

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, May 6, 2024**

The Operations Committee of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Monday, May 6, 2024 at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

- 1.0 Call to Order** –Chair Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and stated that a request to attend the meeting via audio/video was received from Member Michael Danforth due to employment purposes, and there were no objections from the committee.
- 2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll and six committee members responded: Chair Jessica Vealitzek, Vice Chair Mary Ross Cunningham, Member Jennifer Clark, Member Michael Danforth, Member Sara Knizhnik, and Member John Wasik. Absent: Member Adam Schlick.

Also Present:

Angelo D. Kyle, <i>President</i>	Steve Neaman	Kim Mikus
Paul Frank, <i>Commissioner</i>	Rebekah Snyder	Garnet Miller (Zoom)
Alex Kovach	Pati Vitt	Kristen Seefurth
John Nelson	Meg Bonham (Zoom)	Paula Ali (Zoom)
Ron Davis	Jamie Medina (Zoom)	JoEllen Carlucci (Zoom)
Alex Eichman	Lisa Roberts (Zoom)	Jessica Chong
Alyssa Firkus	Jeanna Martinucci	Nataly Garcia Campos
Kevin Kleinjan	Brian Wing	Maureen Shelton
Mary Kann	Brent Howard	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>

- 3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Chair Vealitzek led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None
- 5.0 Approval of Minutes** - Motion by Vice Chair Cunningham, second by Member Clark to approve minutes from April 1, 2024. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were circulated for signatures.
- 6.0 Public Comment** – None
- 7.0 Executive Director Comments** – Executive Director Ty Kovach presented his report and he and staff responded to questions on:
- Introduction of the new Education Manager, Matt Mulligan;
 - \$8.2 million has been received to date from donors toward the endowment;
 - Marketing pieces for the May 17 gala; Distributed the Spring Out on the Town piece;
 - Native Plant sale over Mother's Day weekend at Independence Grove;
 - Workday at Lake Forest Academy on buckthorn removal; 60 students and staff participated;
 - Spring break attendance at Museum; new cicada exhibit has opened;
 - Dr. Kritsky's prediction on the date of the cicada emergence;
 - Des Plaines River Canoe and Kayak marathon on May 19th;
 - Native gardening workshop and restoration workday recently hosted by the Foundation;
 - Monthly e-newsletter has surged 170% over last year;
 - Update on Horizons and 3,000 extra prints of Spring issue on cicadas;

- All 117 cicada themed education programs are filled;
- Showed statistics on the media attention regarding Cicada exhibit;
- Staff appointment to Fellowship Committee of the Public Sector Human Resources Association;
- Staff on panel at recent career exploration event in Waukegan;
- Staff presentation to Illinois Audubon Society's Lake/Cook Chapter at the Dunn Museum;
- Staff lecturer at Carthage College, gave overview of the District's wildlife species recovery science;
- Staff presentation to Oak ecosystem recovery plan work group regarding buckthorn campaign;
- Michelle McClendon, Gilbane Senior Project Manager on the new sustainable building at Lakewood was recognized by Crain's Chicago Business as a 2024 Notable Sustainability Leader;
- Decennial Committee meeting scheduled for May 15 following the regular Board meeting.

Chair Vealtizek asked about the fungus that has been affecting the turtles. Director of Natural Resources, Pati Vitt provided a brief update and recommended that Gary Glowacki, Manager of Conservation Ecology present a more detailed update at an upcoming committee meeting.

8.0 Correspondence – None

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 New Business

- 10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract to McCullough Implement Co. for the Purchase of six (6) new Kubota utility vehicles in the amount of \$154,146.18.– Motion by Member Knizhnik, second by Member Wasik to approve the recommendation. John Nelson, Chief Operations Officer summarized the recommendation. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.
- 10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a five-year Contract for the Purchase and Installation of Body-Worn Cameras and In-Car Cameras to Axon Enterprise, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$397,843.29.– Motion by Member Knizhnik, second by Member Clark to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson summarized the recommendation and Public Safety Director, Chief Ronald Davis provided further details and responded to questions. Chief Davis explained that the Sheriff and States Attorney prefer Axon due to the reporting system and the shared access. Mr. Nelson noted that this is a unit price contract that the number of cameras can scale up or down, that will provide more flexibility. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving a contract for Website Hosting and Support Services for the District's Public Website with Svanaco, Inc. dba AmericanEagle.com to extend services through December 31, 2026 in the amount of \$175,500.00. – Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Knizhnik to approve the recommendation. Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, Rebekah Snyder summarized the recommendation and responded to questions. Assistant Communications & Design Manager, Kristen Seefurth, noted that they would like to improve and increase user friendliness of the website. Member

Clark asked about adhering to the new federal accessibility website guidelines. Assistant Manager Seefurth explained that plans are in motion for back-end scanning of our website to assure the district is compliant. Member Wasik requested an update on the new Chatbot feature in six-month. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.

10.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for Invasive Plant Management at Multiple Forest Preserves to Native Restoration Services Inc., in the Contract Price of \$128,015.00. – Motion by Vice Chair Cunningham, second by Member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Natural Resources Director, Pati Vitt summarized the recommendation and responded to questions. Director Vitt noted the type of invasive species and locations. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.

10.5 For Information Only – Preserve Use Review – Chief Operations Officer John Nelson gave a report in preparation for the upcoming annual fee ordinance to be approved in August of 2024. He reviewed the fee matrix, categories of fees, cost recovery targets and specifically the preserve use fees, types of permits, and trends in revenues. He responded to questions, noting that we will keep the feedback received today in mind when we update the fee ordinance. Member Wasik requested considering raising the horse trail use permit cost. Member Knizhnik would like to see equity for the marginalized areas and that the cost of the taxpayer shared equally across the county. Member Wasik mentioned his concern about the 100% recovery on the cross country meets and questioned if the cost is keeping school from using our preserves for meets. Member Knizhnik is also concerned about the equity for the marginalized school district areas and would like the forest preserves to inform the schools in these areas about the fee waivers. Chair Vealtizek, requested to know what Cook County charges are for cross country meets. Several members also had concerns about the food truck permits and if they are needed.

Member Clark left the meeting at 10:36 a.m. during agenda item 10.6.

10.6 For Information Only – Update on status of Lakewood Forest Preserve - Planning Director Kevin Kleinjan gave a presentation to update the committee on the status of the improvements at Lakewood Forest Preserve. The net-zero maintenance facility should be substantially complete by the end of this month and occupancy during June. At Taylor Lake, the floating pier has been installed, with other improvements for fishing access. This summer work will take place for utilities, parking lot construction, concrete curbs and flatwork, asphalt loop trail west of Forest Preserve Drive, electrical and paving of Forest Preserve Drive. In the fall, seeding and planting will take place, and restoration cleanup. Preserve opening is anticipated in 2025. Chair Vealtizek asked how far of a walk from the parking lot to the new pier. Director Kleinjan to let the Chair know the exact number. He then reviewed the nature play area, noting that grant funds will be used, and the project should go out for bid in June. He reviewed the future shelters that are currently unfunded and responded to additional questions. Commissioner Frank on behalf of Member Clark asked for the history of the names of the lakes at Lakewood. Director of Education Alyssa Firkus to follow-up.

Member Knizhnik requested agenda items 10.5 and 10.6 presentations be shared with the committee.

11.0 Miscellaneous Business – Member Wasik complimented staff on the Beer Garden Cinco De Mayo celebration and he thanked volunteers for their recent work at Nippersink.


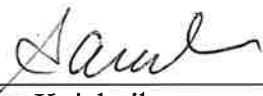

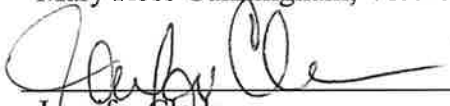

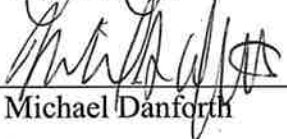
Mr. Nelson informed the committee that Professor Paul Koch from the University of Wisconsin, Madison will be at the August 26, 2024 Operations committee to present on golf course chemical usage. Staff to send out Professor Koch's resume to the committee.

12.0 Closed Session – None

13.0 Potential Action Following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjourn –With no further business, Chair Vealitzek declared the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

APPROVED:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>		<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
 _____ Jessica Vealitzek, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Sara Knizhnik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Mary Ross Cunningham, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ Adam Schlick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Jennifer Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ John Wasik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Michael Danforth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>