

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT – REGULAR MARCH MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at the District General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to Order – With a quorum physically present, President Jessica Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.0 Roll Call of Commissioners – Board Secretary Gragnani called the roll and 12 Commissioners responded present: Campos, Clark, Danforth, Hart, Hunter, Knizhnik, Parekh, Pedersen, Roberts, Schlick, Vealitzek, and Wasik.

Arriving after roll call: Casbon, Cunningham, Maine at 9:02; Altenberg at 9:03; Kyle at 9:04; Hewitt at 9:07; Frank at 9:52.

3.0 Moment of Silence – President Vealitzek called for a moment of silence.

4.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.0 Addenda to Agenda – None

6.0 Public Comment – Mary Handelsman, representing Manitou Creek Watershed Alliance, spoke in support of the Goshgarian property purchase at Kestrel Ridge Forest Preserve.

7.0 President’s Report, Special Recognition and Committee Appointments

- Proclamation recognizing Bill Thompson, Inventory Control Technician, for 25 years of service. **EXHIBIT NO. 6263**
- Attended IAPD Legislative Breakfast hosted by Mundelein Park District
- Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for March 19 with survey questions to be mailed out to the Board following the meeting.
- The District is hosting the Waukegan Council of Government luncheon at Greenbelt Cultural Center on March 12.
- The April 6 Committee of the Whole meeting is canceled and a special Legislative Committee meeting will be scheduled in that time slot at 1:00 p.m.

8.0 Executive Director’s Report - Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- New timelapse map showing Lakewood and Ray Lake Forest Preserves acquisitions;
- Presentation update on the District’s events for America’s 250th anniversary;
- \$1 million IDNR grant to support the potential transfer of property from the State to the District;
- Valentine’s Day promotion for commemorative gifts benefitting the Every Acre Strong campaign; Annual Fund grants awarded at the Foundation’s quarterly meeting;
- Sgt. Tommy’s Kids increased their funding for 2026 for education programs;
- SMC is soliciting RFPs for wetland mitigation projects in the Des Plaines River Watershed;
- Tree Canopy monitoring season concluded; 8,770 trees were sampled across 16 Preserves;
- US Fish and Wildlife’s annual Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Conservation meeting;
- Annual Volunteer Recognition event will be April 25 at Greenbelt Cultural Center;
- Birdwatching Guide and Checklist are published and available in English and Spanish;
- Spring 2026 Horizons magazine is now available in print and online, features the Indigo Bunting;

- Preservation Foundation's Sip and Stroll event explored the Museum's Pollinators exhibition;
- Recap of Project Feederwatch, which ran from November 2025 through February 2026;
- Carving out the Future: The Rotblatt Amrany Studio Story opens March 14th;
- Recap of the Childhood Classics: 100 Years of Original Illustration exhibition;
- Summary of the District's incident rate for 2025;
- The District was represented at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Fort Wayne Indiana;
- Executive Leadership Institute was hosted by the District in February;
- Swearing-in Ceremony held on February 26 by the Public Safety Department;
- Recognition in the 2025 National Recreation Trail Photo Contest hosted by American Trails.

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 Consent Agenda – Motion by Commissioner Hart, seconded by Commissioner Knizhnik to approve the Consent Agenda, items 10.1 and 10.2:

10.1 Approval of Minutes: February 11, 2026

10.2 Approve a Resolution Approving Deaccession and Conveyance of Out of Scope Items from the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County's Collections. **EXHIBIT No. 6264**

With a roll call vote being had, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed by a vote of:
AYES: 18, NAYS: 0

11.0 New Business – Report of Standing and Special Committees:

11.1 Ordinance Approving Farm License Agreement at Kestrel Ridge Forest Preserve

Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Casbon to approve an Ordinance Approving a Farm License Agreement with Lima Grain at Kestrel Ridge Forest Preserve for a term of March 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029. With a roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 18, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6265**

11.2 Ordinance Approving Farm License Agreement at Mshkode Forest Preserve

Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Cunningham to approve an Ordinance Approving a Farm License Agreement with Kevek Farms at Mshkode Forest Preserve for a term of April 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029. With a roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 18, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6266**

11.3 Resolution Awarding Contract for Phase II Engineering for the Millennium Trail

Motion by Commissioner Clark, second by Commissioner Casbon to approve a Resolution Awarding a Contract for Phase II Engineering Services for the Millennium Trail – Ethel's Woods to Pine Dunes Forest Preserves, to Civiltech Engineering, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$424,619.89. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 18, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6267**

11.4 Resolution Approving Conveyance of Fee Simple Title and Grant of Easements to IDOT

Motion by Commissioner Clark, second by Commissioner Hunter to approve a Resolution Approving Conveyance of Fee Simple Title on certain District Property and Grant of Permanent and Temporary Easements on certain District Property to the Illinois Department of Transportation at Countryside Golf Club. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 18, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6268**

- 11.5 **Resolution to Purchase 24.9 Acre Addition to Kestrel Ridge Forest Preserve**
Motion by Commissioner Clark, second by Commissioner Casbon to approve a Resolution to Purchase an approximately 24.9-acre Property in Avon Township known as the Goshgarian Property, for \$923,000.00 as an addition to Kestrel Ridge Forest Preserve. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 18, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6269**

Commissioner Frank joined the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

- 11.6 **Resolution to Purchase 13.4 Acre Addition to Lakewood Forest Preserve**
Motion by Commissioner Clark, second by Commissioner Schlick to approve a Resolution to Purchase an approximately 13.4-acre Property in Fremont Township known as the Quentin Road Bible Baptist Church Property, for \$3,994,100.00 as an addition to Lakewood Forest Preserve. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call plus Frank), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 19, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6270**

12.0 **Petitions and Correspondence - None**

13.0 **Miscellaneous Business – None**

14.0 **Closed Session – None**

15.0 **Potential Action following Closed Session - None**

16.0 **Adjournment** – With no further business before the Board, President Vealitzek adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Julie Gragnani, Board Secretary



Date Approved

ROLL CALL

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF LAKE)

REGULAR MARCH 11 SESSION, 2026

9:00

ROLL CALL		COMMISSIONERS	QUESTIONS															
			10.1-10.2 Consent Agenda		11.1 Farm license		11.2 Farm license		11.3 Engineering millennial trail		11.4 IDOT easements		11.5 Gosh garium		11.6 Lakeview Addition			
P	A		Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay
1		Altenberg, Marah 9:03	✓															
2	✓	Campos, Esiah	✓															
3		Casbon, Carissa 9:02	✓															
4	✓	Clark, Jennifer	✓															
5		Cunningham, Mary Ross 9:02	✓															
6	✓	Danforth, Michael	✓															
7	X	Frank, Paul																
8	✓	Hart, Sandra	✓															
9		Hewitt, Diane	✓															
10	✓	Hunter, J. Kevin	✓															
11	✓	Knizhnik, Sara Frederick	✓															
12		Kyle, Angelo 9:04	✓															
13		Maine, Ann 9:02	✓															
14	✓	Parekh, Paras	✓															
15	✓	Pedersen, Linda	✓															
16	✓	Roberts, Gina	✓															
17	✓	Schlick, Adam	✓															
18	✓	Vealitzek, Jessica	✓															
19	✓	Wasik, John	✓															
12		TOTALS	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	19 0						
		Notes:		LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE PLUS FRANK						

Casbon after roll 9:02
Cunningham after roll 9:02
Maine after roll 9:02
Altenberg 9:03
Kyle 9:04

Hewitt 9:07 (18)
Frank 9:52