



## FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF KANE COUNTY

### PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

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#### I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, September 30, 2021 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 Barbara Wojnicki at 9:34 AM.

Remote=\*

#### Members Present:

<u>Attendee Name:</u>	<u>Status:</u>
President Chris Kious	Present
Char Barbara Wojnicki	Present
Commissioner Mavis Bates	Present*
Commissioner David Brown	Present
Commissioner Michael Kenyon	Present
Commissioner Bill Lenert	Present
Commissioner Myrna Molina	Present
Commissioner Jarret Sanchez	Present
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann	Present*

#### Others Present:

Commissioners: Allan\*Gumz\*; Exec. Dir. Meyers; CFO Stanish; Chief of Planning Anderson, Jr.; Dir. of Ops. Goreth; Dir. of NRM Haberthur; Chief of Police Burger; HR Dir. Yee, Safety Coor. Misner; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk & staff Kovach; Attorney Hodge and members of the public.

#### II. Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2021

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED WITH VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michael Kenyon, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Lenert, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
<b>REMOTE:</b>	Mavis Bates, Cherryl Strathmann

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

*None.*

#### IV. Bids and Proposals

##### A. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for a 3-Year Tree and Brush Clearing and Terrestrial Management at Bowes Creek Greenway Forest Preserve

*NRM Dir. Haberthur presented the bid for a three year clearing and terrestrial management. The Bowes Creek Greenway Forest Preserve is approximately 32 acres, situated south of Bowes Road, within the Bowes Creek Country Club subdivision. The site contains three large artificial ponds (approximately 8 acres). There are also two smaller, degraded ponds at the site (approximately 0.6*

acres). The wetlands were created in 2007 as a mitigation project to offset impacts incurred through the creation of the subdivision. This mitigation is subject to strict requirements, enforced by the Army Corps of Engineers that regulate the acceptable coverage of invasive species on site as well as the quality of the recreated community. A portion of the homeowners' association (HOA) dues of the residents is sent to the District for the management of the site, in order to meet these requirements.

Invasive species, such as Bush honeysuckle and Wild chervil, currently threaten the wealth of biodiversity across the preserve. Much of the woods are heavily invaded by these species, which are choking-out the understory plants. Mechanical removal of these invasive species, combined with chemical follow-up, will help to restore the woods to a healthier condition. This, in turn, will provide better habitat quality for the entire suite of wildlife that this preserve supports

Bids were sought from qualified firms for three years of invasive species monitoring, control, and prescribed burning across Bowes Creek Greenway. The contract performance standard is to control 95% of the herbaceous invasive species present each year, while systematically clearing new sections of woody invasive species, each winter. Additionally, the preserve will be entered into a rotational prescribed burn regime, with roughly half of the grasslands on site burned each year.

**DISCUSSION:** *President Kiou noted that the funding source for this is covered by the neighborhood resident HOA fees.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]</b>	<b>Next: 10/7/2021 8:30 AM</b>
<b>TO:</b>	Forest Preserve District Executive Committee	
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michael Kenyon, Commissioner	
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Lenert, Commissioner	
<b>AYES:</b>	David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki	
<b>REMOTE:</b>	Mavis Bates, Cheryl Strathmann	

## **B. Presentation and Approval of Bids for Tree and Brush Clearing at Freeman Kame-Meagher, Burnidge, and Fabyan Forest Preserves**

*NRM Dir. Haberthur presented the bid for the tree and brush clearing at various preserves.*

Woody invasive species, such as Common buckthorn and Bush honeysuckle, are some of the primary threats to biodiversity in Kane County's forests. These species create a thick mid-story cover that prevents light from reaching native understory plants. They also grow very well in shade; oak saplings do not. This adaptation prevents the regeneration of native trees. Mechanical removal of these invasive species, combined with chemical follow-up, will help to restore the woods to a healthier condition. This, in turn, will provide better habitat quality for the entire suite of wildlife that these preserves support. In particular, the habitat value for birds is greatly enhanced with the removal of these invasive shrubs. Native insects don't feed on buckthorn, so their coverage decreases the concentration of caterpillars across the sites. Additionally, their plentiful berries are nutrient poor and cause a laxative effect that makes them a starvation food. To help address this problem at Fabyan Forest Preserve, the District obtained a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for \$335,000. The grant was secured to aid in the restoration of migratory bird habitat across 170 acres at the site, primarily through the removal of woody invasive species. This project is to be 100% funded from the state, we are waiting for the final approval letter to award the bid. (*Commissioner Frasz arrived at 9:40 a.m.*)

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Bates asked about the Arlene Shoemaker project, NRM Dir. Haberthur responded that due to funding limitations, staff will need to review if project can be accomplished in-house or moved to next year to bid.*

*Commissioner Brown asked about the timeline of the project and to explain the purpose of this project. Haberthur explained the reasons for clearing out the nonnatives. He explained that the invasive weeds choke-out native plants and can destroy a restoration area if unaddressed. In order to reduce just the maintenance and actually have restoration of the area we need to step in and*

*clear out what is not meant to be there for the habitats. Exec. Dir. Meyers encouraged everyone to read and keep the memos and attachments from the packet as the details of the invasive species along with project details can help when constituents call with questions. Brief discussion continued.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]</b>	<b>Next: 10/7/2021 8:30 AM</b>
<b>TO:</b>	Forest Preserve District Executive Committee	
<b>MOVER:</b>	David Brown, Commissioner	
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Myrna Molina, Commissioner	
<b>AYES:</b>	David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki	
<b>REMOTE:</b>	Mavis Bates, Cheryl Strathmann	

**C. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for Native Seed to Use for Natural Restoration of District Lands**

*NRM Dir. Haberthur presented the bid for native seed and explained the various stages of harvesting. Staff is hopeful this area will attract the Bobbling's, an at risk prairie bird. Haberthur noted staff has a partnership with ducks unlimited in this area, and the wetland area with water resources. This high quality can be a potential attraction for turtles.*

Native insects coevolved with native plants, and cannot survive on imported plants. In turn, fauna that prey upon native insects cannot do so, if those insects are not present due to non-native or low-diversity plants occupying the space of our native plants. This year's seed bid represents the fifth year of a project-driven approach to determining seed needs. This is the second year that mixes were bid by option with seeds bagged by species. This approach both maximizes value and ensures quality of the delivered product. 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 25 vendors with 2 responding. Staff recommends the Committee approve the bids for Options 1, 3 and 4 of this native seed purchase from a joint bid by Shooting Star Native Seeds of Spring Grove, Minnesota and Prairie Moon Nursery of Winona, Minnesota, as detailed in the agenda packet memo.

**DISCUSSION:** *President Kious asked if some of the seed is supplemented with the volunteer collections. Dir. Haberthur indicated that a part of the collection is what we can gain prior to the bidding. Commissioner Bates asked about the hill at Oakhurst Forest Preserve in Aurora, and the need more diversity. Dir. Haberthur stated that the area is very low diversity, staff has been putting together a capital project proposal to cut back the common thistle issue. Commissioner Molina asked approximately how many acres were being retired to prairie, Haberthur responded, this year, over 200 acres will be retired back to prairie.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]</b>	<b>Next: 10/7/2021 8:30 AM</b>
<b>TO:</b>	Forest Preserve District Executive Committee	
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Lenert, Commissioner	
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jarett Sanchez, Commissioner	
<b>AYES:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki	
<b>REMOTE:</b>	Mavis Bates, Cheryl Strathmann	

**V. New or Unfinished Business**

**A. Presentation and Approval of a Renewal to the Use and License Agreement with the Aurora Barnstormers R. C. Club at Aurora West Forest Preserve**

*Dir. of Ops. Goreth presented the license agreement renewal with the Aurora Barnstormers. He noted that the District helps with adding gravel on the roadway to fill pot holes as well as taking out any dead trees that will affect the area.*

A Use and License Agreement was established with the Barnstormers in 2011, for a period of five years, with a five-year extension, expiring on September 13, 2021. The Use and License Agreement provides non-exclusive use of a portion of the Aurora West Forest Preserve for the establishment of a model plane airfield by the Barnstormers. The agreement requires the Barnstormers to be

responsible for all coordination of the use of the airfield as well as the maintenance of structures and grounds depicted on Exhibit "A." The new Use and License Agreement will be for a period of 5 years, with one 5-year extension at the time of expiration of the first, if both parties agree at that time.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Molina clarified that the contract was the same as prior years with no changes. Dir. Goreth confirmed.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>TO:</b>	Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Lenert, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jarett Sanchez, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Mavis Bates, David Brown, Cherryl Strathmann, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki

**B. Presentation and Approval of a Use and License Agreement with the Elgin RC Flyers at Freeman Kame Forest Preserve**

*Dir. of Ops. Goreth presented the license agreement, this was adopted during the property purchase. The Elgin RC Flyers group have been utilizing the Freeman Kame Forest Preserve (south) for over 20 years, even prior to the Forest Preserve District purchasing the property in 2002. The Elgin RC Flyers store their mowing and maintenance equipment in a building on site, which also pre-dated District ownership. The Use and License Agreement provides for the continued non-exclusive use of a portion of the Freeman Kame Forest Preserve (south) for the model plane airfield by the Elgin RC Flyers. The agreement requires the Elgin RC Flyers to be responsible for all coordination of the use of the airfield as well as the maintenance of the structures and grounds depicted on Exhibit "A." The License Agreement will be for a period of 5-years with a 5-year extension, at the time of expiration of the first, if both parties agree at that time.*

**DISCUSSION:** None.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]</b>	<b>Next: 10/7/2021 8:30 AM</b>
<b>TO:</b>	Forest Preserve District Executive Committee	
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michael Kenyon, Commissioner	
<b>SECONDER:</b>	David Brown, Commissioner	
<b>AYES:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Mavis Bates, David Brown, Cherryl Strathmann, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki	

**VI. Closed Session to Discuss Land Acquisition, Contracts, Litigation and Personnel**

*None.*

**VII. Communications**

*None.*

**VIII. Chairman's Comments**

*None.*

**IX. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADJOURNED BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michael Kenyon, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	David Brown, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, David Brown, Michael Kenyon, Jarett Sanchez, Barbara Wojnicki
<b>REMOTE:</b>	Mavis Bates, Cherryl Strathmann

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

Gabriella Figliozzi, Recording Secretary

Barbara Wojnicki, Chairman

Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee

Forest Preserve District of Kane County