

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
DECENNIAL COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY
MINUTES – May 15, 2024**

On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency of the Lake County Forest Preserve District convened at 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to order- President Angelo Kyle called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

2.0 Roll call – Board Secretary Gragnani called the roll and 15 committee members responded present: Casbon, Clark, Cunningham, Danforth, Frank, Hewitt, Hough, Knizhnik, Kovach, Kyle, Maine, Parekh, Roberts, Vealitzek, and Wasik. Absent: (7) Altenberg, Campos, Hart, Hunter, Leutwiler, Pedersen, and Schlick.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance – President Kyle dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda - None

5.0 Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2023 – Motion by Hewitt, second by Cunningham to approve the minutes of November 15, 2023. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Discussion of District Policies, Plans and Procedures –Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships Rebekah Snyder noted that a link to the District’s policies and procedures was sent to the committee in February, and asked if anyone had any questions or suggestions. She gave an overview of the state’s requirements of the committee and Attorney Gates-Alford added that a report will need to be prepared and submitted to Lake County Administration by this November.

Committee member Kovach noted that the previous discussion centered on the District’s Green Fleet Policy and Green Committee. These two things would be combined and examined for setting goals around sustainability for the future. The Green Committee would report out annually on the District’s recycling efforts. Mr. Kovach noted that staff is working with Lake County staff to see what the County is doing with green initiatives and policies and felt that a work plan might be a more effective tool than a sustainability policy. A committee discussion ensued including having a policy in place that holds the District accountable and requires compliance and completion of the strategic framework. Mr. Kovach noted that the Budget Policy and Strategic Action Plan does this already; further, in 2025 the strategic objectives will be refreshed. Member Vealitzek noted that the County is talking about developing a climate budget to meet its operational carbon production goals; and asked about the previous committee discussion around hiring a consultant. Mr. Kovach noted that a consultant has not been found, which lead to the discussions with the County. Mr. Kovach and staff felt they could get this work done by developing a work plan with specific steps for attaining the goals, without the need of a consultant. Discussion continued regarding becoming net-zero.

Mr. Kovach summarized the discussion points regarding policy changes: Have a policy around the Strategic Plan renewal; and look at the Budget Policy to incorporate a climate budget and overall reduction of carbon footprint. And aside from this, move forward to somehow address in a policy how to implement the initiatives, whether it will be a work plan or incorporate it into the renewal of the objectives. Director Snyder clarified that the final report submitted to Lake County will include any recommendations of this committee. The draft report will be ready for discussion and approval at the next meeting.

7.0 Review Current/Recent Sustainability Practices – Director Snyder gave a presentation on sustainability initiatives incorporated by the District to date. These included reducing electricity use in buildings and systems; reducing oil and gas in the District’s fleet and equipment; reducing single-use plastics; reducing road salt used; and acquisition of land.

During the presentation, member Parekh and member Frank left the meeting at 10:58 a.m. Member Knizhnik left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

8.0 Public Comment – None

9.0 Next Meeting – Staff will plan on scheduling the third and final meeting to follow the District’s regular Board meeting in fall of this year.

10.0 Adjournment – With no further business, President Kyle adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Julie Gragnani, Board Secretary

Date Approved: 9-11-2024

