

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT – REGULAR AUGUST MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 2026**

The Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Wednesday, August 12, 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 14 Commissioners responded present: Altenberg, Casbon, Clark, Danforth, Frank, Hart, Hewitt, Knizhnik, Parekh, Pedersen, Roberts, Schlick (on Zoom), Vealitzek, and Wasik. Absent: Campos, Ewing, Hunter, Kyle, Maine.

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

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

5.0 Addenda to Agenda – None

6.0 Public Comment (for item not on agenda) - None

7.0 President's Report, Special Recognition and Committee Appointments

- Proclamation honoring Commissioner Dr. Mary Ross Cunningham – presented to her son, Waukegan Mayor Sam Cunningham. **EXH. NO. 6292**
- Announced that Brandon X. Ewing, District 9 was sworn in at the County on August 11, 2026

Appointments:

- Appointed Brandon Ewing to serve on the Operations Committee, Rules Committee, and Diversity & Cultural Awareness Committee;
- Appointed Esiah Campos as Chair, and Marah Altenberg as Vice Chair, of the Diversity & Cultural Awareness Committee;
- Appointed Jennifer Clark as Vice Chair of the Rules Committee.

With a voice vote being had, the appointments were unanimously approved by the Board.

8.0 Executive Director's Report:

- Introduction of new staff: Director Rebekah Snyder introduced the new Executive Director of the Preservation Foundation, Ryan Brandt. Director Ken Jones introduced Angie Sifuentes as the new Executive Assistant of the Land Preservation Department.
- Preservation Foundation donor update;
- Grant from Oberweiler Foundation to support Community Engagement programs;
- Taxidermy donations received from Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab & Education;
- Acquisition of 13.5 acres at Lakewood; closing on August 4;
- Deerfield Road widening project update on temporary easement for bridge and road improvements;
- Gospelfest on July 26; Concerts in the Plaza concluded its season, attended by nearly 15,000;
- Education programs held connected to the 250 Years: Nature & Community exhibit;
- Hike Lake County begins August 15; Summer Adventures has wrapped up for the season;
- Positive comment regarding the President's Message in the summer Horizons magazine;
- The Community Engagement & Partnerships department are finalists for three awards through the Public Relations Society of America.

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 New Business - Consent Agenda - Motion by Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Altenberg to approve the Consent Agenda, items 10.1 through 10.4:

10.1 Approval of Minutes: June 10, 2026

10.2 Approve Resolution Awarding Contract to Purchase a new Articulating Boom Lift with Trailer to Alexander Equipment Company, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$112,172.00.

EXHIBIT No. 6293

10.3 Approve Resolution Awarding Contract for Pavement Maintenance at Multiple Forest Preserves to Chicagoland Paving Contractors, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$170,000.00.

EXHIBIT No. 6294

10.4 Approve Resolution Awarding Contract for Professional Services for Wetland Restoration Project at Grassy Lake Forest Preserve to Hey and Associates Inc., in the Contract Price of \$54,000.00. **EXHIBIT No. 6295**

With a roll call vote being had, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed by a vote of:
AYES: 14, NAYS: 0

11.0 New Business – Report of Standing and Special Committees:

11.1 Ordinance Approving Issuance of not to exceed \$35,000,000 General Obligation Bonds

Motion by Commissioner Roberts, second by Commissioner Frank to approve an Ordinance providing for the issue of not to exceed \$35,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026, of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois, for the purpose of paying the costs of those capital projects set forth in the ballot proposition approved by the voters of the District at the November 5, 2024 general election, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof. With a roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 14, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6296**

11.2 Resolution Approving Five-Year Objectives for the District's Strategic Plan

Motion by Commissioner Roberts, second by Commissioner Hart to approve a Resolution Approving Five-Year Objectives for the Lake County Forest Preserve District's Strategic Plan (2026-2030). With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. **EXHIBIT No. 6297**

11.3 Resolution Awarding License Agreement for MUNIS Financial Software

Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Parekh to approve a Resolution Awarding an Annual Support and License Agreement for MUNIS Financial Software to Tyler Technologies, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$155,552.90. 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. 6298**

11.4 Resolution Awarding Contract to Purchase Three New Fleet Vehicles

Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Wasik to approve a Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Purchase of Three New Fleet Vehicles to ILF1, LLC d/b/a Elmhurst Ford, in the Contract Price of \$336,215.00. 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. 6299**

11.5 Ordinance Establishing Fees for District Permits, Programs, Services and Facilities

Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Frank to approve an Ordinance Establishing Fees and Charges for District Permits, Programs, Services and Facilities (Annual Fee

Ordinance). During the presentation, motion by Vice Chair Roberts, second by Commissioner Casbon to restore the senior program fees in Community Group Programs, Page 4 Item (7)(G); and Picnic Site Permits, Page 10 Item (1)(F). A discussion ensued. Motion by Commissioner Hart, second by Commissioner Danforth to amend the amendment to say "Lake County Organizations" instead of "Senior Group Programs" on Page 4 Item (7)(G) to include other groups, not just Seniors, and a discussion ensued. On Vice Chair Roberts' motion to amend, with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. Commissioners Hart and Danforth withdrew their motion to amend the amendment.

Motion by Commissioner Hart, second by Commissioner Danforth to revise the language on Page 3, (6) General Public Services (B) to say "The Executive Director is authorized to approve offering a limited number of these programs each season at no or reduced charge to participants. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

On the original motion to approve – as amended - 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. 6300**

11.6 Ordinance Adopting a Social Media Policy

Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Parekh to Approve an Ordinance Adopting a Social Media Policy. 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. 6301**

11.7 Resolution Approving Amended Agreement with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Motion by Commissioner Frank, second by Commissioner Clark to approve a Resolution Approving an Amended Project Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Restoration of Dutch Gap Forest Preserve. 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. 6302**

12.0 Petitions and Correspondence - None

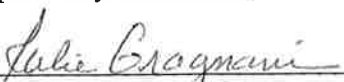
13.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

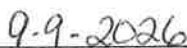
14.0 Closed Session – None

15.0 Potential Action following Closed Session - None

16.0 Adjournment – With no further business before the Board, President Vealitzek adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Julie Gragnani, Board Secretary


Date Approved

ROLL CALL

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF LAKE)

REGULAR AUGUST 12

SESSION, 20 26

ROLL CALL			COMMISSIONERS	QUESTIONS																		
P	A	10.1-10.4		11.1		11.3		11.4		11.5		11.6		11.7								
		Consent Agenda		Bond Ord.	munis		Vehicles		FEE & AORD AMENDED		social media Policy		Amend. PPA									
			Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay
1	✓		✓		✓																	
2		X																				
3	✓		✓		✓																	
4	✓		✓		✓																	
5	✓		✓		✓																	
6		X																				
7	✓		✓		✓																	
8	✓		✓		✓																	
9	✓		✓		✓																	
10		X																				
11	✓		✓		✓																	
12		X																				
13		X																				
14	✓		✓		✓																	
15	✓		✓		✓																	
16	✓		✓		✓																	
17	✓		✓		✓																	
18	✓		✓		✓																	
19	✓		✓		✓																	
14			TOTALS		14	0	14	0	14	0	14	0	14	0	14	0	14	0				
Notes:							LEAVE		LEAVE		LEAVE		LEAVE		LEAVE							