



1996 S. Kirk Rd. Suite 320
Geneva, IL 60134

Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Cheryl Strathmann, President Christopher Kious, President Pro Tem, Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Vern Tepe

Thursday, February 23, 2023

2:00 PM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call to Order

Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

PRESENT	President Chris Kious Chair Cheryl Strathmann Commissioner Michael Linder Commissioner Ron Ford Commissioner Anita Lewis Commissioner Vern Tepe
REMOTE	Commissioner Michelle Gumz Commissioner Mavis Bates Commissioner Michael Kenyon

Also Present: Commissioners Allan (Remote), Leslie Juby, (Remote); Exec. Dir. Haberthur; NRM Dir. Chess; CFO Petschke & staff Marano, Carrano; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez & staff Tegge; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk; Dir. of Ops. Pentecost; Attorney Hodge and Exec. Assist. Figliozzi and Admin staff Rafferty.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2023

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Anita Lewis
SECONDER:	Michael Linder
AYE:	Mavis Bates, Cheryl Strathmann, Michelle Gumz, Michael Kenyon, Michael Linder, Ron Ford, Anita Lewis and Vern Tepe

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

None.

IV. Bids and Proposals

A. Resolution Approving Bids for Pond Management at Burnidge and Bowes Creek Greenway Forest Preserves

NRM Dir. Chess presented the bids for pond management. The Bowes Creek Greenway Forest Preserve is approximately 32 acres situated south of Bowes Road in the Bowes Creek Country Club subdivision. The site contains three large artificial ponds and three smaller degraded ponds at the site. The 3 larger ponds experience periodic algal blooms and invasion by aquatic weeds. The residents of Bowes Creek find the algae and aquatic vegetation unsightly. They have requested that the portion of their HOA dues that come to the District be used for pond management. The Burnidge Forest Preserve encompasses 705 acres and is located along Big Timber and Coombs Roads, west of Elgin, IL. Along with the Paul Wolff Campground, the most notable natural features of the preserve are the large tallgrass prairie recreations, wetland and woodland restorations. The site also contains two artificially created ponds north of the campground. The larger of the two ponds is a popular spot for campers to fish and recreate.

Currently aquatic weeds such as elodea and Eurasian water milfoil invade this pond. The pond also experiences annual algal blooms despite some limited attempts at mechanical aeration. The algae and aquatic vegetation can make recreational fishing at this site challenging to impractical and multiple preserve users have reported that the condition of the pond is aesthetically unsatisfactory. Bids were sought from qualified firms for three years of consecutive growing season (Apr-Oct) ecological health monitoring and aquatic vegetation management of the Burnidge pond (Project 1) and the six ponds at Bowes Creek Greenway (Project 2). The contract performance standard is to maintain 70% open water within the pond throughout the growing season. Additionally, the aquatic vegetation present within the pond must be comprised of 30% or less exotic species.

The bid was distributed to 11 vendors and advertised with 1 contractor responding. The lowest qualified bids for both Project 1 (Burnidge) and Project 2 (Bowes Creek Greenway) were received from McCloud Aquatics of Elburn, IL in the amount of \$8,490 (\$2,830/year) and \$23,370 (\$7,790/year).

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Tepe asked about the HOA at Bowes Creek. Dir. Chess responded that District staff meet with the HOA and discuss the distribution of funds and the concerns of the residents for pond management. Commissioner Tepe asked about the ponds in Edgewater. Dir. Chess responded that the ponds are not having the same type of algae blooms issues in Edgewater. Exec. Dir. Haberthur further explained that the district has a different relationship with the Edgewater HOA; he noted that the natural areas committee might be holding aquatic treatment for their ponds. President Kious requested background information regarding the land and how the District acquired the property. Haberthur explained that at times land is given to a Forest Preserve by ways of a Planned Unit Development (PUD). In this case, Bowes Creek, the developer had wetland impacts triggering the Army Corp. of Engineers. This required mitigation, restoration, and a long-term land manager plan. That is how the District became involved. In the past, this type of land would be deeded to the District. The Edgewater neighbor is privately owned land and the HOA holds the funds and decides how to distribute. Commissioner Roth asked about earthmoving projects to remove these kinds of areas. Haberthur responded that these projects could become costly. Often they are planned by floodplain for stormwater management.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Anita Lewis
SECONDER: Ron Ford
AYE: Cheryl Strathmann, Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, and Vern Tepe

B. Resolution Approving a Request to Submit an IDNR Recreational Trails Program Grant Application for the Development and Improvement of the Limestone Trails at Big Rock Forest Preserve

Landscape Architect Tegge presented the IDNR application.

Staff is preparing for the annual RTP grant submittal to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Applications are due by March 17, 2023.

The District was awarded an RTP grant in 2012 to build the limestone trails that now allow users to explore Big Rock Forest Preserve. Since then, various sections of the limestone trails have suffered major erosional damage. This has caused problems for hikers, equestrians and staff vehicles that either maintain the trails or police it. The District wishes to address these failed sections with a combination of drainage solutions and gravel base repair or build-up. A new section of limestone trail has been planned for installation through the lands that used to make up the Deer Valley Golf Course. This will link users from the lake parking lot out west to the existing mowed trails. This project is estimated to cost \$300,000 and the RTP grant will reimburse the District a maximum of \$200,000 for the project costs. This project aligns with one of the grant's eligibility factors; Trail maintenance or restoration, including trail damage by unauthorized users. The Big Rock Forest Preserve Trail Improvements Project is estimated to cost \$300,000. Funding for these grant projects will be included in the 2024/25 Fiscal Year Budget.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Ford asked about the trail erosion and if the District plans to add a fabric underlayment. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that standard procedure had not included fabric; however, that would be an option to see if it is a pliable option. Haberthur discussed the deer valley golf course; the area is in need of renovation including a nutrient caption system. President Kious stated that the area has a dramatic walk, noting many butterflies. Exec. Dir. Haberthur reported this is the area of the bald eagle and turkey project; viewers can see bald eagle nests and potentially watch them dive in the water. If the project is not awarded the funds, it will be moved to the capital projects list. Commissioner Bates noted the pond was once a quarry that filled with water, an attractive area, she felt that the new layout of the trails would provide a safer environment for walking. Chair Strathmann about the cost difference of purchasing roundup to mitigate weeds versus the fabric underlayment. Dir. Rooks- Lopez stated that the District could enquire an estimate of fabric cost in the eroding areas and go from there.*

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE

TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee

MOVER: Vern Tepe

SECONDER: Mavis Bates

AYE: Cheryl Strathmann, Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, and Vern Tepe

V. New or Unfinished Business

None.

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

None.

VII. Communications

Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk promoted the Maple Sugaring Days event on Saturday March 4 and Sunday March 5, 2023 from noon to 3PM, free for all ages. The annual native plant sale hosted by the Kane Forest Foundation will be held on Saturday April 29, 2023 at the LeRoy

Oakes Forest Preserve. This year will have both online and in person sales. Commissioner Strathmann asked about proceeds from the sale. Dir. Metanchuk responded that proceeds would go towards the purchase of mounted viewing scopes at waterfront preserves. The more sales, the more scopes can be purchased.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Michael Kenyon
SECONDER:	Michael Linder
AYE:	Mavis Bates, Cherryl Strathmann, Michelle Gumz, Michael Kenyon, Michael Linder, Ron Ford, Anita Lewis and Vern Tepe

Cherryl Strathmann, Chair
Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

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Recording Secretary