

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES – July 20, 2021**

On Tuesday, July 20, 2021, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the June 25, 2021 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Orders No. 2021-147, and the Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President attached to the Agenda, a Committee of the Whole met via Audio and Video conference and at the District’s General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to order-** President Angelo Kyle called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2.0 Roll call-** Secretary Shelton called the roll; 14 Commissioners responded: Altenberg, Clark, Cunningham, Danforth, Durkin, Hewitt, Kyle, Maine, Parekh, Roberts, Sbarra, Simpson, Vealitzek, Wasik. Commissioner Frank joined the meeting at 10:07 a.m. after Agenda Item 5.0. Absent: Barr, Casbon, Hart, Hunter, Pedersen, Wilke.

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Commissioner Sbarra led the pledge of allegiance.

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** - None

**5.0 Approve Minutes from April 5, 2021** - Motion by member Cunningham, second by member Clark to approve the Minutes of April 5, 2021. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 14, NAYS: 0.

**6.0 Public Comment-** None

**7.0 Correspondence** – None

**8.0 Unfinished Business-** None

**9.0 New Business**

**9.1 Waukegan Airport Presentation** – President Kyle turned the meeting over to Executive Director Ty Kovach. Mr. Kovach explained that a presentation would be given by Craig Loudon, Project Manager at Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, and Kevin Considine, President & CEO of Lake County Partners, regarding the Waukegan National Airport’s Replacement Runway Program. Skip Goss, General Manager of the Airport introduced Craig Loudon and Kevin Considine. Craig Loudon explained the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. Considine explained that the airport has been around since the 1940’s and operated by the Waukegan Port District (WPD) since 1956, with 42,000 take offs or landings annually. There are 20 planes based at Waukegan National Airport, and it is designated as a national reliever airport. He noted that the airport is used for business, military, government, flight schools, pilot training, and medical/emergency services. He discussed the economic impact the airport has on the community, noting that the 2018 annual economic direct and indirect output was \$157 million and there are 723 indirect employees with 153 employees at the airport. Companies based out of Waukegan Airport employ more than 23,000 Lake County residents.

Mr. Loudon explained that airport users met with the FAA in 2020 and expressed support of the Replacement Runway Program. The users indicated their intent to be part of a public/private partnership for the Runway Program and participate in the Waukegan Port Investment Task Force. He noted that the Runway Program is a required safety enhancement and standards compliance project; that the existing runway is at the end of its useful life; FAA regulations and safety standards have changed over time; the existing airfield no longer meets minimum FAA safety standards, and the FAA requires compliance with safety standards. In addition, he described the two replacement runway alternatives that were considered. Alternative 1 would bring the existing runway into compliance but would close the airport for about three

years during construction. Alternative 2 would be to build a new runway parallel to the existing runway; allowing the airport to remain operational during construction. Alternative 2 has been chosen for implementation. He presented a map showing the new runway, with Green Bay Road passing under the it. Ninety-three properties would need to be acquired for this project, including land owned by the District. The overall Program Cost is expected to be \$143M, with funding to come from Federal/State/Local Cost Sharing with public/private partnership, and an \$25M appropriation from the Rebuild Illinois Capital Bill. IDOT will fund the Green Bay Road improvements. The FAA funding negotiations and \$25M State appropriation cannot be accessed until the Environmental Assessment (EA) is complete. He discussed the Environmental Assessment process and considerations, provided a project status, and noted that the LOI is the next step; the FAA requires execution of the LOI for the EA to progress.

Mr. Louden and Mr. Considine responded to questions from the commissioners, and Commissioners provided comments.

Executive Director Kovach detailed the history of the original LOI with the Waukegan Port District, which was approved by the District's Board at its April 11, 2017 meeting. The original LOI provided for the outright sale of 38.7 acres and perpetual easement rights over approximately 45.45 additional acres. The LOI provided that the WPD and District would participate in good faith negotiations towards an IGA for a period of not less than 180 days following the LOI's approval. Though either party could unilaterally terminate the LOI following the 180 days, it has never been terminated. On June 26, 2017, at WPD's request, the Planning Committee gave policy direction approving replacing the approximately 45.45 acres of easement rights with approximately 13.6 acres of fee simple ownership, changing the request of total land rights to 52.3 acres of fee simple ownership with no permanent easements. In 2019, the Planning Committee gave policy direction regarding a request from WPD to approve a formal extension and agreed to extend the time to 150 days from the completion of the EA for negotiation and completion of an IGA. Mr. Kovach noted that there have been enough changes to the LOI that a new LOI would be worthwhile. The Commissioners asked additional questions.

President Kyle informed the committee that Waukegan Mayor Ann Taylor was not able to attend the meeting but had asked that it be made public that she is in support of the project.

Members of the public, Douglas Oher, Midwest Sustainability Group Executive Director Barbara Klipp, Robin Weller, Arnold Weller, Mary Mathews and Susan Zingle provided public comment.

#### **10.0 Miscellaneous Business:**

- Commissioner Cunningham reminded the Board of the upcoming Gospel Fest that will be both virtual and in-person at the Greenbelt Cultural Center.
- Commissioner Sbarra thanked Jim Anderson for his support at the Village of Deer Park meeting.
- Member Durkin asked Skip Goss to provide information on the upcoming airport airshow on Saturday, September 11.

#### **11.0 Adjournment** - President Kyle declared the meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Maureen E. Shelton  
Assistant Board Secretary

Date Approved: December 6, 2021

Start: 10:00 am  
 adjourn: 12:04 pm

# ROLL CALL

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
 LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

*SPECIAL*

STATE OF ILLINOIS)  
 COUNTY OF LAKE)

*COMMITTEE OF THE* SESSION, 20*21*  
*Whole*

ROLL CALL		COMMISSIONERS	QUESTIONS																			
P	A		5.0 minutes																			
			Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay		
1	✓	Altenberg, Marah	✓																			
2		Barr, Dick																				
3		Casbon, Carissa																				
4	✓	Clark, Jennifer	✓																			
5	✓	Cunningham, Mary Ross	✓																			
6	✓	Danforth, Michael	✓																			
7	✓	Durkin, Bill	✓																			
8	✓	Frank, Paul <i>10:07am</i>																				
9		Hart, Sandra																				
10	✓	Hewitt, Diane	✓																			
11		Hunter, J. Kevin																				
12	✓	Kyle, Angelo	✓																			
13	✓	Maine, Ann	✓																			
14	✓	Parekh, Paras	✓																			
15		Pedersen, Linda																				
16	✓	Roberts, Gina	✓																			
17	✓	Sbarra, Catherine	✓																			
18	✓	Simpson, Julie	✓																			
19	✓	Vealitzek, Jessica	✓																			
20	✓	Wasik, John	✓																			
21		Wilke, Terry																				
14 7		<b>TOTALS</b>	14	0																		
Notes:																						

*Present at Roll Call*