



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: February 29, 2016

MEMO TO: Bonnie Thomson Carter, Chair
Planning and Restoration Committee

S. Michael Rummel, Chair
Finance and Administrative Committee

FROM: Alex Ty Kovach, Executive Director

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution to approve the 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Conservation, Public Access and Connections and Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: As noted in Background (below).

BACKGROUND: As part of the annual budget process over the last several years, the District's Standing Committees have reviewed and recommended a five-year capital improvement plan (CIP), identifying District capital improvement projects, stating whether those projects are funded, and (if so) the years and priority of funding. The District's Board has then incorporated the first year of the CIP into the approved then-current fiscal year budget as the "capital budget." The CIP is an important component of, and planning guide for, the budget approval process. However, in the past, the District Board has not formally approved the CIP separately. Also, the review and approval of the CIP has taken place simultaneously with the review and approval of the budget. Because the CIP is such an important component of the budget, it would be more efficient to review and approve the CIP before the budget is approved. Historically, the CIP has had a five-year outlook. To address the funding challenges faced by the District from declining EAV, dwindling development bond funds, and other factors, and to promote the District's strategic direction of long-term organizational sustainability, it is recommended that the District approve a CIP with a 10-year outlook. The attached resolution would achieve three results. First, it would approve the CIP separately, giving it the formality that is appropriate. Second, it would approve the CIP before the budget is approved, improving the efficiency of the budget review process. Third, it would establish a ten-year CIP, rather than a five-year CIP.

Following the same process as in prior years, the Planning and Restoration Committee has recommended proposed changes to the CIP, and those changes have been reviewed by all other Standing Committees. The attached resolution would, following recommendations by the Planning and Restoration Committee and the Finance and Administrative Committee, be submitted to the full Board for approval.

The recommended adjustments to the CIP fall into two categories: 1) adjustments to existing funded projects on the CIP and adjustments as a result of recent reviews by all Standing Committees, and 2) new projects recommended to be funded or added to the CIP.

Adjustments to existing funded projects on the CIP and adjustments as a result of recent reviews by all Standing Committees:

- 1) DPR Trail – Ryerson North – (\$123,000). This project was completed and opened to the public in October 2015. The project budget can be reduced due to excellent bid prices and construction management.
- 2) DPR Trail – Wilmot Woods – (\$34,600). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that this project be removed from the CIP and placed on the unfunded list of potential projects for future consideration.
- 3) Ethel’s Woods – North Mill Creek Restoration – (\$465,000). As Phase I of this project is nearing completion and a more accurate cost estimate has been developed for Phase II and it has been determined that the project budget can be reduced.
- 4) Facility and Infrastructure Improvements – (\$150,000/Year). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that the annual funding for this project be reduced beginning in FY 2016-17.
- 5) Grassy Lake Improvements (Hurd Property) - \$75,000. In order to address a drainage concern that became apparent during construction and to complete Phase II habitat restoration, additional funding is needed. The drainage improvements will occur in 2016 and the habitat restoration work and follow up maintenance and monitoring will continue through 2017.
- 6) Habitat Restoration – (\$100,000/Year). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that the annual funding set aside for habitat restoration be reduced beginning in FY 2017-18.
- 7) Heron Creek – Phase II Trail Addition – (\$650,000). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that this project be removed from the CIP and placed on the unfunded list of potential projects for future consideration.
- 8) Independence Grove – Playground Shade Structure – (\$40,000). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that this project be removed from the CIP and placed on the unfunded list of potential projects for future consideration.
- 9) Lake Carina - DPR Trail and Bridge Connection – (\$1,651,000). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that this project be removed from the CIP and placed on the unfunded list of potential projects for future consideration. By removing this project from the CIP, the District will forfeit the \$200,000 grant funding that the District was set to receive through the Recreational Trails Program.
- 10) Lake Marie Public Access – (\$105,000). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that this project be removed from the CIP and placed on the unfunded list of potential projects for future consideration.
- 11) Lakewood Dog Exercise Area – Use Area Expansion – (\$20,000). This project was completed and opened to the public in October 2015 and the project can be reduced due to excellent bid prices and construction management.
- 12) Lakewood Habitat Restoration – Schreiber Bog – (\$100,000). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that a portion of the funding for this project be removed from the CIP. .
- 13) Millennium Trail – Wilson Road Crossing - (\$170,000). The District received federal funding assistance for this project through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) administered through IDOT. The project was completed and opened to the public in October 2015. As part of IDOT’s closeout procedures a more accurate cost estimate has been developed identifying the final local share requirement. The project budget can be reduced due to excellent bid prices and project management.
- 14) Millennium Trail – Rollins Road Crossing - \$250,000. The District received federal funding assistance through the Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) administered through IDOT. The project was complete and opened to the public in the fall 2014. Due to the complexity of federal grant funding and reimbursements, the District removed \$615,432 from the project budget in 2014 thinking all reimbursement to the State was accounted, but late billing by the State and a more accurate cost estimate has identified that additional funding is needed to fulfill the District’s local share requirement.
- 15) Millennium Trail – Grand Avenue Crossing – \$173,000. The District received federal funding assistance through the ITEP program administered through IDOT. The project was completed and opened to the public in August 2013. Due to the complexity of federal grant funding and reimbursements, the District

removed \$143,265 from the project budget in 2013 thinking all reimbursement to the State was accounted, but late billing by the State and a more accurate cost estimate has identified that additional funding is needed to fulfill the District's local share requirement.

- 16) Nippersink Trail Connection – (\$400,000). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that this project be removed from the CIP and placed on the unfunded list of potential projects for future consideration.
- 17) Pine Dunes – SMD – (\$40,000). The public access portion of this project was complete and opened to the public in November 2015. The project budget can be reduced due to lower than expected material costs and good project management.
- 18) Property Fencing – (\$50,000/Year). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that the annual funding set aside for property line fencing be removed from the CIP and funded through the Operations and Infrastructure account.
- 19) Ray Lake – Fort Hill Trail Extension – (\$650,000). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that this project be removed from the CIP and placed on the unfunded list of potential projects for future consideration.
- 20) Repair Existing Roads and Parking – (\$100,000/Year). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that the annual funding for this project be reduced beginning in FY 2016/17.
- 21) Spring Bluff Wildlife Observation Area – (\$600,000). Due to State's suspension of the OSLAD funding and financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that this project be removed from the CIP and placed on the unfunded list of potential projects for future consideration.
- 22) Trail Signage and Benches – (\$15,000/Year). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that annual funding set aside trail signage and benches be removed from the CIP and funded through the Operations and Infrastructure account.
- 23) Upper DPR – USACE Phase II Ecosystem Restoration – (\$3,000,000). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, and the lack of movement from the USACE, it is recommended that this project be removed from the CIP and placed on the unfunded list of potential projects for future consideration.
- 24) Van Patten Woods – Equestrian and Public Parking – (\$300,000). Due to financial concerns over the available CIP funding, it is recommended that this project be removed from the CIP and placed on the unfunded list of potential projects for future consideration.
- 25) Wright Woods/McArthur Woods Dam Removal - \$690,000. The District received funding from IDNR for the removal of the two remaining low head dams on the Des Plaines River. The District was notified in July 2015 that the funding has been suspended due to the States budget constraints. As a result, it is recommended that funding for this project be included in the CIP. The District received competitive bids for this project in 2015 and the contractor has agreed to honor his bid until December 31, 2016.

Projects recommended to be funded or added to the CIP:

- 1) Pine Dunes – Wildlife Conservation Facility- \$50,000. As part of the District Wide Facility Assessment, it was recommended that the existing Wildlife Conservation Facility, currently located at Fourth Lake Forest Preserve, and the Lake County Discovery Museum's large object storage facility, currently located at Prairie Stream Forest Preserve, be relocated to Pine Dunes Forest Preserve. Funding is needed to design and renovate the existing building at the former McClure property. Construction is anticipated to occur in FY2018-19. Estimated annual operating cost reduction is \$6,750.00.
- 2) Ray Lake – Cuneo Restoration - \$85,000. The District received funding assistance from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for the purchase of an addition to Ray Lake Forest Preserve known as the Cuneo property. As portion of the funding assistance is to be directed towards habitat restoration. Restoration work will begin in FY2016-17 and includes soil and drain tile surveys and the removal of invasive plant species. Minimal impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 3) Ryerson Barn – Education Classroom - \$175,000. As part of the District Wide Facility Assessment, it was recommended that the Borland and Cramer cabins be removed and the education programing that occurs within those buildings be relocated to the main barn. Funding is needed to design and renovate a portion of the main barn to construct a classroom for education programs. Construction is anticipated to occur in FY2019-20. Estimated annual operating cost reduction is \$12,300.00.

- 4) District-wide Reforestation - \$100,000/Year. As part of the District's Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan, the District has been performing reforestation since 2012 using a portion the tree impact fees received from IDOT for the tree removals as part of the Route 21 road improvement project. It is recommended that the District continue with the Oak Recovery Plan and allocate funding on an annual basis to plant approximately 3,000 trees and shrubs per year. Minimal impacts to the annual operating costs.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: Finance and Administrative Committee recommendation, Planning and Restoration Committee recommendation, and Board approval of a ten-year CIP via a resolution are recommended for the reasons stated above.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Director of Planning and Land Preservation, Director of Natural Resources, Director of Facilities, Director of Operations & Infrastructure, Corporate Counsel

PRESENTER: Alex Ty Kovach

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF LAKE)

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
REGULAR MARCH MEETING
MARCH 8, 2016**

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Your **PLANNING AND RESTORATION COMMITTEE** and **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE** present herewith “A Resolution Approving a 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan.”

PLANNING AND RESTORATION COMMITTEE:

Date: _____ **Roll Call Vote: Ayes:** ____ **Nays:** ____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: ____

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Date: _____ **Roll Call Vote: Ayes:** ____ **Nays:** ____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: ____

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Rules of Order and Operational Procedures of the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”), the District’s Planning and Restoration Committee is responsible for recommending uses of the District’s land and facilities by the general public, and for preparing, reviewing, recommending, and implementing plans and uses that have been approved and funded through the District’s budget and appropriation process; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Restoration Committee has submitted a list of capital improvement projects to the other Standing Committees of the District to be considered; and

WHEREAS, all of the Standing Committees have reviewed and recommended approval of the prioritized ten-year Capital Improvement Plan attached hereto (the “CIP”), which includes a list of capital improvement projects (the “CIP Projects”); and

WHEREAS, the CIP Projects meet the criteria for organizational sustainability, conservation and public access and connections; and

WHEREAS, the CIP will provide an important and useful planning guide for the preparation and approval of the District’s annual budget ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois **THAT**:

Section 1. Recitals. The recitals set forth above are incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Approval of the CIP. The CIP is hereby approved in the form attached hereto. The District’s Board of Commissioners, Standing Committees, and staff shall use the CIP as a planning guide for the preparation and approval of the District’s annual budget ordinance.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2016

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2016

ATTEST:

Ann B. Maine, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Julie A. Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit _____

