

**Lake County Forest Preserves
Finance Committee Minutes – May 7, 2026**

On Thursday, May 7 2026, the Lake County Forest Preserve District’s Finance Committee met at the District’s General Offices in Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to Order – Chair Gina Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. President Vealitzek was present in the room to establish a physical quorum. Chair Roberts confirmed electronic attendance for member Diane Hewitt due to personal illness.

2.0 Roll Call –Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll. Present: Chair Gina Roberts, Vice chair Maine, Diane Hewitt (on Zoom), Linda Pedersen, President Vealitzek. Absent: Marah Altenberg, Sandy Hart, Angelo Kyle.

Also Present:

Alex Kovach, Executive Director	Alyssa Firkus	Julie Gragnani
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel	Dan Stearns	Jeanna Martinucci
John Nelson	Ken Jones	Debbie Boness
Mary Kann	Pati Vitt	Sandy Meyers
Steve Neaman	Ron Davis	Mike Bonn
Rebekah Snyder	Laurel Diver	

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Linda Pedersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by Maine, second by Pedersen to approve the open and closed session minutes of April 9, 2026. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Public Comment for items not on agenda – None

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 project with a question and answer period.
- Administration Director Mary Kann gave a background on the history and functions of the District’s risk pool, the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) and what all coverages and services they provide to the District.

8.0 Correspondence – None

9.0 Unfinished Business - None

10.0 New Business:

10.1 Invoices and Requisitions - Motion by Pedersen, seconded by Maine to approve the legal bill for February 2026. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the invoice was passed for signatures.

10.2 Approve a motion to (i) release certain Finance Committee closed session minutes, (ii) retain as confidential all other Committee closed session minutes not previously released, and (iii) delete verbatim recordings of closed sessions of meetings, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as provided in Exhibit 1 to staff memo dated May 7, 2026 – Motion by Maine, second by Pedersen to (i) approve full release of the August 28, 2025 Committee closed session minutes, as provided in Exhibit 1, and find that such minutes no longer require confidential treatment, (ii) retain as confidential all other Committee closed session minutes, or portions thereof, not previously released, and find that the need for confidentiality still exists as to such minutes or portions thereof, (iii) delete the verbatim recordings of Committee closed sessions as provided in Exhibit 1, and (iv) retain the verbatim recordings of Committee closed sessions as provided in Exhibit 1, and find that the need for confidentiality still exists as to such recordings, all in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and the District’s Policy on Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Records. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for Native Seed Purchases for Multiple Preserves to Agrecol LLC in the Contract Price of \$103,818.22; to Genesis Nursery, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$551,728.35; to Prairie Moon Nursery in the Contract Price of \$1,133,828.89; to RES Great Lakes in the Contract Price of \$208,252.88; to Shooting Star Native Seeds in the Contract Price of \$161,380.52; and to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$400,170.73 - Motion by Pedersen, second by Maine to approve the recommendation. Natural Resource Director Pati Vitt gave an overview of the decision to solicit five-year contracts, noting that the multiple year approach attracted more bidders by allowing a longer lead time for vendors to be able to develop a plan to provide certain species that were not bid on before with only a one-year window. Director Vitt responded to questions and with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving a Traveling Exhibition Agreement with Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh for rental of a special exhibition: I Am Wild: A Charley Harper Exhibit - Motion by Maine, second by Pedersen to approve the recommendation. Education Director Alyssa Firkus gave a summary of the exhibition, which will be at the museum for 3 months starting in October 2027. She noted that there will be an additional entrance fee and it will be set up in the traveling exhibit space. Member Maine suggested having a family entrance fee for larger families. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving Change Order No. 2 to the Contract with Dreamworks Graphic Communicatios, LLC for printing and distribution of eight additional issues of Horizons quarterly newlsetter in the amount of \$226,320.00 - Motion by Pedersen, second by Maine to approve the recommendation. Community Engagement & Partnerships Director Rebekah Snyder summarized the content of the change order, noting that the last 3 times the newsletter went out for bids Dreamworks has been the successful bidder. Change orders have been done with past contracts. Dreamworks will hold their labor costs for these additional issues, with a 12% increase in commodities costs for paper, ink, and printing plates. Staff felt these increases are reasonable given the current economic environment. Director Snyder responded to questions and a discussion ensued. Member Maine expressed concern over extenting the contract; Attorney Norton noted that because this is not a public works contract, he was comfortable with the District issuing this change order. Ms. Snyder added that it is the intent to go out for bid again at the end of these eight additional issues. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed with member Maine voting No. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

12.0 Closed Session – Member Hewitt disconnected from Zoom. Motion by Pedersen, second by Maine to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 4 (Pedersen, Maine, Roberts, Vealitzek); NAY: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:40 p.m. and returned to open session at 1:48 p.m.

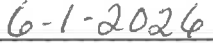
13.0 Potential Action Following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment - Chair Roberts declared the meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Gragnani, Committee Secretary



Date approved