Resolution Authorizing a License for Bison Grazing with American Indian Center, at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve**

*President Lenert noted that this license agreement would allow the District to bring in an estimated 6-8 bison. He indicated that the AIC would own the bison. Dir. Chess explained the partnership with Ruhter Bison and AIC. The District is excited to bring bison back to prairie. The tallgrass prairie once covered Illinois in an ocean of grass. These diverse and productive ecosystems put down deep, stubborn roots and resisted settlement until the invention of the steel plow in the 1830s. Rapidly, the prairie disappeared from the landscape, ultimately leaving Illinois with less than a tenth of a percent of its original 22 million acres of prairie. Restoring tallgrass prairie has been one of the primary goals of the District. Currently the District is converting about 250 acres of agriculture to prairie annually. Restoration is a hands-on process to manage and maintain the diversity once present. Key to the historic management of the*

prairie was ecological disturbance, primarily driven by two factors: fire and grazing. Fire has been reintroduced by staff, but the grazing component is still missing. Bison were one of the engineers of the prairie, but suffered and even quicker decline than the prairie itself, and were fully extirpated from the state in the early 1800s.

Conservation efforts to preserve the North American bison have been wildly successful in the west, and more recently have proven to be successful east of the Mississippi River as well. The District has also completed a multi-year pilot project at Aurora West Forest Preserve. Over a 5-year period (2018-2023), cattle were used to simulate bison and demonstrated that our rebuilt grasslands can function following the introduction of a properly stocked grazing species. In fall 2024, the District built a fence to enclose 32 acres of restored tallgrass prairie with the intent to reintroduce bison to the landscape. In June 2025, the District released a request for proposals to seek a partner organization interested in a regenerative bison grazing collaboration. The only proposal submitted was from the American Indian Center (AIC) in partnership with Ruhter Bison. AIC is the nation's first urban Native center, founded in 1953. AIC serves all Native people through a variety of programs, including Traditional Ecological Knowledge programs designed to maintain connections to traditional lifeways and a food sovereignty program that teaches gardening, foraging and traditional foods as tools for healing. Ruhter Bison has extensive experience managing bison herds for conservation purposes, including a herd on McHenry County Conservation District property. They will handle the day-to-day care of the herd, ensuring animal health and safety.

The proposed license agreement with AIC calls for a three-year term with the potential for up to four renewal options. Initially, there will be between 6-12 bison within the Burlington herd, with the potential for expansion as the fenced in area grows in size. As bison owners, AIC will assume liability for the herd. Additionally, to help mitigate potential risks, District staff alongside representatives from AIC and Ruhter Bison have collaborated on a detailed incident response plan outlining emergency response procedure.

**DISCUSSION:** *President Lenert noted that the tall grass prairie is very important to Illinois, he stated that the prairie has been reduced to 1/10 of 1% and this project would be bringing back the proper prairie with bison. Commissioner Gripe asked about the capacity of the herd and what the plan was. Dir. Chess explained that the operation will be mitigated with the herd and the District plans to expand in the future with increased acreage to hold them. The mitigation process includes AIC and their food sovereignty program. Commissioner Daugherty asked about the program and what the plan was for the bison if they need to be removed because of the size of the herd. Dir. Chess explained that the purpose of the herd program with AIC is to mitigate for food needs, as well as keeping the elderly bison due to their hierarchy nature as needed in the herd.*

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Bill Roth

**SECONDER:** Chris Kious

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

**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Anita Lewis

**XI. Executive**

**FP-R-25-10-3190 Resolution Approving the Purchase of Parcels Totaling Approximately 44.45 +/- Acres Adjacent to Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve in Campton Township**

*Dir. of Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the resolution to approve a purchase of parcels adjacent to Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve in Campton Township. President Lenert noted that acquisition is an estimated 45 acres with a purchase price of approximately \$21,000 per acre. The District applied for a grant and if it is awarded it would lower the purchase price an estimated \$2,000 less per acre.*

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

**MOVER:** Leslie Juby

**SECONDER:** Deborah Allan

**AYE:** Deborah Allan, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Anita Lewis

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

*None.*

**XIII. New or Unfinished Business**

*Commissioner Surges asked for an update on the status of the Fox River at the north end of the County, noting that the river seems to be shrinking. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the District is waiting for a response from the state. He indicated that staff has reached out to the Army Corp. of Engineers, who is the entity with the authority to mitigate any needs in the waterways. It appears that there was some silt that has not washed down stream yet. Dir. Haberthur indicated that this particular season experienced a drought, which added to the decrease of flow when the dam was removed. Commissioner Penesis noted that the Algonquin dam could release some water since boating season is over. He noted that it could be a one-time emergency situation due to the drought. Commissioner Surges asked if the silt was not calculated in the dam removal. Exec. Dir. Haberthur explained that the IEPA was consulted and had released and approved all the necessary permits. The parameters were met for the quality control. However, the drought was longer than anticipated and has caused a slow movement. (Commissioner Bates arrived in person at 9:04AM)*

**XIV. Communications**

*Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk provided a brief update on recent events. The Kane Foundation Golf Outing held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 was a success and raised an estimated \$25,000. The funds will be allocated to the Nature Play Space project at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve. On September 20, 2025 the District participated in the annual It's Our Fox River Days clean up event. An estimated 100 lbs. of trash was removed from the Fox River. On September 28, 2025 the District held Harvest Fest at Oakhurst Forest Preserve, the event was well attended and with filled Fall and nature inspired crafts and live music. Lastly, on October 16, 2025, the District will hold a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of recent improvements at the Brunner Forest Preserve.*

**XV. President's Comments**

*President Lenert spoke in honor of the late Commissioner Dale Berman, who passed away on October 2, 2025. Mr. Berman served as a Forest Preserve District Commissioner for the last 5 years. President Lenert thanked Mr. Berman's family who attended the Full Commission meeting. Commissioner Gumz said a few words in honor of Commissioner Berman. Commissioner Bates thanked the late Commissioner for everything he did during his time on the Board.*

**XVI. Department Reports**

**RESULT:** ACCEPTED AND PLACED ON FILE BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
**MOVER:** Michelle Gumz  
**AYE:** Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young  
**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Anita Lewis

**XVII. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 9:14AM*

**RESULT:** APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE  
**MOVER:** Bill Roth  
**SECONDER:** Bill Tarver  
**AYE:** Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young  
**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Anita Lewis

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozi*

Gabriella Figliozi  
Recording Secretary

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Mohammad Iqbal  
Board Secretary