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FOREST PRESERVE UTILIZATION COMMITTEE

October 30, 2003

The Forest Preserve Utilization Committee meeting was held 9:35 a.m., Thursday, October 30, 2003, in the Conference Room, Building G, 719 Batavia Avenue, Geneva, Illinois.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Carlson, President Hoscheit, Commissioners Barrett, Cameron, Greviskes (late), Griffin, Scalfaro, VanOvermeiren, Walter, Wojnicki, and Wolfe.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

Also, Present: Executive Director Duerr, Director of Finance Quinlan, Director of Community Affairs Fauske, Director of Operations Holan, Director of Planning Ullberg, Commissioner Allan, McElroy & Clusen of McElroy Associates, and Citizens of Kane County.

**MINUTES:** Chairman Carlson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2003, Utilization Committee Meeting.

-Motion by Scalfaro, seconded by Wolfe, to approve the minutes; motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** At this time Chairman Carlson called upon Mr. Richard Hirschberg. Hirschberg addressed the Committee and stated that he was doing a feasibility study on organic farming in Kane County and plans to return next year to report on his findings to this Committee.

**BIDS AND PROPOSALS:**

**Presentation of Bids for Tree Removal at Big Rock, Campton, and Schweitzer Forest Preserves.** Ullberg informed the Committee that information was sent to twenty vendors and advertised. We have received six back. Out of the six we recommend Homer Tree Service of Lockport. They were not the low bid for one part of the bid, but we are still checking references.

-Motion by Wolfe, seconded by Walter, to present to the Executive Committee for approval; motion carried.

**Presentation of Bids for Tree Removal at Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve.** Ullberg reported the work is grant funded. We sent out information to twenty vendors and advertised. Four responded. We recommend the low bidder, Homer Tree Service of Lockport, Illinois.

-Motion by Wojnicki, seconded, by Wolfe, to present to the Executive Committee for approval; motion carried.

**Presentation of Bids for RC 100/FECON Brush Cutter.** Ullberg stated to the Committee that we have been interested in this cutter for a long time. We sent information to fifteen vendors and advertised; two responded. We recommend the low bidder, Portable Tool of McHenry, Illinois; they far exceeded the specifications.

-Motion by Griffin, seconded by Cameron, to present to the Executive Committee for approval; motion carried.

**Presentation of Bids for Prairie Restoration Seed.** Quinlan reported that we are required to go out for bid for prairie seed. Out of all these vendors we recommended the low bidder on each category of prairie seeds.

-Motion by Hoscheit, seconded by Walter, to present to the Executive Committee for approval; motion carried.

**Request Permission to seek Bids for Field Drain Tile Mapping and Removal-Multiple Sites.** Ullberg addressed the Committee and relayed that we have grant monies for the Meissner and Corron properties. We have grant monies from Fish and Wildlife for restoration of wetlands in these areas. He stated that he is requesting permission to seek bids.

-Motion by Wojnicki, seconded by Wolfe, to seek bids for field drain tile mapping and removal; motion carried.

**Change Order/Stadium.** Holan addressed the Committee and stated that Martam Construction is doing the work at the stadium. They have found out that the sewer line is buried deeper than anticipated and are requesting a change order for additional costs of additional work that has to be done. Hoscheit stated that we should have the original bid abstract on this work.

-Motion by Wolfe and seconded by Wojnicki, to seek permission for a change order from the Executive Committee; motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS.**

**Discussion - Teeple Barn.** Duerr addressed the Committee and stated that an organization is attempting to preserve this barn and they want the District to assume ownership of the four acres and the barn. Duerr went on to discuss the rationale of this plan. Discussion occurred with Greviskes and Wolfe stating that it would be a great deal of money to maintain and keep up this structure. Hoscheit stated that we should have an expert, Mark VanKerkhoff, give us an opinion on the details on the cost and maintenance of this structure. He also stated that we should ask for a report on the condition of the barn before we decide which way to go. VanOvermeiren stated that she has to agree with Commissioner Greviskes on the high cost of maintenance and having to continuously put money into this structure. Hoscheit stated that he wanted a consensus on this. Commissioners Greviskes and VanOvermeiren declined to be included in the consensus.

**Presentation on Shoemaker Forest Preserve.** Duerr stated to the Committee that he would like to reintroduce Joe McElroy and Paul Clusen of McElroy Associates with their study of the Shoemaker Forest Preserve to the Committee. Mr. McElroy stated that the Shoemaker Forest Preserve poses many different challenges. It is a rural forest preserve, of 148 acres, in an urban area. McElroy stated they are seeking to make improvements to access its newer properties. Clusen discussed the issue of Felton Road running through District property and closing the road totally, the illegal dumping and adjacent development. Clusen presented recommendations along the way to the Committee. Discussion occurred with Carlson suggesting that this be set over for thirty days and brought back to this Committee. Walter asked if we can get copies of maps of this area. Greviskes stated we need more information from the City of

Aurora. Carlson directed the staff to start discussion with the City of Aurora for further information and this subject will set over for thirty days.

**Request - Mr. Oury for use of Nyman Property.** Duerr addressed the Committee about the Oury property. Mr. Oury is asking permission to farm and use certain buildings on the Nyman property. Duerr stated that we plan to demolish some of these barns on the site. Duerr asked the Committee for direction on this request. Hoscheit stated that we should hold off until we get a building analysis on what needs to be taken down. Wojnicki stated that she feels that this is a positive thing. Scalfaro agreed that we should let him use the barns. Holan told the Committee that we only have so much money for the upkeep of these buildings. Hoscheit stated the farming is not a problem but the buildings are another matter. VanOvermeiren stated why not let him use the best of the barns for his storage.

-Motion by VanOvermeiren, and seconded by Wojnicki, to let Mr. Oury use the one stable barn for his storage; motion passed.

**Discussion on Entry Signs.** Ullberg addressed the Committee and stated that he is seeking permission to go out for bids for entrance signs for more than one site; Arlene Shoemaker, Pingree Grove, Schweitzer, Sauer Family, Kenyon (new entrance), and Dick Young Forest Preserve(west side). Duerr spoke of the attractive sandblasted redwood signs, which are 4'x12'.

-Motion by Wojnicki, and seconded by VanOvermeiren, to give permission to seek bids for entrance signs; motion passed.

**November Bus Tour.** Duerr told the Committee that at the November bus tour he plans to take the Committee to the Paul Wolff Campground so they can see how it operates. Then to Burnidge, Otter Creek, and finally Fitchie Creek Forest Preserves.

Duerr spoke of Poplar Creek Forest Preserve, the meandering creek and the beauty of the site. He asked permission to seek bids for clean up of this area.

-Motion by Barrett, and seconded by Scalfaro, to seek bids for clean up of this area; motion passed.

At that time Duerr referenced the Little John Farm property adjacent to Helm Woods. Dundee Township is applying with the state to make it a State Nature Preserve and buffer to our Helm Woods Forest Preserve. Carlson asked if the staff would please inform Ms. Harney, of Dundee Township, that the District will support them in their efforts.

At that time Carlson asked Holan about the report on our inventory of existing structures on District property. Holan relayed that we have 46 residential, 38 special properties, 22 barn facilities, 28 shelters. Carlson stated that we need to have a special Committee Meeting to discuss basic policy issues on these buildings.

## **PROJECTS:**

**Thornton - Aurora West Forest Preserve**

Ullberg informed the Committee there are plans for the road realignment with the State for this area and the bridge. Duerr also informed the Committee that we were awarded a grant that is now frozen by the State.

#### **Big Rock Forest Preserve - Engineering**

Ullberg stated that Robert H. Anderson is working on the bid specs with the Army Corp. of Engineers. There will be tree trimming adjacent to the bridge crossing also.

#### **Schweitzer Property**

Duerr reported to the Committee that there has been no new action from last month's report.

#### **Fabyan Forest Preserve - Windmill - Tulip Project**

Holan reported to the Committee that Walter Daniel's company is working on the Windmill.

Duerr reported that the tulips have been delivered and planted.

Holan also reported that Lucas was here and took out more rotted wood in the windmill. He will be back in November considering the painting for the windmill. Duerr stated to the Committee that he will get definite times of his arrival to the Geneva area for the Committee.

#### **Helm Woods Forest Preserve Update**

Ullberg reported that he has found the old Master Plan of 1988 for Helm Woods. He showed the old map on Power Point Presentation. Questions of equestrian use were brought up. Ullberg stated that this is a State Nature Preserve and there should be no equestrian use on that part of the site. Barrett asked about the parking and entry for the site. Ullberg stated that we will need proposals from engineers on this matter. Carlson stated to the Committee that we want to go about doing the opening correctly.

#### **Nelson Lake Marsh Update**

Ullberg stated there has been no new update from last month's updates; he has contracted for a concept plan for Nelson Lake Marsh and it should be ready in another month.

### **REPORTS.**

#### **Report on Bus Trip to Oury and Nyman Property.**

VanOvermeiren addressed the Committee and stated how rewarding the trip was to the Oury and Nyman properties. She stated that the trip was informative and interesting as all the trips are that they have taken with Mr. Duerr.

Holan gave a quick update of the signs project. The signs are being put up now and moving along nicely.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was duly adjourned on a motion by Greviskes, and seconded by Griffin, to December \*1, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., and held at the office of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, 719 Batavia Avenue, Building G, Geneva, Illinois 60134; motion carried.

Carole Ann Koutsky  
Recording Secretary

\* Meeting change to December 8, 2003  
County Board Room, 9:30 a.m.