

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, November 1, 2021**

On Monday, November 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the October 15, 2021 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 9:00 a.m.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll. Six committee members responded: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair, Bill Durkin, Vice Chair, Jennifer Clark, Mary Ross Cunningham, Ann Maine and Terry Wilke. Member Catherine Sbarra joined the meeting at 9:16 a.m.

**Also Present:**

Carissa Casbon	John Nelson
Paul Frank	Rebekah Snyder
Julie Simpson	John Tannahill
Angelo D. Kyle, <i>President</i>	Debbie Boness
Alex Ty Kovach	Beth Frederick
Mike Tully	Kim Mikus Croke
Jim Anderson	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Nan Buckardt	Maureen Shelton
Mary Kann	Mick Zawislak, <i>Daily Herald</i>

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

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approval of Minutes** - Motion by member Cunningham, second by member Maine to approve the Minutes of the October 4, 2021 Joint Committee Meeting. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 6; 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. There were no responses.

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

- Presentation of the NACPRO President's Award to Mike Tully;
- Kayak paddle program to the Stevenson House;
- Grant Woods Long Lake Shoreline Stabilization project delayed 6 to 9 months;
- Coastal engineering assistance for the Lake Michigan coastline at Fort Sheridan;
- Golf courses season is over; new records were set for rounds played and revenue generated;
- Northern Lake County School ROTC students helped at a Greenbelt workday;
- Partnership with USDA APHIS National Wildlife Research Center on deer abundance;
- \$2 million anonymous donation has been pledged for the net-Zero Ryerson Education building;
- Moody's has assigned the District a AAA bond rating; Article on Denver's park system found to be too focused on growth and not enough on maintaining existing parks; this validates our focus on maintaining the health and safety of our existing preserves.

## 8.0 Correspondence – None

## 9.0 Unfinished Business

9.1 Fort Sheridan Lakeshore Discussion. Chair Vealitzek introduced this item explaining that at a prior Operations Committee meeting Commissioner Frank requested that the Committee consider what more the District can do to enforce the prohibition of swimming at Fort Sheridan. At that meeting Chair Vealitzek requested that staff provide the Committee with statistics and discuss the levels of enforcement at an upcoming meeting.

Mike Tully, Chief Operations Officer, used a map to familiarize the committee with the preserve. He explained that this past season, the District installed additional signage at the trail terminus on the lake shore and on structures that clearly state water entry and climbing on structures is prohibited. Three thousand feet of fencing was installed that inhibits access from bluffs and ravine. He noted that the Ranger Police/Community Service Officers frequently patrol Fort Sheridan, reminding visitors of the rules. During April 1, 2021 through September 1, 2021 there were 72 citations for being in the preserve after hours, 38 for illegal parking and 7 for dogs off leash. There were only reminders and warnings issued for “wading/swimming”.

He described some actions that the District considered and have dismissed at this point. Then he discussed actions that were mentioned for consideration such as instituting a zero-tolerance policy regarding water entry. He talked about a middle ground that would direct Ranger Police to continue the use of officer discretion and common-sense during enforcement. Periodically target specific violations at specific times, days, and dates including weekends holidays and warm days during the summer months.

Commissioner Paul Frank explained his concern for the Public’s safety. He would like either zero tolerance or closing off access to the lakefront. A discussion ensued regarding the options and each committee member provided their preference. Member Clark requested larger, sterner signage. Member Sbarra requested the signage be in different languages.

Consensus of the committee was more specific signage, greater enforcement but not zero tolerance. Mr. Tully will work with risk management on signage and with John Tannahill, Director of Public Safety to develop what specifically we will ask our officers to do. This information is to be discussed at the January 2022 Operations Committee meeting.

## 10.0 New Business

- 10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution renewing the Annual Support Agreement for OnBase Document Management Software with Hyland Software, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$44,710.31, for Fiscal Year 2022. Motion by member Wilke second by Vice Chair Durkin to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.
- 10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution to award a Contract for the purchase of replacement computing equipment and supplies to CDW-Government, Inc., under the National IPA Technology Solutions Contract #2018011-01, in an amount not to exceed \$175,250.00. Motion by member Sbarra second by member Clark to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.
- 10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution Authorizing Payment to the Village of Lindenhurst for a Connection Fee for the Operations and Public Safety Facility Sanitary Sewer Connection in the amount of \$29,749.00. Motion by Vice Chair Durkin second by member Clark to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Roll Call vote being had, the motion

passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.

10.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Woody Invasive Plant Clearing Project - Buckthorn Eradication Initiative (Phase 2) at Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve to Clean Cut Tree Service, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$56,256.00. Motion by member Wilke second by member Clark to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Jim Anderson, Director of Natural Resources, responded to questions about the buckthorn eradication process. Mr. Anderson to send out the Healthy Habitats brochure to the committee members. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for Deer Processing Services to Freedom Sausage, LLC in the Contract Price of \$37,462.50. Motion by member Maine second by member Durkin to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Mr. Anderson responded to questions. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

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 10:17 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Durkin, Vice Chair			Catherine Sbarra		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Clark			Terry Wilke		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Mary Ross Cunningham					

**Secretary’s Note:** Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the November 12, 2021 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, December 6, 2021. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

AYES: 5 (Clark, Cunningham, Durkin, Maine, Vealitzek)  
 NAYS: 0  
 ABSENT: 2 (Sbarra, Wilke)

Mawreen E. Shelton  
 Committee Secretary