

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – May 4, 2026**

The Planning Committee met on Monday, May 4, 2026, at the Lake County Forest Preserve District General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to order – With a quorum present, Chair Paul Frank called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and six committee members responded: Chair Frank, Vice Chair Jennifer Clark, Carissa Casbon, Linda Pedersen, Gina Roberts, John Wasik.
Absent: Mike Danforth

Also Present:

Jessica Vealitzek, President	Alyssa Firkus	Mike Bonn
Alex Ty Kovach	Dan Stearns	Julie Gragnani
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel	Mary Kann	Kim Mikus Croke
Ken Jones	Rebekah Snyder	Kevin Galindo
John Nelson	Ron Davis	Debbie Boness
Pati Vitt	Michael Haug	Paula Ali

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Member Wasik led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approve Minutes – Motion by Roberts, second by Clark to approve the minutes of April 6, 2026. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Public Comment (non-agenda matters) – Vicky Deutsch, Wadsworth – requested the culverts on the Des Plaines River Trail by her property be raised to alleviate flooding on her property.

7.0 Executive Director’s Report

- A deceased person discovered at Fort Sheridan remains unidentified. Police Chief Ron Davis made additional comments and responded to questions.
- Waukegan Port District (WPD) sent the District a letter requesting that the District concur with the findings of de minimis impact to Waukegan Savanna in their environmental analysis for the Airport runway project. The District has questions that still need to be answered. WPD is meeting on May 20, 2026 and will have a presentation on the airport runway safety project with a question and answer period.

8.0 Correspondence – None

9.0 Unfinished Business - None

10.0 New Business

10.1 For Information Only - Lake County Public Works (LCPW) Easement Request at Cahokia Flatwoods – Land Preservation Director Ken Jones provided the committee with additional information on this project that they requested at the policy direction discussion in February 2026. The committee had asked about timing of the project – how long it would take and when it would start. Staff reached out to LCPW and they said they hope the construction bids will be approved at the November 2026 County

Board meeting. The District needs to approve the plans first, however, they have not been received by the District as of yet. LCPW estimates that the project will take 120 days with the trail needing to be closed for 75 days.

10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution to purchase an approximately 0.85-acre parcel as an addition to Grant Woods Forest Preserve (Don Woodville property) for \$37,500.00 – Motion by Casbon, second by Roberts to approve the recommendation. Director Jones summarized the property and noted that closing has taken place on the adjacent Woodville parcel to the north. Once closing has taken place on this parcel, the major cleanup will begin on both parcels. An environmental assessment will be done on this property after it's under contract. Mr. Jones responded to questions and added that the north property had motor oils that the owner paid to have removed. He also explained an existing \$28,800 lien on the property. The County will work with the District to attempt to release the lien since the District will be cleaning up the property, but there is no guarantee. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.


11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

12.0 Closed Session – Motion by Casbon, second by Roberts to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing approved closed session minutes for release or retention and deletion of verbatim recordings; and discussing the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 6, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 9:18 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:05 a.m.

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment – Chair Frank noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.; and will be a joint meeting with the Finance and Operations Committees. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Gagnani
Committee Secretary

Date Approved: 6-1-2026