

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT – REGULAR APRIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Wednesday, April 15, 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. and confirmed electronic attendance for Commissioners Diane Hewitt and Mary Ross Cunningham due to personal illness; and Paras Parekh due to employment.

2.0 Roll Call of Commissioners – Board Secretary Gragnani called the roll and 14 Commissioners responded present: Altenberg, Campos, Casbon, Clark, Danforth, Hunter, Knizhnik, Kyle, Maine, Parekh, Pedersen, Roberts, Schlick, Vealitzek. Arriving after roll call: Sandy Hart at 9:04; Diane Hewitt on Zoom at 9:15; Paul Frank at 9:32. Absent: Cunningham and Wasik.

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

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

5.0 Addenda to Agenda – None

6.0 Public Comment – None

7.0 President’s Report, Special Recognition and Committee Appointments

- Attended the Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting on March 19th to refine the survey questions. On April 20th the Steering Committee will be reviewing the survey results.
- Continuing to meet twice a month with lobbyists regarding the Route 53 transfers of land from IDOT to IDNR.

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

- Alex Ross exhibition final numbers – attended by 12,911 and generated over \$121,000
- Grants and fundraising statistics through first quarter 2026;
- Bids for the USACE Dutch Gap project opened March 31 with RES the low bidder;
- The District closed on the Giambrone/Honey G Farm property on March 31;
- The Lake Plain Invasive Plant Strike Team has commenced restoration work;
- Conducted first ever controlled burn incorporating three different departments;
- Promotion for golf’s season opening generated impressive engagement;
- 2026 Maple Syrup program recap; Dunn Museum Spring Break Food Drive recap;
- Spring 2026 Lake Plain Coalition Meeting on March 31;
- Midwest Bee Identification Workshop attended by Restoration Ecologist II Dan Sandacz;
- Wisconsin Wetlands Assn annual conference attended by Stewardship Ecologist II Kelly Schultz;
- Opening dates for Fox River Preserve and Independence Grove Marina and Beer Garden.

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

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

10.1 Approval of Minutes: March 11, 2026

10.2 Approve a Resolution Awarding a Contract for Reforestation Watering at Multiple Preserves to TGF Enterprises, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$33,035.00. **EXHIBIT NO. 6271**

With a roll call vote being had, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed by a vote of:
AYES: 16, NAYS: 0

11.0 New Business – Report of Standing and Special Committees:

11.1 **Ordinance Amending 2026 Budget to Reflect Carry-over Expenditures from 2025 Budget**
Motion by Commissioner Roberts, second by Commissioner Altenberg to approve an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget to reflect Carryovers for Projects Budgeted but not Completed in Fiscal Year 2025. With a roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 16, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6272**

11.2 **Ordinance Amending Personnel Policy 4.8 – Leave of Absence**
Motion by Commissioner Roberts, second by Commissioner Clark to approve an Ordinance Amending Personnel Policy 4.8 - Leave of Absence. With a roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 16, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6273**

11.3 **Resolution Awarding Contract for Constituent and Financial Management Software**
Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Altenberg to approve a Resolution Awarding a Contract for Constituent Management and Financial Management Software to Blackbaud, Inc, in an amount not to exceed \$92,998.85. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 16, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6274**

11.4 **Resolution Approving Farm License Agreement with Duane Beelow**
Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Schlick to approve an Ordinance Approving a Farm License Agreement with Duane Beelow at Ray Lake Forest Preserve for a term of April 15, 2026 through December 31, 2029. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 16, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6275**

11.5 **Resolution Approving Farm License Agreement with Terry Brothers Grain Farm, LLC**
Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Hart to approve an Ordinance Approving a Farm License Agreement with Terry Brothers Grain Farm, LLC at Prairie Stream Forest Preserve for a term of April 15, 2026 through December 31, 2026. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 16, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6276**

11.6 **Resolution Awarding Contracts for Purchase of Trees and Shrubs at Multiple Preserves**
Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Hunter to approve a Resolution Awarding Contracts for the Purchase of Trees and Shrubs for Multiple Preserves for a five-year period, to Majestic Oaks Nursery in the Contract Price of \$181,370.15; and to Possibility Place Nursery in the Contract Price of \$103,522.40. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 16, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6277**

Commissioner Frank joined the meeting at 9:32 a.m. There was unanimous consent to take and approve Items 11.7 and 11.8 together with one roll call vote:

11.7 **Resolution to Sell 0.95-acre Parcel Adjacent to Ray Lake Forest Preserve**
Motion by Commissioner Frank, second by Commissioner Schlick approve a Resolution to Sell an

approximately 0.95-acre Parcel adjacent to Ray Lake Forest Preserve in Fremont Township to Steven Price for approximately \$19,900.00, to divest the District of property encumbered by a driveway easement obtained in the recent acquisition of the Honey G. Farms, Inc. property. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call plus Commissioner Frank), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 17, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6278**

11.8 Resolution to Sell 2.0-acre Parcel Adjacent to Ray Lake Forest Preserve

Motion by Commissioner Frank, second by Commissioner Schlick approve a Resolution to Sell an approximately 0.95-acre Parcel adjacent to Ray Lake Forest Preserve in Fremont Township to Steven Price for approximately \$19,900.00, to divest the District of property encumbered by a driveway easement obtained in the recent acquisition of the Honey G. Farms, Inc. property. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call plus Commissioner Frank), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 17, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6279**

12.0 Petitions and Correspondence - None

13.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

14.0 Closed Session – None

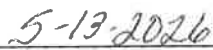
15.0 Potential Action following Closed Session - None

16.0 Adjournment – With no further business before the Board, President Vealitzek adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Julie Gragnani, Board Secretary



Date Approved

ROLL CALL

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF LAKE)

REGULAR APRIL 15 SESSION, 2026

ROLL CALL		COMMISSIONERS	QUESTIONS																	
			Consent Agenda 9.1-9.2		11.1 Cary Overs		11.2 Policy 48		11.3 Software		11.4 Beelow License		11.5 Jerry Bros. License		11.6 TREE CONTRACTS		11.7 + 11.8 Land Sales		✕	
P	A		Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay
1	✓	Altenberg, Marah	✓																	
2	✓	Campos, Esiah	✓																	
3	✓	Casbon, Carissa	✓																	
4	✓	Clark, Jennifer	✓																	
5		Cunningham, Mary Ross ²																		
6	✓	Danforth, Michael	✓																	
7		Frank, Paul																		
8		Hart, Sandra	✓																	
9		Hewitt, Diane ²	✓																	
10	✓	Hunter, J. Kevin	✓																	
11	✓	Knizhnik, Sara Frederick	✓																	
12	✓	Kyle, Angelo	✓																	
13	✓	Maine, Ann	✓																	
14	✓	Parekh, Paras ²	✓																	
15	✓	Pedersen, Linda	✓																	
16	✓	Roberts, Gina	✓																	
17	✓	Schlick, Adam	✓																	
18	✓	Vealitzek, Jessica	✓																	
19		Wasik, John																		
14		TOTALS	160	0	160	0	160	0	160	0	160	0	160	0	160	0	170	0		
Notes:			LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE PLUS FRANK			

HART @ 9:04 (15)

HEWITT @ 9:15 Zoom (16)

FRANK @ 9:32 (17)