BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT – REGULAR JUNE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at the District General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to Order – With a quorum present, President Jessica Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and confirmed electronic attendance due to employment for Commissioner Adam Schlick.

2.0 Roll Call of Commissioners – Board Secretary Gragnani called the roll and 16 Commissioners responded present: Altenberg, Casbon, Clark, Danforth, Frank, Hewitt, Hunter, Knizhnik, Kyle, Maine, Parekh, Pedersen, Roberts, Schlick, Vealitzek, Wasik. Commissioners Campos and Hart arrived after roll call at 9:05 a.m. Absent: Cunningham

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

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

5.0 Addenda to Agenda – None

6.0 Public Comment (for item not on agenda) - Public comment was given by the following:

Mike Wendricks, Antioch (State Line Honey) – against Dutch Gap restoration
Rolf Wagner, Antioch – against removal of drain tiles at Dutch Gap
Matt Dinelli, Antioch – against Dutch Gap restoration and use of toxins
Christine Pahnke, Antioch – against Dutch Gap restoration
Joel Elfering, Antioch – against Dutch Gap restoration
Kelly Elfering, Antioch – against Dutch Gap restoration
Deborah & Carlos Nieto – against drain tile removal at Dutch Gap

7.0 President's Report, Special Recognition and Committee Appointments

- Proclamation recognizing Manual Marinez Andrade for 30 years of employment;
- NACPRO Outstanding Volunteer Contributor Award presented to Dale Shields;
- Ken Jones, Director of Land Preservation received NACPRO Professional Fellow Award;
- Participated in the Lake County Independence Academy's Graduation session;
- Attended Waukegan Airport Board meeting on May 20 with Commissioners;
- Two grants awarded at the Preservation Foundation's May Board meeting;
- July outdoor Committee of the Whole will be held at the Operations & Public Safety Facility in Lake Villa on July 15, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

8.0 Executive Director's Report:

- Introduction of new staff: Brian Dickson, Landscape Architect; Riley Pirtle, Intern
- Golf had best-ever May with revenues in excess of $1.13 million with no fee increases;
- Ducks Unlimited grant will benefit the District to support a portion of the Ray Lake CIP project;
- $150,000 grant from US EPA to support invasive species strike team's work in Lake Plain;
- Development the Foundation hosted three donor events in May;
- Forest Bathing walks began in May and donations received will support the endowment;
- Grant-funded effort to stabilize the exterior of the Stevenson Historic Home is complete;
- 2025 Preservation Foundation Annual Report was published this month;
- Spring promotion of the Beer Garden at Independence Grove; reached $1 million in total sales;
- New bee species identified at Spring Bluff, named Andrew's Cellophane Bee;
- Native Plant Sale was the highest-earning ever with over 14,000 plants sold;
- The spotted sandpiper was observed nesting near the new aquatic nursery at Rollins Savanna;
- Natural Resources has increased their number of volunteer workdays;

- Brews & Views held on May 29t at Independence Grove, over 1,200 people attended;
- Concerts in the Plaza began on June 9 attended by nearly 900 people;
- Museum staff partnered with Grayslake Central High School on local history research project;
- Gateway Grants program has been relaunched and is now called Beyond the Classroom;
- Chicago River Day was hosted in some of our preserves in May;
- The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence will be observed with a new exhibition at the Dunn Museum; and a webpage is now live listing District events for the 250th;
- Summer issue of Horizons is online and will be arriving in mailboxes soon;
- Daily Herald Wedding Guide features a full-page ad and advertorial about Independence Grove, Greenbelt Cultural Center and the Lodge at ThunderHawk Golf Club venues;
- 56 Quills: American Pils limited edition beer on tap at the Beer Garden commemorating America's 250th anniversary.

Commissioner Hart left the room at 9:40 a.m. during the Executive Director Report.

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 New Business - Consent Agenda - Motion by Commissioner Pedersen, seconded by Commissioner Danforth to approve the Consent Agenda, items 10.1 and 10.2:

10.1 Approval of Minutes: May 13, 2026

10.2 Approve a Resolution Awarding a One-Year Contract for Recreation Management Software to RecTrac LLC dba Vermont Systems, in the Contract Price of $33,190.00. **EXH. NO. 6286**

With a roll call vote being had, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed by a vote of: **AYES: 17, NAYS: 0**

Commissioner Hart returned to the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

11.0 New Business – Report of Standing and Special Committees:

11.1 **Resolution Regarding De Minimis Impact on Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve**
Motion by Commissioner Frank, second by Commissioner Casbon to approve a Resolution Finding that Use of Property at Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve for Airport Runway Purposes will have De Minimis Impact on Waukegan Savanna. Executive Director Kovach provided a summary and President Vealitzek invited Commissioner comments and discussion. The President then called for public comment, which was given by the following:

Kiera Lane, Lake Zurich (Clean Power Lake County) – against
Douglas Ower, Zion – against
Diane Ower, Zion – against
Chris Geiselhart, Libertyville (Lake County Audubon) – against
Susan Zingle, Wadsworth – against
Mary Matthews – against
Maria Gaytan-Martinez, Waukegan – against
Brian Palka – in support of
Kathie Hayden, Wadsworth – against
Kevin Considine, Lincolnshire (Lake County Partners) – in support of
Isaiah Gauwitz, Grayslake – against
Tom Tryckta, Wadsworth (Newport Dems) – against
Michael Lazzaretto, Highland Park (union rep) – in support of

Commissioner Schlick disconnected from the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

President Vealitzek invited further comments from Commissioners and a discussion ensued. During discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Hewitt to postpone the Resolution for three months, to the September Board meeting. Roll call vote being had, the motion failed by a vote of: **AYES: 2, NAYS: 15**. Motion by Commissioner Danforth to call the question. President Vealiztek requested to comment and then call the question, and there were no objections. Following her comments, the motion by Commissioner Danforth to call the question was withdrawn and the President asked for a vote on the main motion to approve. With a roll call vote being had, the motion to approve the Resolution passed by a vote of: **AYES: 14, NAYS: 3. EXHIBIT NO. 6287**

Commissioners Danforth, Kyle, and Maine left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

11.2 **Resolution Adopting Annual Budget Policies for Budget Year 2027**
Motion by Commissioner Roberts, second by Commissioner Hart to approve a Resolution Adopting the Annual Budget Policies for Fiscal Year 2027. With a roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 14, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6288**

11.3 **Resolution Approving 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2027**
Motion by Commissioner Roberts, second by Commissioner Campos to approve a Resolution Approving the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2027. With a roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 14, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6289**

11.4 **Resolution Awarding Contract for Unified Communications Services**
Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Parekh to approve a Resolution Awarding a Five-Year Contract for Unified Communications Services to RingCentral, Inc., in an amount not to exceed $138,585.60. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 14, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6290**

11.5 **Resolution Approving Branding Agreement with Tighthead Brewing Company**
Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Hunter to approve a Resolution Approving a Branding Agreement with Tighthead Brewing Company to Produce, Release, and Distribute Trailhead India Pale Ale. Commissioner Clark noted that she supports this Resolution but felt there should be a policy moving forward for entering into agreements of this type. President Vealitzek noted that the Operations Committee could discuss this at a future meeting. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 14, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6291**

12.0 Petitions and Correspondence - None

13.0 Miscellaneous Business – A brief discussion ensued regarding the restoration at Dutch Gap and the District's restoration process in general. President Vealitzek requested that talking points be sent to Commissioners on what has happened and will be happening to inform them for conversations with their constituents. Commissioner Hart suggested a discussion in the Operations Committee on what chemicals are used across the District, and a Planning Committee discussion on the process for notifying neighbors on restoration projects in their area. Commissioner Casbon added that she would like to include the removal of drain tiles in restoration discussions. Staff clarified that the funding in the CIP for Dutch Gap is primarily federal funding and the District's portion will be minimal factoring in LEERD values.

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 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Julie Gragnani
Julie Gragnani, Board Secretary

8-12-2026
Date Approved

ROLL CALL

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF LAKE)

REGULAR June 10 SESSION, 20 26

		ROLL CALL		COMMISSIONERS	QUESTIONS																				
					Consent Agenda		11.1 ~~11.2~~ Waukegan Airport (Motion to postpone)		11.1 Waukegan Airport		11.2 Budget Policies		11.3 CIP		11.4 Ring Central		11.5 Sight Heel 1PA							
		P	A		Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay
	1	✓		Altenberg, Marah	✓			✓	✓		✓													
0	2			Campos, Esiah @ 9:05	✓		✓		✓		✓													
	3	✓		Casbon, Carissa	✓			✓	✓		✓													
	4	✓		Clark, Jennifer	✓			✓	✓		✓													
0	5		X	Cunningham, Mary Ross																				
	6	✓		Danforth, Michael	✓			✓	✓															
	7	✓		Frank, Paul	✓			✓	✓		✓													
0	8			Hart, Sandra @ 9:05				✓	✓		✓													
	9	✓		Hewitt, Diane	✓		✓			✓	✓													
	10	✓		Hunter, J. Kevin	✓			✓	✓		✓													
	11	✓		Knizhnik, Sara Frederick	✓			✓	✓		✓													
	12	✓		Kyle, Angelo	✓			✓	✓															
	13	✓		Maine, Ann	✓			✓		✓														
	14	✓		Parekh, Paras	✓			✓	✓		✓													
	15	✓		Pedersen, Linda	✓			✓	✓		✓													
	16	✓		Roberts, Gina	✓			✓	✓		✓													
	17	✓		Schlick, Adam Zoom	✓																			
	18	✓		Vealitzek, Jessica	✓			✓	✓		✓													
	19	✓		Wasik, John	✓			✓		✓	✓													
		18		**TOTALS**	17	0	2	15	14	3	14	0	14	0	14	0	14	0						
		16		Notes:			Motion failed						LEAVE		LEAVE		LEAVE							

Hart @ 9:05
Campos @ 9:05 18

Schlick out (Zoom) 10:55 am.