

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – April 1, 2019**

The Lake County Forest Preserves' Planning Committee met on Monday, April 1, 2019. The meeting was held at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to order** – With a quorum present, Chair John Wasik called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**Members Present:**

John Wasik, Chair  
Julie Simpson, Vice Chair  
Dick Barr  
Jennifer Clark  
Adam Didech  
Diane Hewitt  
Judy Martini  
Linda Pedersen  
Jessica Vealitzek

**Also Present:**

Angelo Kyle, President  
Alex Ty Kovach  
Mike Tully  
Randy Seebach  
Jim Anderson  
Ken Jones  
Steve Neaman  
Nan Buckardt  
Katherine Hamilton-Smith

**Also Present:**

John Nelson  
Mary Kann  
Rebekah Snyder  
Julie Gragnani  
Matt Norton, *Legal Counsel*  
Don Wilson  
Lynn Goodell  
Nancy Jacoby

**2.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Pedersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**4.0 Public Comment** – Lynn Goodell, representing Lake County Mounted Posse, requested expanded horse trailer parking at Russell Road; providing a place to park trailers somewhere between Old School and Sedge Meadow that would allow more convenient access Independence Grove; adding an outhouse at the Gilmer Road parking lot.

Executive Director Kovach noted that the District is struggling without funding for new capital projects. Director Mike Tully added that Russell Road has paved parking for 10 to 12 trailers, and parking at Sedge Meadow has been under-utilized. It was hoped that the Sedge Meadow area would have picked up some of the overflow from Russell Road, but this has not happened for the most part.

**5.0 Executive Director Report** –Executive Director Kovach distributed and summarized his report:

- A survey is being conducted by the Conservation Foundation;
- Nearly 4,000 people attended a variety of programs in March offered by Forest Preserve Educators;
- Working on the process to revisit the District's five-year objectives;
- Photos/status of four current demolition projects; a fifth site at Fourth Lake is awaiting utility cutoffs.

Chair Wasik asked about access at Almond Marsh for the birders. Mr. Kovach noted that staff will have a conversation with Audubon and noted that we need to be careful about providing access because it would have to be ADA accessible, which would be very expensive.

**6.0 Approval of Minutes** – Motion by member Hewitt, second by member Simpson to approve the minutes of the open session and closed session minutes from March 4, 2019. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

**7.0 Correspondence** - None

**8.0 Old Business** - None

**9.0 New Business:**

**9.1** Approve a motion to (i) release Committee closed session minutes, (ii) retain as confidential all other Committee closed session minutes not previously released, and (iii) delete Verbatim Recordings in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and District Policy on Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Records, as provided in Exhibit 1 to staff's memo dated April 1, 2019 – Mr. Kovach summarized Exhibit 1

recommending partial release of minutes and deletion of seven recordings. Motion by member Barr, second by member Didech. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

9.2 Policy direction regarding a request from the Village of Lake Villa to allow annexation of a portion of District property at Bluebird Meadow Forest Preserve – Mr. Kovach explained that the owners of the Heffernan property requested to be annexed into the Village of Lake Villa. In order for this to be possible the Village has requested that the District allow them to annex two parcels at Bluebird Meadow to create contiguity between the Village's boundaries and the Heffernan property. At the January 7 Planning Committee meeting Mr. Kovach referred to a 1991 intergovernmental agreement requiring the District to obtain prior approval from the Village to discuss the acquisition of property in the Village with potential sellers; this limitation is inconsistent with the District's authority under the Downstate Forest Preserve Act. Mr. Kovach had added that the District has rarely allowed annexation of its property, and only when there is significant benefit to the District. In January the committee directed staff to discuss its annexation request and the terms of the IGA with Village representatives. In February, Planning and Land Preservation department Director Randy Seebach and Land Preservation Manager Ken Jones met with the mayor and village administrator. They refused to consider a termination of the IGA's requirement that the District receive prior approval from the Village before attempting to purchase property within its boundaries. With no benefit to the District for allowing the annexation, staff recommended that the annexation request be denied. Staff responded to questions and the committee reached a consensus to deny the request and authorized Mr. Kovach to send a letter of denial to the Village.

9.3 Policy direction regarding a potential collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and their Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration at Dutch Gap Forest Preserve - Mr. Kovach provided background information on past efforts to fund restoration at Dutch Gap, which were unsuccessful, and that the District had said if the Corps ever got additional funding, Dutch Gap is the District's preferred site. The Corps has now received approval for \$15 million in funding for Dutch Gap through its CAP program. \$5 million would be District sponsored and it would be able to use the LERRD value of its 785 acres at Dutch Gap as its local sponsor match. Director Jim Anderson explained the process including a Federal Interest Determination, which needs to be completed in May. The District would then sign a letter of intent to work with the Corps on the project. Next would be a feasibility study, which the District would have to split the cost with the Corps. This is estimated to be around \$150,000 for our share and funds are available for this in the Wetlands Management Fund, which can only be used for the Des Plaines River watershed. The next step would be a Project Partnership Agreement that would provide that the district's LERRD value would satisfy its local share, up to \$5 million. The Corps would then complete the project within three years followed by a five-year maintenance and monitoring period. Mr. Anderson added that the scope of the project can be adjusted down if necessary to fit the LERRD value of the land when it is determined. Staff responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The consensus of the committee was to proceed with talking to the Corps.

9.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution Supporting the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's Des Plaines River Watershed-Based Plan – Mr. Anderson summarized the purpose of the Des Plaines River Watershed-Based Plan, which is an amendment to the Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. Motion by member Clark, second by member Vealitzek to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The Resolution was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Rollins Savanna - Gurnee Trail Connection to Copenhagen Construction, Inc., Gilberts, Illinois in the Contract Price of \$393,791.00 – Mr. Seebach provided background of the trail connection project and noted that the low bidder was non-responsive due to their failure to submit bond and insurance letters, and they acknowledged mistakes in their bid numbers. Mr. Seebach responded to questions and Attorney Norton confirmed that the District cannot accept the letters after submission of a sealed bid. Staff recommended award to the second bidder. Motion by member Martini, second by member Hewitt to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote

being had, the motion passed unanimously. The Resolution was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.

**9.6 For Information Only – Review of the District’s Ordinance regarding Licenses and Easements for public services** – Attorney Norton reviewed the District’s License and Easement Ordinance that governs the District’s practice of granting licenses and easements. The Ordinance states that the monetary fee is based on fair market value, which is the land’s highest and best use, not limited to its use as open space. Fair market value can be based on an appraisal, other comparable recent purchases, or the price the District paid for that property if the acquisition was recent.



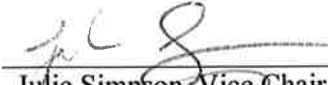

**9.7 For Information Only – Update on Fort Sheridan/US Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) Program** – Director Anderson gave a presentation updating the committee on the GLFER program work at Fort Sheridan. He provided the history and objectives of the program, which includes eight ravines along Lake Michigan. He summarized the work done so far on the ravines and lakeshore at Fort Sheridan, noting that there has been some shoreline erosion from storm events. Mr. Anderson felt the biggest problem with the project has been the movement of the looser soils that weren’t accounted for. The USACE has agreed to cost-share the remediation that will be needed. The next work will include retrofitting Scotts Ravine and re-mediating Janes and McCormick Ravines with new structures; and the shore will have to be closed during this time. Phase I needs to be finished by September. Phase II will include offshore structures for fish and ecosystem restoration. These structures may also capture some sand and help hold it in place. Mr. Anderson responded to questions and a general discussion ensued.

**10.0 Closed Session** – Motion by member Martini, second by member Simpson to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property; and the setting of a price for sale or lease of property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0. The Committee went into executive session at 2:25 p.m. and returned to open session at 3:00 p.m.

**11.0 Next meeting:** May 6, 2019.

**12.0 Adjourn** – With no further business, motion by member Simpson, second by member Clark to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 John Wasik, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Diane Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Julie Simpson, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Judy Martini	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Dick Barr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Linda Pedersen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Clark	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jessica Vealitzek	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adam R. Didech	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			