



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF KANE COUNTY

PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 9:30 AM at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. The meeting was opened by Chairman Rebecca Gillam at 9:30 AM.

Members Present:

Commissioner Deborah Allan	Present
Commissioner Margaret Auger	Present
Commissioner Theresa Barreiro	Late
Commissioner Ron Ford	Present
Commissioner Drew Frasz	Present
Chairman Rebecca Gillam	Present
President Michael Kenyon	Present
Secretary Philip Lewis	Absent
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez	Present
Commissioner Thomas Smith	Absent
Commissioner Barbara Wojnicki	Present

Others Present:

Monica Meyers, Executive Director, Ken J. Stanish, Chief Financial Officer, Ken Anderson, Jr., Chief of Planning, Ben Haberthur, Director of Natural Resources Management, Laurie Metanchuk, Director of Community Affairs, Mike Gillofio, Director of Public Safety, Zach Tegge, Landscape Architect, Pat Chess, Restoration Ecologist, Bill Graser, Wildlife Biologist, Brittany Kovach, Community Affairs Specialist, Caitlin Rodeghero, Administrative Specialist, Jerry Hodge, Attorney, Ellen Maglio, Recording Secretary

II. Approval of Minutes from August 24, 2018

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Drew Frasz, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Deborah Allan, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Rebecca Gillam, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Theresa Barreiro, Philip Lewis, Thomas Smith

III. Public Comment (Each Speaker is limited to three minutes) *None.*

IV. Bids and Proposals

A. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for the Phase 3 Tree and Brush Removal at the Freeman Kame Forest Preserve

Over the winter of 2014/2015, 16.6 acres at Freeman Kame (South) were cleared of invasive trees and brush as phase 3 of 5 phases completed to-date. Despite spring herbicide treatments and reseeding the area, the invasive woody species within phase 3 have proven more formidable and persistent than other phases. At this time, an additional brush mowing with chemical stump treatment is needed to ensure we don't lose the strides we've made in regaining this area. Bids were sought to remove/stump treat the phase 3 area of the Tomo woodland restoration project.

The request for bids for 16.6 acres of brush removal was publicly advertised and sent to twenty-three vendors with four responding. The lowest base bid was submitted by Alvarez Landscaping, Inc. of Barrington, IL in the amount of \$41,782.22. Alvarez Landscaping did not submit proof of experience working in an Illinois Nature Preserve, nor evidence of staff ability to distinguish native plants from invasive weeds. Upon further phone call requests to provide the same, no evidence was provided of their ability to meet these prerequisite conditions, and their bid was considered disqualified.

The lowest qualified bidder was Central Tree and Landscape Mulch, Inc. of Hoffman Estates, IL in the amount of \$44,900. Funds totaling \$61,000 were budgeted in FY 18/19 for this project (project #20602). Sufficient funds totaling \$61,000 are available in Natural Resources Restoration Account, #03-31-31-7060.

DISCUSSION: Director Haberthur explained the bid abstract – the lowest bid was declined because the vendor was not experienced with identification of plants as required in the bid spec. Chairman Gillam stated that even though it is not the lowest bid, it is the lowest qualified bid.

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
TO:	FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 10/5/2018 8:30 AM
MOVER:	Ron Ford, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Barbara Wojnicki, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Rebecca Gillam, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Philip Lewis, Thomas Smith

B. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for the Phase 6 Tree and Brush Removal at the Freeman Kame-Meagher Forest Preserve

For this sixth phase of the long-term preserve enhancement program, bids for tree and brush thinning across an 18.6 acre project area were sought from contractors. Additionally, a separate firewood production bid was requested for 30 full cords of firewood to be split onsite and delivered to both the North Operations and the South Operations.

The bid was distributed to twenty-three vendors with four contractors responding. The

lowest bid that came in for tree and brush clearing was from Alvarez Landscaping of Barrington, IL at \$44,265.03. However as they did not provide a bid for firewood production their bid was disqualified and they were notified of the same.

The lowest qualified total bid came from Central Tree and Landscape Mulch Inc. of Hoffman Estates, as follows:

- 18.6 acres tree and brush removal at \$73,475
- 30 full cord firewood production and delivery at \$9,000

Bid total for both tree and brush removal plus firewood production and delivery totals \$82,475.

DISCUSSION: Director Haberthur was pleased with the pricing for the firewood especially because it included delivery to each of the maintenance facilities. Chairman Gillam asked if the lowest bidder was allowed to rent machinery. Director Haberthur responded that vendors were allowed to rent machinery, but the vendor acknowledged their exclusion of the firewood portion of the bid. The District went with the lowest qualified bidder.

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
TO:	FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 10/5/2018 8:30 AM
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Margaret Auger, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Rebecca Gillam, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Philip Lewis, Thomas Smith

C. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for Tree and Brush Removal at the Helm Woods Forest Preserve

Last year, the District was awarded funding from ComEd after submitting a project proposal for a migratory bird habitat restoration project. That project was successfully completed, enhancing approximately 40 acres of woods. Bids were sought to clear an additional 50 acres of invasive trees and brush to build off of the progress made regaining these woods.

The bid was publicly advertised and sent to 20 vendors with 7 responding. The lowest qualified Project 1 bid was submitted by Central Tree and Landscape Mulch, Inc. of Hoffman Estates, IL in the amount of \$23,400. The lowest qualified bid for Project 2 was also Central Tree and Landscape Mulch, Inc. of Hoffman Estates, IL in the amount of \$31,000. The combined total is \$54,400.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Gillam praised the work that has been done and the ability to continue the work.

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
TO:	FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 10/5/2018 8:30 AM
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Drew Frasz, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Rebecca Gillam, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Philip Lewis, Thomas Smith

D. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for Tree and Brush Removal at the Meissner Corron Forest Preserve

Within the 625 acres preserved at Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve lies the 25-acre gem of our newest Illinois Nature Preserve, Russell Fen. The fen is in serious need of experienced land management if we are to protect the endangered plants and unique animal assemblage that reside at the site. We are undertaking a restoration project that will bring this site back from the brink of ecological destruction by beginning an intensive two-year invasive species removal and replacement project. Bids were sought for the first step in this process, a winter brush clearing combined with a spring resprout treatment of freshly germinated weed seeds to prevent re-invasion of the site and reduce competition for our native species.

The bid for 19.2 acres of tree and brush removal was publicly advertised and sent to 24 vendors with 7 responding. The lowest qualified base bid was submitted by Applied Ecological Services, Inc. of Brodhead, WI in the amount of \$28,569.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
TO:	FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 10/5/2018 8:30 AM
MOVER:	Barbara Wojnicki, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Deborah Allan, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Rebecca Gillam, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Philip Lewis, Thomas Smith

E. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for Seed Purchase

Native plants are the basis of all of our native ecosystems and therefore are the basis of our work in the Natural Resources Department. This year's seed bid represents a third year of a project-driven approach to determining seed needs. 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 advertised and sent to 24 vendors with 1 responding. The bid had three options correlating with the five mixes/projects briefly described below:

Option 1: Meissner-Corron/Bowes Creek Mix - A 100 species mix to be used to begin 40 acres of cool-season grass hay conversion to prairie on the west side of Bowes Creek Forest Preserve and 20 acres of hay conversion at Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve. This mix will be heavily augmented with collected seed.

Option 2: Freeman Woodland Enrichment Mix - A 43 species mesic Oak/Hickory woods enrichment mix to be spread across 30 acres of the "Tomo Phase 5" woodland restoration project at Freeman Kame (South).

Option 3: NFWF Enhancement Mix - A 147 species mesic prairie enhancement mix intended to be spread across 50 acres of depauperate prairie at Burnindge and Aurora West Forest Preserves. Partial funding for this mix came from our successful collaboration with partner agencies on our 2016 National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) Monarch conservation grant.

One vendor provided quotes for every mix. The lowest qualified bid for all options was provided by Genesis Nursery, Inc of Tampico, IL in the following amounts:

- Option 1: Meissner-Corron/Bowes Creek Mix - \$27,157.69
- Option 2: Freeman Woodland Enrichment Mix - \$12,938.75
- Option 3: NFWF Enhancement Mix - \$29,085.38

The total cost for all mixes is \$69,181.82.

DISCUSSION: *Chairman Gillam commended Staff on the out of the box thinking for creatively funding the projects. Using a variety of funds so that the projects can be completed shows the innovative thinking and best use of dollars.*

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
TO:	FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 10/5/2018 8:30 AM
MOVER:	Margaret Auger, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Jarett Sanchez, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Rebecca Gillam, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Philip Lewis, Thomas Smith

V. New or Unfinished Business

A. Presentation and Approval of a New Use and License Agreement with the Fox Valley Wildlife Center at Elburn Forest Preserve

The Fox Valley Wildlife Center has been in operation since 2001. This organization is an animal hospital which cares for sick, injured and orphaned animals from Kane County and the surrounding areas. This organization has been based out of the residence at the Elburn Forest Preserve for many years. Annual inspections are conducted at this site, with minimal corrections or repairs being needed. The current agreement was approved in 2012, and valid for five years, expiring on July 12, 2017. This request is to renew the license agreement between the District and the FVWC for another five years. There is no financial impact to the District through this agreement.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Wojnicki asked if there was wording in the agreement to allow the FVWC to vacate if another space became available. Executive Director Meyers explained that the agreement that was signed in 2012 describes a mutually agreeable termination. This agreement is merely a renewal of the 2012 agreement no other terms have changed. She was confident that we could work with the tenant if a situation arose.*

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
TO:	FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 10/5/2018 8:30 AM
MOVER:	Barbara Wojnicki, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Jarett Sanchez, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Rebecca Gillam, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Philip Lewis, Thomas Smith

VI. Presentation

A. Presentation of the Oakhurst Redevelopment Plan (OSLAD Funded Project) Update

Executive Director Meyers recapped the public information meeting that was held at the Prisco Community Center on September 20. It was well attended and several comments were made about the plan. Maps of the plan were shown as well as the preliminary budget of \$903,300 for the redevelopment plan. The project entails two phases/grants. Phase I will be submitted to the IDNR for grant funds from the Open Space Land Acquisition Development grant. The other portion of the development plan will be submitted next year as a Regional Trail Program grant. We can better leverage our plans with the addition of grant funds.

Commissioner Barreiro expressed her great excitement over this project and the improvements that will benefit the immediate area as well as the community/county as a whole.

B. Presentation of the Bioreactor Project Update at the Meissner Corron Forest Preserve

Chief of Planning and Operations, Anderson explained that on September 12 there was a field day which was held at the Meissner Corron Forest Preserve and introduced the woodchip bioreactor project. This project is a partnership between the Farm Bureau and the District as well as many Kane County departments. The bioreactor project will allow farmers to reduce nutrient losses. This is the first of its kind in the northern region of Illinois.

C. Presentation of the Fisheries Program Update by the Natural Resources Management Department

Wildlife Biologists Bill Graser was introduced by Director Haberthur to present the District's Fisheries Management improvements. He explained that there are several lakes managed by the District within the county. The IDNR has performed surveys of fish at the Siegler Lake in the Big Rock Forest Preserve. Two surveys were completed, one in 2001 and the other in 2005. There were 11 species found. The quantity increased from 2001 to 2005, but the size of the fish decreased. Recommendations made by the IDNR at that time to install artificial fish habitat structures and to stock other types of fish such as rainbow trout, smallmouthed bass, walleye, channel catfish, and northern pike. They also made a recommendation to allow sport fishing with creel and size limits.

Staff has constructed and installed over 75 habitat structures at Siegler Lake and has also installed several at the Grunwald Lake. The District has made an effort to improve the fishery within the District by adding 500 smallmouth bass and catfish at the Grunwald and Paul Wolff Lakes in 2011, an additional 1,000 smallmouthed bass and catfish to Lake Patterson at the Oakhurst Forest Preserve in 2012. 1,600 largemouthed bass and 3,300 catfish were added to Lake Siegler in 2013.

The IDNR has performed surveys at several lakes in 2014 and again in early 2018. Data will be reviewed and a report given to District early 2019. Going forward, the District will continue to work with the IDNR to expand the management of our fisheries. Discussion and consideration to begin evaluating our current catch and release only approach.

DISCUSSION: *President Kenyon stated that sometimes for fish to grow it becomes necessary to remove some to make room. Chairman Gillam asked how the catch program might work and if it is based on size or weight. Executive Director Meyers explained that the TAKE program would be regulated by signage working closely with the DNR and rules would be enforced by the DNR.*

VII. Closed Session to Discuss Land Acquisition, Contracts, Litigation and Personnel *None.*

VIII. Communications

A. Presentation of the Spring 2018 Burn Progress Report and Fall 2018 Burn List

Director Haberthur introduced Pat Chess, Restoration Ecologist. Pat explained that last spring was a productive season with a total of 1,581 acres burned within 22 different preserves. There were over 31 burns completed safely.

In the fall of 2018 and looking forward to the spring of 2019, the plan will be to accomplish the same or a greater number of burns from the spring 2018 season. There are 75 burns with over 3,000 acres planned. There are two crews which should increase burn capacity. There has been a slight restructuring of the teams so the Natural Resource Management are the lead burn bosses working in cooperation with the Operations Department.

The District sends out post cards to the surrounding neighbors as well as signs at the preserve entrances. Notifications are also made to the neighboring fire districts and posted on social media, press releases and our website.

IX. Chairman's Comments *None.*

X. Adjournment

RESULT:	ADJOURNED BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Drew Frasz, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Jarett Sanchez, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Rebecca Gillam, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Philip Lewis, Thomas Smith

Rebecca Gillam, Chairman
Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Adjournment until: Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 9:30 am
Forest Preserve District Administration Offices
1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320 Geneva, Illinois

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen J. Maglio

Ellen J. Maglio
Recording Secretary