



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

Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Thursday, January 26, 2023

9:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call to Order

Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.

PRESENT President Chris Kious
 Chair Cherryl Strathmann
 Commissioner Mavis Bates
 Commissioner Michael Kenyon
 Commissioner Michael Linder
 Commissioner Ron Ford
 Commissioner Anita Lewis
 Commissioner Vern Tepe

REMOTE Commissioner Michelle Gumz (Remote)

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

II. Approval of Minutes from December 15, 2022

RESULT: **APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Anita Lewis
AYE: Mavis Bates, Cherryl 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 a Bid at LeRoy Oakes for the Trail and Shelter RTP Project

Chief of Planning and Land Mgmt. presented the bid for the LeRoy Oakes trail and shelter grant project. In 2018, the District received a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for the LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve Interpretive Trail, Signage & Bridge Project. The project includes additional mown and screenings trails connecting historical structures, and native habitats with the Creek Bend Nature Center; interpretive education nodes and the replacement of the current bridge over the creek to a restored prairie. The RTP grant will reimburse the District 50% of the preliminary engineering and construction costs up to a total of \$200,000.00, following the completion of the project. The District conducted a formal bid process for the installation of the interpretive trail, and shelter portion of the project. Bids were publicly advertised, with 10 bidders responding, one of which did not meet District standards. The responsible, lowest bidder was Chicagoland Paving Contractors, Inc. with a base bid (trail & shelter) of \$320,000 plus alternate (brush mowing) of \$7,035.00, totaling \$327,035. Additionally, \$16,351.75 shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs, that may arise during construction for a total project amount of \$343,386.75. Funds totaling \$250,000.00 were allocated in Fiscal Year 2022/23 for the construction of the interpretive trail, and shelter portion of this project. Additional funds of \$93,386.75 are available from savings realized at the completion of the Raymond Street tunnel project in the Construction & Development Fund, to cover the additional expense.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Linder asked about the trail, if it was existing or new. Rooks-Lopez explained that it was a new trail, due to the location of the trail in the prairie; the limestone was the best option. Commissioner Roth asked about the maintenance of the limestone. Rooks-Lopez responded that the typical timeframe is 5 years; the trail would be assessed for needs such as re-grading, dependent on run off.*

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

B. Resolution to Approve a Bid for Updated Vegetation Inventories at Ten Locations

NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for the vegetation inventories at ten locations. Funds were requested and approved for contracted wide scale Floristic Quality Assessments (FQA) across the District's highest quality natural areas. All of the natural areas owned by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County have varying degrees of floristic quality and integrity. Since the degree to which conservative plants are present on a piece of land is a major factor in our management strategy, an assessment method is necessary that can be able to both index the presence of conservative plants and discriminate amongst tracts of land with differing levels of floristic integrity. The standard that is used in the Chicagoland area is the FQA as defined by Swink and Wilhelm as published in their 4th edition of Plants of the Chicago Region (1994). The FQA determines both a Floristic Quality Index (FQI) and Native Mean C, which is an indication of the native vegetation quality. Vegetation composition changes slower than animal composition across our preserves, but it is constantly changing if slowly. All of the selected projects are due for updated FQAs. Hiring contractors to conduct an updated assessment will help us address several issues. The most important of these is determining how the extent of previous management, including controlled burning, cutting brush, weeding, or neglect, has affected floristic quality from the previous assessment. This detail will help inform

future management activities and priorities, zeroing in on protecting the highest quality natural areas remaining. Fourteen (14) project options were developed for the bid. The bid was publicly advertised and sent to 55 vendors with 5 responding. Projects 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12: Funds totaling \$29,980 were budgeted in the 2022/23 Fiscal Year for the Vegetation Inventories Update. Sufficient funds totaling \$15,114.34 are available in the Natural Resources Restoration Account for this expense totaling \$14,935.44. Projects 3, 9, 13, and 14: Sufficient funds are not available to cover the cost of these projects at a total cost of \$8,904.78. Staff will address these projects in a future year, potentially in-house.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Ford commended staff on the way the projects were bid, noting it takes staff time to break these projects out and allows for the best possible price. Commissioner Roth asked how many visits occur during the assessment process. Dir. Chess explained that the teams come out typically three times, spring, late spring and fall. The plant lists are then created and produced into tangible data. The data includes threatened and/or endangered species that are found and documented with the state.*

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

C. Resolution Approving a Bid for Control of Reed Canary Grass at Various Preserves

NRM Dir. Chess presented the bid for control of reed canary grass at various preserves. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) is a perennial, cool-season grass that plagues many of our forest preserves. This pernicious pest is equally at home in wetlands as it is in upland environments. Reed canary grass also forms dense monotypic stands that overtake wetlands at the exclusion of all other native plant species. This plant is difficult to control because of how well its root system colonizes an area. Repeated herbicide treatments are often required. Reed canary grass is abundant across county wetlands and forests. Contractors were sought to bid on spring/summer 2023 control projects of multiple, separate infestations of reed canary grass, across eleven different preserves. The bid was sent to 32 vendors and publicly advertised, with 3 responding. Projects 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11 - Aurora West, Braeburn Marsh, Grunwald Farms, Hannaford Woods, Lone Grove, Fox River Shores, Meissner-Corron and Rutland Forest Preserves: Funds totaling \$140,000 were budgeted in this fiscal year for Weed Management. Sufficient funds totaling \$66,784.88 are available in the Natural Resources Weed Management Account #01-31-31-7064 for these projects, totaling \$62,073. Project 1 - Dick Young Forest Preserve: Funds totaling \$205,000 were budgeted for the Dick Young/Nelson Lake Marsh Revitalization project at Dick Young Forest Preserve. Sufficient funds totaling \$23,112.47 are available in Natural Resources Restoration Account for this expense totaling \$18,900. Project 10 - Pingree Grove Forest Preserve: Funds totaling \$448,000 were budgeted for the Pingree Grove Wetland Bird Habitat Enhancements project at Pingree Grove Forest Preserve. Sufficient funds totaling \$80,180.07 are available in Natural Resources Restoration Account for this expense totaling \$10,600. Project 4 - Freeman Kame Forest Preserve: Sufficient funds are not available to cover the cost of project 4 at \$17,400. Staff will address this project in-house.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Linder asked about the environmental impact of the chemicals used. Dir. Chess responded that the chemicals used for this project are aquatic approved grass specific. The chemical breaks down in the soil with the help of bacteria. Commissioner*

Bates asked about the backpack spot spraying. Dir. Chess responded that the treatment would be a combination of spot spraying and hand application, they do not use large items such as booms seen with agriculture. Commissioner Roth asked about the vendors that did not provide a bid. Chess responded that staff did reach out to the vendors; the response has been consistent with seasonal staff issues.

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

Exec. Dir. Haberthur communicated he would be attending the 2023 IAPD/IPRA Soaring New Heights Conference in Chicago. The event runs Thursday January 26 through Saturday January 28, 2023. The conference provides various workshops and trainings for staff as well as Commissioners. An awards luncheon is held, brining various state legislators together.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00AM.

RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Mavis Bates
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

Gabriella Figliozzi
Recording Secretary