

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – May 5, 2025**

The Planning Committee met on Monday, May 5, 2025, 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 9:01 a.m. and confirmed remote attendance via Zoom for Gina Roberts.

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

Also Present:

Jessica Vealitzek, President
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel
Alex Ty Kovach
John Nelson
Ken Jones
Kevin Kleinjan
Pati Vitt

Steve Neaman
Dan Stearns
Rebekah Snyder
Mary Kann
Ron Davis
Alyssa Firkus

Julie Gragnani
Mike Bonn
Debbie Boness
Natalie Kahn
Paula Ali
Kim Mikus Croke

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 member Wasik, second by member Casbon to approve the open and closed session minutes of March 31, 2025. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Public Comment (non-agenda matters) – None

7.0 Correspondence – None

8.0 Unfinished Business - None

9.0 New Business

9.1 Recommend approval of an Ordinance approving a License Agreement with HGS, LLC, for the Development and Operation of a Wetland Mitigation Bank at Ray Lake Forest Preserve - Motion by member Wasik, second by member Casbon to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach introduced the recommendation and Natural Resources Director Pati Vitt provided a background and reviewed the concept plan for the project. Included is the re-meandering and restoration of a portion of Manitou Creek, and replacement and re-routing of the storm sewer pipe with the least amount of impact while optimizing maximum mitigation credits. The project will also include streambank mitigation credits. She reviewed the funding for the storm sewer, which will depend on whether SMC decides to fund the storm sewer. 154 acres of upland will be restored as a buffer to the wetlands in lieu of the licensee fee unless SMC funding comes through, in which case the District would do the storm sewer with the SMC funding and HGS will pay the license fee. Director Vitt responded to questions, adding that the US Army Corps of Engineers has oversight and will sign off on the project.

Public comment was given by Grant Benjamin, representing the Manitou Creek Watershed Alliance, speaking in favor of the project. A general discussion ensued and with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee.


11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

12.0 Closed Session – Motion by member Casbon, second by member Clark to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 5, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 9:27 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:21 a.m.

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment – Chair Frank noted that the next meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. and adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Gragnani
Committee Secretary

Date Approved: 6-2-2025