

Lake County Forest Preserve District

**Joint Committee Meeting: Finance and Administrative Committee; Planning and Restoration Committee
January 28, 2016**

The Finance and Administrative Committee met jointly with the Planning and Restoration Committee on Thursday, January 28, 2016. The meeting was held at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to Order – With a quorum of both committees, the meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

1.1 Finance and Administrative Committee: Chair Mike Rummel called the Finance and Administrative Committee to order at 8:34 a.m. Members Present: Mike Rummel, Chair; Linda Pedersen, Vice-Chair; Steve Carlson, Bill Durkin, Sandy Hart, Aaron Lawlor, Audrey Nixon.

1.2 Planning & Restoration Committee – Vice-Chair Nick Sauer called the Planning and Restoration Committee to order at 8:34 a.m. Members Present: Nick Sauer, Vice-Chair, Carol Calabresa, Bill Durkin, Sandy Hart, Diane Hewitt, Tom Weber. Absent: Bonnie Thomson Carter, Sid Mathias, Craig Taylor.

Also Present:

Ann Maine, President	Randy Seebach	John Nelson
Jeff Werfel (9:05 am)	Mary Kann	Jim Anderson
Alex Ty Kovach	Nan Buckardt	John Tannahill
Mike Tully	Katherine Hamilton-Smith	Julie Gragnani
Steve Neaman	Jim Ballowe	

2.0 Pledge Of Allegiance – Chair Rummel led the pledge of allegiance.

3.0 Public Comment – None

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Executive Director Comments- Executive Director Kovach spoke on the upcoming Preservation Foundation First Folio event at the Museum and urged Commissioners to attend.

6.0 Review Five-Year Financial Projections - Finance Director Neaman gave a presentation detailing the current 5-year financial projections for the General Fund and Development Levy Fund. He explained the assumptions made in the forecast and noted that projections do not include initiatives currently being worked on. He noted that the recent volatility in the stock market and oil price declines will also have significant impacts. The current projections include an equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of 1.4% in year 1 and 1.5% thereafter. The projections include the spending down of the fund balances to the Policy percentages—50% General Fund, 35% Development Levy Fund. In reviewing funding of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) he explained that funding ends at year 5 unless the District issues limited bonds or goes out for a referendum. During the presentation Mr. Neaman responded to questions and a general discussion ensued.

7.0 Review proposed changes to the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan – Director Seebach explained that what was being presented was a first draft and noted that any changes made from today's discussion would be included in the standing committees' review at their next meetings. He reviewed a slide listing completed projects, then reviewed the 13 existing funded projects listed on the recommendation memo for which funding adjustments are needed. For these 13 projects, the total reduction in costs was \$3,978,000 and the total increase in costs was \$1,698,000 for a net reduction in costs of \$2,280,000.

The committees decided to go through each of the 13 projects for which funding adjustments are needed, for questions and comments. Discussion took place on the following from this list:

- Rollins Savanna Boardwalk – In response to questions, Director Jim Anderson explained that this was a Ducks Unlimited project from years ago. An emergency spillway was needed to meet SMC regulations to allow water to reach Mill Creek. Flooding was anticipated but has occurred more than expected.
- Independence Grove playground shade structure – Mr. Seebach noted that heat is an issue at this site due to the lack of mature trees and Director Buckardt noted that when it's too hot the playground is not used. The committees discussed the use of the area and it was the consensus of the committees to stay within the original budget of \$40,000 and remove the additional \$60,000 from the list.
- Millennium Trail grant funded projects – Moving forward, look at strategies to cover cost overruns.
- Spring Bluff Wildlife Observation Area – Mr. Kovach noted that Commissioner Paxton felt that this project should stay in, and find a way to enhance the existing road. Mr. Seebach added that Commissioner Carter was not in favor of removing the project as it will highlight all the restoration work in the area. President Maine added that she was not in favor of removal, the platform is integral to the District's mission at that site. The consensus of the committees was to stay with the original budget, build the platform and do as much of the trail as there is funding for; also look for a partnership/in-kind service opportunities.
- Upper DPR-USACE Phase II Ecosystem Restoration – Mr. Kovach noted that this was supposed to be a cost-neutral project for the District using LEERD value. Staff recommends moving this project to the unfunded list, which would entail sending the USACE a letter that the District has no funds for the project. The committee members agreed.
- Waukegan Savanna dog exercise area – There was a lengthy discussion and it was the consensus of the committees to bid the project with alternates so there will be options to pick from to trim the costs.

Mr. Seebach then went through the five new projects recommended for funding or added to the CIP as listed on the recommendation memo. Committee members had questions on the following from this list:

- Rollins Savanna Boardwalk: Staff summarized the flooding problems at this location, which is a safety issue, especially in winter, and recommended a 450-ft. boardwalk. President Maine recommended talking to SMC to see if there are any plans for alleviating the flooding. Jim Anderson noted that this is in the floodplain and there is no place downstream for compensatory storage. A lengthy discussion ensued including long-term maintenance costs, and that there were no other good options. It was the consensus of the committees to leave the project on the list.
- Ryerson Barn – Education Classrooms: Staff responded to questions from the committees and a general discussion ensued.
- District-wide reforestation: Chair Calabresa asked that the burr oaks taken down from the Route 21 road construction be part of the replacement plan.

Mr. Kovach noted that the District just received a request from the Village of Third Lake that would be coming to the Planning and Restoration Committee at their next meeting. The village requested assistance with a trail connection to the trail at Rollins Savanna and they indicated they would contribute \$30,000 to the \$75,000 project.

A general discussion continued to summarize and clarify the projects previously discussed. Documents will be revised accordingly and presented to the Education, Cultural Resources and Public Affairs Committee and the Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee on February 1.

Member Lawlor left the meeting at 11:37 a.m.; Member Calabresa left the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Mr. Seebach summarized the list of unfunded public access projects. Mr. Anderson summarized the list of habitat restoration projects; they responded to questions.

8.0 Next Meetings

8.1 Planning and Restoration Committee – February 1, 2016

8.2 Finance and Administrative Committee – February 4, 2016

9.0 Adjourn

9.1 Planning and Restoration Committee –Motion by member Weber, second by member Hewitt to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the committee adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

9.2 Adjourn Finance and Administrative Committee - Motion by member Nixon, second by member Durkin to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the committee adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

APPROVED:

Planning & Restoration Committee:

Finance & Administrative Committee:

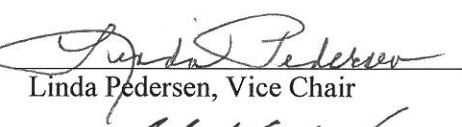
YEA NAY

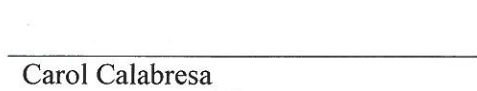
YEA NAY


Bonnie Thomson Carter, Chair


S. Michael Rummel, Chair


Nick Sauter, Vice Chair

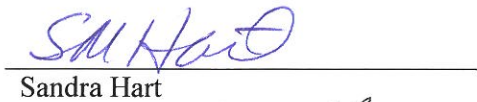

Linda Pedersen, Vice Chair


Carol Calabresa

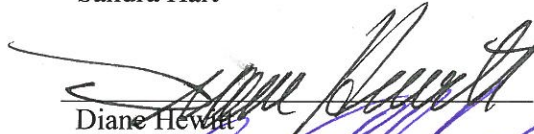

Steve Carlson

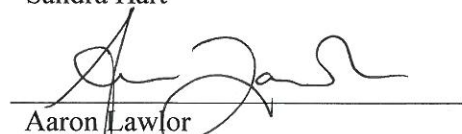

Bill Durkin



Bill Durkin

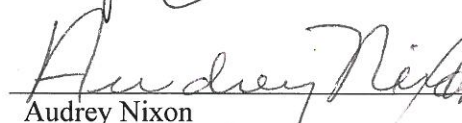

Sandra Hart

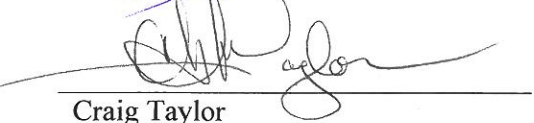

Sandra Hart


Diane Hewitt


Aaron Lawlor


Sid Mathias


Audrey Nixon


Craig Taylor


Tom Weber