

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES – JANUARY 7, 2019**

The Lake County Forest Preserves Legislative Committee met on Monday, January 7, 2019. The meeting was held at the District's General Offices at 1899 West Winchester Road in Libertyville, Illinois.

- 1.0 Call to Order** -With a quorum present, Chair Didech called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Adam R. Didech, *Chair*  
Jennifer Clark  
Dick Barr  
Linda Pedersen  
S. Michael Rummel  
Julie Simpson  
Jessica Vealitzek

**Also Present:**

Angelo D. Kyle, *President*  
Mary Ross Cunningham  
Judy Martini  
Alex "Ty" Kovach  
Mike Tully  
Jim Ballowe  
Nan Buckardt  
Katherine Hamilton-Smith

Mary Kann  
Steve Neaman  
John Nelson  
John Tannahill  
Rebekah Snyder  
Sarah Klein  
Maureen Shelton  
Matt Norton, *Corporate Counsel*

**Absent:**

- 2.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Simpson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3.0 Public Comment** - There was no public comment.

- 4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – There were no addenda to the agenda.

- 5.0 Correspondence** – None

- 6.0 Approval of Minutes** from the September 8, 2014 Legislative Committee meeting. Chair Didech explained that the minutes are from the last time the Legislative Committee met. Chair Didech informed the Committee that he had confirmed that the minutes were accurate with the following attendees of the September 8, 2014 meeting, Commissioner Maine, Commissioner Cunningham and Executive Director, Ty Kovach. Motion by member Clark, second by member Simpson. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The minutes were circulated for signatures.

Mr. Kovach announced that the Districts legislative consultants were attending the meeting via conference call and confirmed that they were on the line.

- 7.0 Review of Board approved 2019 Legislative Program.** Mr. Kovach reviewed the District's 2019 State Legislative program starting with the objects:

- Protect the District's current statutory authority.
- Establish responsible and efficient purchasing/contracting authority.
- Prevent new, and reduce existing outdated, unfunded mandates that increase the District's operational or administrative costs.
- Limit exposure to additional liability or legal costs.
- Ensure continued financial integrity of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.
- Maintain or enhance current grant funding sources and budgets for state agencies that assist in fulfilling the District's mission.
- Oppose sweeps of dedicated accounts.
- Advocate for adequate and consistent funding of Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
- Ensure funds authorized by the Tort Immunity Act are able to be used appropriately.

Chair Didech asked for more information on the Tort Immunity Act. Mary Kann, Director of Administration explained that the Tort Immunity Act protects the District from unwarranted lawsuits for accidents on the District's property. The insurance fund budget is based on the Tort Immunity Act. Mr. Kovach will provide the exact budget numbers to the Committee at the next meeting. Mr. Kovach also mentioned the District's recent Park District Risk Management Association (PDRMA) accreditation based on the District's performance.

President Kyle asked a question in regards to commissioner participation in IMRF and if the District's IMRF is the same as the County's IMRF. Mrs. Kann responded that they are two separate fund entities. A discussion ensued. Chair Didech requested that this conversation be continued at Thursday's Finance Committee meeting because this topic is more to the purview of that committee.

Mr. Kovach then reviewed the District's 2019 State Legislative Initiatives:

- Funding of State Matching Grant Programs, OSLAD, TAP, Bike Path and Public Museum Capital grants.
- Curtailing Sweeps of Dedicated Accounts.
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources, ensuring that professional leadership is in place.
- Local Government Tax Levies Funds Usage.

Derek Blaida from Strategic Advocacy Group, LLC discussed the following:

- Recommended that the District send a letter to every member of the delegation. This letter will include the Districts capital construction requests.
- Museum Grant that was referenced, the bill has passed in the Senate. No action in the House.
- Mr. Blaida requested that the District take a look at SB 3430, House amendment #1. It is a more transparent way to seek a property tax referendum under law. Mr. Blaida believes it does not affect the District.

Mr. Kovach explained to the Committee that the District's capital construction requests are all projects that have been approved by the Board that are on the District's unfunded list with the exception of two projects, the Long Lake project and the ADA project.

Mr. Kovach reviewed with the committee the 2019 Federal Legislative Objectives:

- Protect the District's existing authority to issue tax-exempt municipal-type bonds, and prevent additional reductions in existing tax rate rebate incentives for Build America Bonds previously issued by the District.
- Adoption of the Universal Charitable Deduction in any tax reform legislation.
- Continuation of tax incentives for conservation easement donations.
- Approval of Leave No Child Inside legislation promoting environmental education and getting kids outdoors.
- Oppose disproportionate cuts to federal conservation programs, including grants and other funding sources.
- Support continuation or strengthening of existing federal protections for the Great Lakes, clean air and water, and endangered and threatened species.
- Support continued implementation of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge in McHenry County and Kanakakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.
- Support the ACOE and Upper Des Plaines River Project Phase II while understanding the associated financial implications and risks.

Mr. Kovach reviewed with the committee the 2019 Federal Legislative Initiatives:

- Protecting and Restoring Lake Michigan and Other Great Lakes
- Endangered Species, Clean Air and Clean Water
- Tax-Exempt Public Bonds
- Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grants
- Funding for Federal Matching Grant and Assistance Programs
- No Child Left Inside
- Conservation and Trail Easement Incentives
- Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge and Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area
- USACOE and Upper Des Plaines River Project

## 8.0 State Legislative Issues Update

8.1 Discussion of State legislative issues with Mike Grady and Derek Blaida from Strategic Advocacy Group, LLC. Mr. Blaida provided an update to the committee on the current climate in Springfield.

9.0 Old Business – There was no old business.

10.0 New Business – There was no new business.

11.0 Closed Session - There was no closed session.


12.0 Next meeting – March 4, 2019

13.0 Adjourn – Motion by Member Pedersen, second by Member Simpson to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

### APPROVED:

Yea Nay


Yea Nay

  
Adam R. Didech, Chair

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Linda Pedersen

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Jennifer Clark, Vice Chair

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Julie Simpson

☐ ☐

Dick Barr

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Jessica Vealitzek

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Judy Martini

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