

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – MARCH 4, 2019**

The Lake County Forest Preserves Legislative Committee met on Monday, March 4, 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.

Members Present:

Adam R. Didech, *Chair*
Jennifer Clark
Dick Barr (Electronically)
Judy Martini
Linda Pedersen
Jessica Vealitzek

Absent:

Julie Simpson

Also Present:

Ann Maine
John Wasik (12:28 p.m.)
Alex Ty Kovach
Mike Tully
Jim Anderson
Mary Kann
Steve Neaman
John Nelson
Randy Seebach

John Tannahill
Ken Jones
Rebekah Snyder
Maureen Shelton
Matt Norton, *Corporate Counsel*

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Member Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Didech stated that he received an oral notice this morning from member Dick Barr requesting to attend the meeting electronically because of County business. He announced that member Barr was connected via telephone. Hearing no motion, Chair Didech declared member Barr present and requested a roll call of Committee Members.

Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll and six Committee Members answered present: Didech, Clark, Barr, Martini, Pedersen, Vealitzek.

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 - Motion by member Clark, second by member Vealitzek to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2019 Legislative Committee meeting. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The minutes were circulated for signatures.

7.0 Review of State Legislation, Executive Director Ty Kovach announced that the District's legislative consultant Mike Grady was attending the meeting via conference call and confirmed that he was on the line.

Mike Tully, Chief Operations Officer reviewed the draft staff recommendations of the pending legislation that could impact the District. Discussion was had and positions determined on the following:

- HB 9 - Watch - Closely monitor for changes
- HB 152 – Watch
- HB 307 – Watch - Member Martini asked why our position differs from the County. Mr. Tully to check with the County and report back to the Committee. Committee changed the District's position from oppose to watch.
- HB 884 – Support
- HB 1485 – Support
- HB1507 – Watch
- HB 1566, 1567, 1568, 1571 – Oppose
- HB 2032 – Support

- HB 2124 – Support
- HB 2127 – Watch
- HB 2207 – Oppose - Mr. Tully deferred to Chair Didech on this item. Chair Didech had a clarifying conversation with Representative Yingling; he explained that this bill only applies to referenda. Chair Didech requested that this be written into the bill. It was the consensus, under the bill's current wording, pending amendment to clarify that the committee change the District's position from watch to oppose. Corporate Attorney, Matt Norton mentioned that this bill would be duplicative of the election code. Chair Didech to follow-up with Representative Yingling and he will report back to the committee.
- HB 2283 – Watch
- HB 2425 – Oppose
- HB 2580 – Watch
- HB 2949 – Watch
- HB 3092 – Support
- HB 3105 – Support
- HB 3327 – Watch
- SB 56 & 238 – Watch – Member Pedersen requested that the District's position change from support to watch or oppose. She explained that there are only nine permits for boats over 40 feet on the Fox Waterway. Member Clark requested more information on the District's erosion concerns. Member Martini mentioned that the County has these bills on their watch list. Member Martini felt that these bills should concentrate on education and safety on the waterways. Member Martini is opposed to these bills. Member Barr would like to see the District oppose these bills, but would not object to changing the District's position from support to watch. The Committee agreed to change the District's position from support to watch, pending future work on the bills.
- SB 83 – Support
- SB196 – Support
- SB 1106, 1107, 1108, 1111 – Oppose
- SB 1184 – Support
- SB 1270 – Watch
- SB 1336 – Oppose
- SB 1651 – Watch
- SB 1652 – Watch
- SB1826 – Oppose
- SB 1949 – Watch

8.0 Old Business – There was no old business.

9.0 New Business

- 9.1 Provide Policy Direction on potential legislation amending the District's purchasing authority under the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act. Executive Director Kovach requested direction from the committee on whether to pursue amending the statutory dollar level that triggers the formal bidding process, from \$25,000 to \$30,000, as we move forward with the approved design-build legislation. Mr. Kovach informed the Committee that he had a conversation with the Finance Committee Chair and that the Chair thought that \$30,000 may be too low. Staff looked at the efficiency's between \$25,000 and \$30,000 and those were nominal, but taking the number up to \$50,000 would be more advantageous in terms of efficiency. Mr. Grady suggested that it may be better to propose the \$50,000 to leave negotiating room. A discussion ensued and there was concern about raising the amount too high. Staff was given direction to have a conversation with the County to see if they would benefit from raising the amount closer to \$50,000. The Committee consensus was to proceed.

- 9.2 Provide Policy Direction on potential legislation amending the District's maximum tax rates under the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act. Executive Director Kovach requested direction from the Committee on whether to present an amended resolution approving the District's State legislative program, to include legislation that would raise the maximum general corporate and land development levy rates. Mr. Kovach reviewed the challenges the District is facing. Raising the maximums by up to .02% in the Downstate Forest Preserve Act would position the Board to consider asking the voters to adjust the Consumer Price Index (CPI) above the limits imposed by Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL). He responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Chair Didech noted that this is the first part of a process that will allow the District to ask the question in the future. Member Martini said that she is not supportive of raising taxes or levies, however, if it is tied to a referendum than the voters will make the decision. Chair Didech assured the Committee that this could not move forward unless it's via a referendum. Member Barr stated that he was opposed to this potential legislation. The consensus of the committee was to proceed.

The committee also discussed the need for an additional Legislative Committee meeting in April.

- 9.3 Discussion of State budget and other legislative issues with Mike Grady and Derek Blaida from Strategic Advocacy Group, LLC. Mike Grady updated the Committee on the State's budget.
- 9.4 For Information Only - Board Authority to adopt Rules for removal of President. Attorney Norton explained that other than incapacity, the District's Board currently does not have the statutory authority to remove the President. If the Rules Committee desires to have a rule that would remove the President for other reasons, this would need to go back to the Legislative Committee to amend the Downstate Forest Preserves Act.

As a follow-up from the January 7, 2019 Legislative Committee meeting, Mr. Kovach provided the Committee with information regarding the levy taxes for risk management under the Tort Immunity Act.

- 10.0 **Closed Session** – Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Martini to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing: the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following votes: AYES: 5; NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 12:43 p.m. and returned to open session at 12:47 p.m.
- 11.0 **Next meeting** – The next schedule meeting is May 6, 2019. Chair Didech mentioned to the Committee to be prepared for an April meeting.
- 12.0 **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn by Member Clark, second by Member Vealitzek. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.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


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Dick Barr


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Jessica Vealitzek

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Judy Martini

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