

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, January 31, 2022**

On Monday, January 31, 2022, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the January 7, 2022 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation and the Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the District's Operations Committee met via audio and video conference and at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to Order** - Chair Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll. Five committee members responded: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair, Jennifer Clark, Mary Ross Cunningham, Catherine Sbarra, Terry Wilke. Member Ann Maine joined the meeting at 9:30 am and was intermittently connected to the meeting. Absent: Vice Chair Bill Durkin.

**Also Present:**

Carissa Casbon	Randy Seebach	Eileen Davis
Paul Frank	Rebekah Snyder	Jeannie Korando
Angelo D. Kyle, <i>President</i>	John Tannahill	Julie Gragnani
Alex Ty Kovach	Pati Vitt	Kim Mikus Croke
Mike Tully	Alex Eichman	Maureen Shelton
Nan Buckardt	Dan Stearns	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Mary Kann	Beth Frederick	Grant Benjamin, <i>Manitou Creek Clean Water Alliance</i>
Steve Neaman	Kevin Kleinjan	Lorra Rudman
John Nelson	Lisa Roberts	

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approval of Minutes** - Motion by member Clark, second by member Sbarra to approve the Minutes of the January 3, 2022 Operations Committee Meeting. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 5; NAYS: 0.

**6.0 Public Comment** – Chair Vealitzek asked if there was anyone attending who wished to provide public comment for items not on the agenda. Public comment was given by Grant Benjamin, volunteer member of the Manitou Creek Clean Water Alliance, thanking the District for their expedience in getting the new name for the creek changed on our on-line maps. Mr. Benjamin requested signage with the new creek name on the District's property.

**7.0 Executive Director Comments** – Executive Director Kovach presented his report on:

- Winter Sports update, including sledding, ice skating, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and the District's cleared walking paths;
- Hike Lake County participation;
- Summer Adventures registration opens February 1;
- Ansel Adams exhibit attendance;
- Received \$1.5 million to support the Endowment Campaign;
- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Net Zero Energy Building Program Grant was awarded;
- Received notification of a \$100,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to continue invasive species control work at Greenbelt Forest Preserve;
- Preservation Foundation's successful fall direct mail campaign and Annual Fund;

- Program participant survey attributed 80% of registrations to District's Facebook marketing;
- Video engagement on District's Facebook account up 157%;
- Waukegan Airport Management MOA to be available towards the end of February;
- Missing person search activity at Old School Forest Preserve;
- 25 Year Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program certification Anniversary Plaque for Countryside Golf Club;
- Introduction of the New Director of Natural Resources, Pati Vitt.

## 8.0 Correspondence – None

## 9.0 Unfinished Business

Fort Sheridan Lakeshore Follow-up. Mike Tully, Chief Operations Officer, explained that at the January committee meeting staff reviewed the new proposed Fort Sheridan sign. At that meeting, Committee members suggested changes to the sign. Staff discussed the suggested changes with PDRMA, the District's Risk Management Agency and showed the updated sign to the Committee. The committee agreed upon the updated sign.

## 10.0 New Business

- 10.1 Provide policy direction regarding the potential relocation or removal of the Cramer and Borland Cabins at the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation. Randy Seebach, Director of Planning and Land Preservation explained that in 1996, a portion of the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area was designated as a National Register of Historic Places for its social and architectural significance from 1923 to 1945. There were ten existing buildings, including four cabins, that were designated as contributing to the time period of significance. For over 30 years, two of the contributing cabins, known as the Cramer and Borland cabins have been used as classrooms for environmental education programming. There is a total of five cabins at Ryerson that are currently on the District's removal list. District staff discussed the plans for the new education facility to be built where the Classroom Cabins are with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA). The IHPA requested that the District look into alternatives to the full removal. Mr. Seebach noted that if a building is on the National Register of Historic Places it does not, by itself, prevent the building's owner from demolishing the building. According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the demolition of the Classroom Cabins will likely impact the District's ability to secure future IDNR grants for Phase II of the new education facility. Staff is seeking direction from the Committee on whether to explore three options. 1). Relocation of the Classroom Cabins on site, 2). Soliciting proposals for the sale of the Classroom Cabins 3). Demolition of the Classroom Cabins. The consensus of the Committee was to proceed with the potential sale of the cabins.

Public Comment was given by Lorra Rudman.

- 10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving a two-year CompleteLink Discount Pricing Schedule for Telephone Services with AT&T Corp. Motion by member Clark second by member Sbarra to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 5; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.3 Approve Change Order No. 1 to the Contract with Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$34,400.10. Motion by member Wilke second by member Clark to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation and responded to a question. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 5; NAYS: 0.
- 10.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for the District-Wide Invasive Plant Management Program for (i) the Eastern Forest Preserves to Liberty Prairie Restorations in the Contract

Price of \$88,650.00 and (ii) Western Forest Preserves to Red Buffalo Nursery in the Contract Price of \$86,187.50. Motion by member Clark second by member Cunningham to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 5; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.

10.5 Recommend approval of an Ordinance approving the assignment and amendment of the License Agreement with Catering by Michael’s for Food and Beverage Services at Independence Grove. Motion by member Clark second by member Sbarra to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 5; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.

**11.0 Miscellaneous Business**

Chair Vealitzek asked about the process for getting the Manitou Creek signage on district property. Mr. Tully responded that we would check our signs and make sure that any reference to Squaw Creek is removed or replaced. Chair Vealitzek also suggested educational information on the creek be added to the signage. Mr. Tully explained that if the Committee wants educational exhibits prepared and installed that would be part of the next budget discussions.

Chair Wilke thanked the committee and SMC with regards to the name change of the creek and informed the committee that DOT has the signs with the new name of the creek up already.

**12.0 Closed Session** — None

**13.0 Potential Action Following Closed Session** – None

**14.0 Adjourn** – With no further business, Chair Vealitzek declared the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>		<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jessica Vealitzek, Chair			Ann B. Maine		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Durkin, Vice Chair			Catherine Sbarra		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Clark			Terry Wilke		
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Mary Ross Cunningham					

**Secretary’s Note:** Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the February 4, 2022 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, and Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the Operations Committee met via audio and video conference on Monday, February 28, 2022. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

- AYES: 6 (Clark, Durkin, Maine, Sbarra, Vealitzek, Wilke)
- NAYS: 0
- ABSENT: 1 (Cunningham-absent)

*Mawreen E. Shelton*  
Committee Secretary