



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF KANE COUNTY

PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday March 24, 2016 at 9:30 AM at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. The meeting was opened by Chairman Gillam at 9:30 AM.

Members Present:

| Attendee Name | Title | Status | Arrived |
|------------------|--------------|---------|---------|
| Michael Kenyon | President | Present | |
| Rebecca Gillam | Chairman | Present | |
| Deborah Allan | Commissioner | Present | |
| Margaret Auger | Commissioner | Present | |
| Theresa Barreiro | Commissioner | Present | |
| Brian Dahl | Commissioner | Present | |
| Drew Frasz | Commissioner | Present | |
| Joseph Haimann | Commissioner | Present | |
| Kurt R. Kojzarek | Commissioner | Present | |
| Philip Lewis | Commissioner | Present | |
| Thomas Smith | Commissioner | Absent | |
| Barbara Wojnicki | Commissioner | Present | |

Others Present:

Monica Meyers, Executive Director, Ken J. Stanish, Director of Finance, Drew Ullberg, Director of Natural Resources, Jerry Culp, Director of Planning and Development, Brittany Kovach, Community Affairs Specialist, John Goreth, Director of Operations, Mike Gilloffo, Police Chief, Sara Montgomery-Porter, Ranger, Ryan Bobowiec, Sign Technician, Jerry Hodge, Attorney, Ellen Maglio, Recording Secretary

II. Approval of Minutes

III. Public Comment (Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes)

Ms. Linda Schram spoke on the ComEd power line project that is impacting her family farm. Sylvia Rogowski from ComEd answered some questions regarding the ICC's ruling. Mr. Ken Waterman spoke with regards to his situation and that he has spoken to the Illinois State's Attorney. Commissioner Wojnicki said that she would contact the State's Attorney's office as well and discuss the project with him. Attorney Hodge stated that the ICC has jurisdiction for the power line route and that the lines would not be able to go through District's properties because of grant restrictions.

IV. Bids and Proposals

A. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for the Reconstruction of the Historic Fabyan Lighthouse

The District has been working on the several projects at Fabyan including the rebuilding of the Fabyan lighthouse. Last fall, the lighthouse was removed to prepare for its restoration. The as-built drawings were completed on the existing structure and architectural drawings were developed to prepare for its restoration.

Bids documents were prepared and sent out to 32 vendors with 4 responding. The lowest qualified bidder was Schaeffges Brothers, Inc. with a bid price of \$128,900. The District has not worked with Schaeffges Brothers, Inc. before, but their references were contacted and found to be acceptable. The architect has worked with them before and provided good feedback regarding their work. Based on the results of the references, staff is comfortable recommending Schaeffges Brothers, Inc. for the Fabyan lighthouse reconstruction project.

DISCUSSION: *Chairman Gillam stated that she was happy to see the price consistencies between the bids.*

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| RESULT: | MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS] |
| TO: | FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 4/8/2016 8:30 AM |
| MOVER: | Drew Frasz, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Joseph Haimann, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Michael Kenyon, Rebecca Gillam, Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Brian Dahl, Drew Frasz, Joseph Haimann, Kurt R. Kojzarek, Philip Lewis, Barbara Wojnicki |
| ABSENT: | Thomas Smith |

B. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for the Reforestation of Portions of the Bowes Creek Woods, Fitchie Creek, and Freeman Kame Forest Preserves

Thousands of acres of land now owned by the District were woodland prior to settlement, but today lack any resemblance of their historic condition. Many sites were cleared of trees long ago to make way for agriculture and timber was harvested for railway construction, steam engine fuel, and for building construction. As part of long-term land management plans, funding has been budgeted to continue reforestation efforts at Bowes Creek Woods, Fitchie Creek and Freeman Kame Forest Preserves, with trees to be planted before June 5, 2016. For each of the projects, the respective contractor will be required to water each tree for all of 2016, apply a mulch layer at each tree the day of planting and apply deer repellent on a regular basis from May through October 2016. Trees must be guaranteed for one year after installation. The bid was advertised and sent to 15 contractors with 3 responding. The qualified low bidder for each project is as follows:

Option 1 - Bowes Creek Woods Forest Preserve: Submitted by Midwest Seedling Supply, of Meredosia, IL in the amount of \$15,480.

Option 2 - Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve: Submitted by Conservation Land Stewardship, Inc., of Elmhurst, IL in the amount of \$24,800.

Option 3 - Freeman Kame Forest Preserve: Submitted by Conservation Land Stewardship, Inc., of Elmhurst, IL in the amount of \$24,550.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Kojzarek asked how the trees were watered. Director Haberthur stated that the trees are watered using a truck reservoir. There was further discussion about the vendor and the guarantee for survivorship of the trees.*

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| RESULT: | MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS] |
| TO: | FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 4/8/2016 8:30 AM |
| MOVER: | Kurt R. Kojzarek, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Drew Frasz, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Michael Kenyon, Rebecca Gillam, Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Brian Dahl, Drew Frasz, Joseph Haimann, Kurt R. Kojzarek, Philip Lewis, Barbara Wojnicki |
| ABSENT: | Thomas Smith |

C. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for Herbicide Control of Wild Chervil at the Lone Grove, Meissner Corron and Bowes Creek Woods Forest Preserves

Projects are as follows:

Base Bid # 1 Lone Grove Forest Preserve. Chervil control in well-defined colonies at Lone Grove Forest Preserve near Kaneville, IL. Work shall consist of providing all labor, chemicals and equipment to properly mix and apply herbicide a minimum of once in the spring of 2016. The contractor is required to achieve 95% kill of all chervil within the work area. If this standard is not met after the first treatment, a second treatment will be necessary. Work shall focus upon scattered wild chervil populations measuring approximately 29 acres. Management of Chervil populations at this site has been ongoing since 2010.

Base Bid # 2 Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve. Chervil control in well-defined colonies at Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve near Campton Hills, IL. Work shall consist of providing all labor, chemicals and equipment to properly mix and apply herbicide a minimum of once in the spring of 2016. The contractor is required to achieve 95% kill of all chervil within the work area. If this standard is not met after the first treatment, a second treatment will be necessary. Work shall focus upon two areas of scattered wild chervil populations measuring approximately 29 acres. Management of Chervil populations at this site has been ongoing since 2009.

Base Bid # 3 Bowes Creek Woods Forest Preserve. Work shall consist of providing all labor, chemicals and equipment to properly mix and apply herbicide a minimum of once in the spring of 2016. The contractor is required to achieve 95% kill of all chervil within the work area. If this standard is not met after the first treatment, a second treatment will be necessary. Work shall focus upon scattered wild chervil populations measuring approximately 33 acres. Management of Chervil populations at this site began in 2015. Chervil plant density is very high in the project area and will be very time intensive.

The bid was sent to 28 contractors with 5 responding. The qualified low bidder for all three projects is from Integrated Lakes Management, Inc. from Waukegan, IL totaling \$11,647.00 as follows:

Base Bid # 1 at Lone Grove Forest Preserve - 29 acres. Bid of \$3,653.

Base Bid # 2 at Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve - 29 acres. Bid of \$3,602.

Base Bid # 3 at Bowes Creek Woods Forest Preserve - 33 acres. Bid of \$4,392.

The District has worked with Integrated Lakes Management (ILM) in the past and they have always provided quality work in a timely manner.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Wojnicki asked if the spraying would kill the weed to its roots. Director Haberthur stated that the type of pesticide used is very effective and selective and kills all of the plant.

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| RESULT: | MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS] |
| TO: | FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 4/8/2016 8:30 AM |
| MOVER: | Deborah Allan, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Barbara Wojnicki, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Michael Kenyon, Rebecca Gillam, Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Brian Dahl, Drew Frasz, Joseph Haimann, Kurt R. Kojzarek, Philip Lewis, Barbara Wojnicki |
| ABSENT: | Thomas Smith |

D. Presentation and Approval of a Bid for Weed Management at the Bliss Woods and Johnson's Mound Forest Preserves

Garlic mustard is a non-native plant that has become well established in most woodlands owned by the District and it can literally choke out smaller native species if not managed. Garlic mustard management projects for this year are as follows:

Option # 1 Bliss Woods Forest Preserve. Garlic Mustard control across 52.3 acres of woodland. The project area is located west of Bliss Road, south of KaDeKa Road, and north of the Virgil Gilman Trail. Weed control at Bliss Woods Forest Preserve is necessary and planned as follow-up work to a January 2012 contracted tree thinning project. Approximately 40 acres of these woods received contracted garlic mustard management in spring 2015. Further work is warranted to reduce seed production and spread of this plant.

Option # 2 Bliss Woods Forest Preserve. Garlic Mustard control across 29.8 acres of woodland. The project area is located south of the Virgil Gilman Trail to the main parking area and entrance road. Garlic mustard is present across very high quality natural areas. Large-scale garlic mustard control by contractors began here in 2011, following a contracted tree thinning operation.

Option # 3 Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve. Garlic Mustard control across 26.2 acres of woodland. This project unit is dominated by oaks and sugar maples; however, garlic mustard has become a major component of the woodland flora. A wide variety of woodland flowers persists in this unit, but are being overpowered by this invasive species. This project area is

located north of the popular scout cabin and within the woods surrounded by the preserve loop road.

Garlic mustard will be managed across all project areas using weed whips, hand pulling and small gas-powered mowers for very dense areas. No herbicide will be used on this project.

The bid was sent to 23 contractors with 6 responding. The qualified low bidder for all three projects is Integrated Lakes Management, Inc. of Waukegan, IL for a total price of \$20,800 as follows:

Option 1 at Bliss Woods Forest Preserve -52.3 acres at a price of \$10,095.

Option 2 at Bliss Woods Forest Preserve - 29.8 acres at a price of \$5,560.

Option 3. Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve - 26.2 acres at a price of \$5,145.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Allan mentioned that it is the same vendor as the Chervil Control project.

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| RESULT: | MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS] |
| TO: | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 4/8/2016 8:30 AM |
| MOVER: | Theresa Barreiro, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Deborah Allan, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Michael Kenyon, Rebecca Gillam, Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Brian Dahl, Drew Frasz, Joseph Haimann, Kurt R. Kojzarek, Philip Lewis, Barbara Wojnicki |
| ABSENT: | Thomas Smith |

V. New or Unfinished Business

A. Presentation and Approval to Submit an Application for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Monarch Butterfly Conservation Grant

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, (NFWF) is awarding approximately \$3.9 million dollars in grants in 2016 through the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund. NFWF is seeking proposals that will achieve one or more of the following goals:

1. Improve Monarch habitat
2. Increase organization capacity and coordination among organizations
3. Increase the availability and reduce the cost of regionally adapted native seed.

Grant awards can range from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Matching funds of at least 1:1 in non-federal funds are required. Full proposals are due May 2nd, 2016.

The District is proposing a series of projects across several District and partnering agency properties throughout the County to improve habitat for Monarchs and other native pollinators, as well as create habitat connectivity for these species resulting in a regional *Monarch Butterfly Corridor*. Projects in this program can be carried out over two years. The overall project cost is estimated at \$132,000 with the District's projects totaling \$100,000 (\$50,000 each of the two years). The grant will reimburse a total of \$66,000 to all partnering agencies following the completion of the projects with \$50,000 being reimbursed specifically to the District.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Barreiro asked how the priorities were set for year one vs. year two projects. Director Haberthur stated that the plans were based on prior budget planning and also the path of the projects was determined naturally throughout the County. Commissioner Frasz asked why the dramatic drop in the number of butterflies. Director Haberthur stated that the use of "RoundUp" the pesticide purchased at the home improvement stores and used routinely, has had an impact on the butterfly population. There was further discussion regarding the cooperation between agencies and those benefits to the entire County. Executive Director Meyers explained that the District is the lead agency for the project and as such receives the reimbursement which is then distributed to the partner agencies. This has been done with the District and the Fox Valley Park District as payee.*

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| RESULT: | MOVED FORWARD BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS] |
| TO: | FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 4/8/2016 8:30 AM |
| MOVER: | Joseph Haimann, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Drew Frasz, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Michael Kenyon, Rebecca Gillam, Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Brian Dahl, Drew Frasz, Joseph Haimann, Kurt R. Kojzarek, Philip Lewis, Barbara Wojnicki |
| ABSENT: | Thomas Smith |

B. Presentation and Approval to Revoke the Use and License Agreement with the St. Charles Rowing Club at the Fox River Bluff East Forest Preserve

In 2012, the District entered into a Use and License Agreement with the St. Charles Rowing Club to use and implement improvements to the Fox River Bluff East Forest Preserve. A preliminary concept plan was included as an exhibit to the agreement with the understanding that the Club would complete a site evaluation, engineering and permit requirements to determine the feasibility of and cost estimates for improvements to the site which could preliminarily include a parking area, small fenced storage area/shed for the boats, a trail to the river and docks.

On Monday, March 14th, the District received a letter from the St. Charles Rowing Club requesting the agreement be terminated stating *"Upon further evaluation and professional engineering estimates of the slope and grading to access The Fox River, the anticipated cost of proceeding at this time will not be possible"*. Paragraph "Sixteenth" in the agreement states *"The FPDKC reserves the right to revoke its license"*.

DISCUSSION: *The agreement will be terminated with this group at this time, but it does not rule out future opportunities.*

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| RESULT: | MOVED FORWARD BY ROLLCALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS] |
| TO: | FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 4/8/2016 8:30 AM |
| MOVER: | Joseph Haimann, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Kurt R. Kojzarek, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Michael Kenyon, Rebecca Gillam, Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Brian Dahl, Drew Frasz, Joseph Haimann, Kurt R. Kojzarek, Philip Lewis, Barbara Wojnicki |
| ABSENT: | Thomas Smith |

VI. Executive Session to Discuss Land Acquisition, Contracts, Litigation and Personnel

VII. Communications

Operations and Maintenance Director Goreth introduced Ranger Montgomery-Porter and Sign Technician Bobowiec, the photographer and designer/fabricator of the new and improved entry signs for the District. The current signs are deteriorating and these signs are more cost effective to produce as well as portray a friendlier more inviting sense. The sign replacement project will begin with the 32 preserves utilizing the solar gates.

Chairman Gillam stated the project was a cost savings and a great way to incorporate the very talented staff.

Director Culp stated that there would be two change orders introduced at the Executive Committee. These are relating to the fuel tanks located at the Brunner Family Forest Preserve.

Executive Director Meyers reviewed the list of upcoming events throughout the District.

- Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is Wednesday, March 30th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Riverside Receptions in Geneva. Reservations are required.
- Cougars' Home Opener is Thursday, April 7th at 6:30 pm. Tickets required.
- The Conservation Foundation Earth Day Benefit Dinner is Thursday, April 21st from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Bobak's Signature Events in Woodridge. Reservations are required.
- Earth Day Open House is Thursday, April 21st from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve Creek Bend Nature Center, St. Charles.
- Earth Day Tree Planting is Saturday, April 23rd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve. No registration required.

VIII. Chairman's Comments - Announcements and Upcoming Events

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was duly adjourned.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED WITH VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Joseph Haimann, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Brian Dahl, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Michael Kenyon, Rebecca Gillam, Deborah Allan, Margaret Auger, Theresa Barreiro, Brian Dahl, Drew Frasz, Joseph Haimann, Kurt R. Kojzarek, Philip Lewis, Barbara Wojnicki |
| ABSENT: | Thomas Smith |

Adjournment until: Thursday, April 28, 2016 9:30 a.m.
Forest Preserve Administration Offices Board Room
1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320 Geneva, IL

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen J. Maglio

Ellen J. Maglio

Recording Secretary