



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: October 5, 2015

MEMO TO: Carol Calabresa, Chair
Land Preservation & Acquisition Committee

Bonnie Thompson Carter, Chair
Planning and Restoration Committee

FROM: Alex Ty Kovach, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Policy Direction Regarding the Fox Waterway Agency's Request to use District Property to Process Dredged Materials from the Fox River and Chain O'Lakes.

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding a request from the Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) to use District property for the processing of dredged materials from the Fox River and the Chain O' Lakes. The FWA is requesting that the District consider allowing a processing site at either Bluebird Meadow or Lake Marie Forest Preserves.

BACKGROUND: The Fox Waterway Agency's mission is "To improve and maintain the Fox River and Chain O'Lakes public waterway for recreational uses, to restore environmental quality, control flooding, promote tourism, and to preserve and enhance the quality of life along the waterway for residents and users alike."

The District has had an ongoing dialog with IDNR and the FWA to understand their challenges and to look for opportunities to work together. Most recently, the District presented a potential property acquisition to IDNR that had the potential for a processing site, but there was no interest by IDNR to work with the District on the acquisition.

Currently, the FWA has an operational bottle-neck in that it needs additional property to allow for more efficient processing of dredged materials. The FWA is looking for approximately 40 to 60 acres. The FWA has asked the District to consider allowing them to use either Bluebird Meadow or Lake Marie Forest Preserves for this purpose.

Due to concerns regarding the amount of traffic, noise, dust and visual impact to the landscape, staff feels that both Bluebird Meadow and Lake Marie Forest Preserves are not feasible locations for the dredge processing operation. In addition, staff is concerned that the District will be strapped with fielding the majority of public complaints associated with this type of activity in those locations. However, staff is recommending that the District continue the dialog with the FWA and consider future opportunities for a processing site when it is mutually beneficial to both the FWA and the District.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: Policy Direction is required in accordance with District policy.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Planning and Land Acquisition Director, Chief Operations Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

FINANCIAL DATA: At this time there is no financial impact. However, if the District were to enter into any agreement for use of its land by the FWA, there would likely be costs associated with staff time and legal fees that may not be reimbursed by the FWA.

PRESENTER: Alex Ty Kovach