

DATE: April 1, 2024

MEMO TO: Paras Parekh, Chair
Planning Committee

Gina Roberts, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Pati Vitt
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution Approving Support for the Fox River Waterway Agency in the Development of a Chain O'Lakes Watershed Plan.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Conservation; Leadership; Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: The Fox Waterway Agency (the "Agency") recently completed development of a Chain O'Lakes Watershed Plan (the "Watershed Plan") and has requested that the District contribute \$10,000 toward this effort. The total cost of the Agency's initiative was \$170,000, which includes 60% funding (\$110,000) from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) in the form of a Section 319 grant to complete the Watershed Plan and 40% local share (\$68,000). The District's funding of \$10,000 would be paid via a grant from the Preservation Foundation, and the District's contribution would be allocated toward the Agency's local share.

BACKGROUND: The Agency is a unit of local government charged with improving and maintaining the Fox River and Chain O'Lakes public waterway for recreational uses, to restore environmental quality, minimize flooding, promote tourism, and enhance the quality of life along the waterway for residents and users alike. Of particular concern is the estimated 100,000 cubic yards of new sediment that flows into the Fox River and Chain O'Lakes system every year as a result of shoreline erosion. The Agency pursues several dredging projects each year, but a more effective long-term solution is to restore eroding shorelines to reduce the amount of sedimentation. The Agency obtained IEPA Section 319 funding to develop a Watershed Plan for the Chain O'Lakes Watershed. Under this agreement, IEPA provided 60% of the \$170,000 project costs with local agencies providing the balance. Based on the completed Watershed Plan, additional funding opportunities may be pursued through the IEPA Section 319 program to implement efforts included in the Watershed Plan. The Watershed Plan was completed and approved by the IEPA in February 2024, and it addresses nonpoint source pollution and sedimentation through projects throughout the watershed. Information incorporated into the Watershed Plan was collated from members of the public, local governments, local businesses, and local farmers.

The overall goals of the Watershed Plan are to improve water quality by identifying projects with the potential to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sedimentation; to provide a framework to fund them; and to guide project implementation. The planning process was a collaboration with local units of government and other organizations to the mutual goal of protecting the quality of water by

controlling nonpoint source pollution. A Watershed Plan is required to be eligible for funding for project implementation.

The Chain O'Lakes Watershed encompasses five District properties, including: Bluebird Meadow, Gander Mountain, Grant Woods, Lake Marie, and Tanager Kames Forest Preserves. At least three potential projects have been identified at District Preserves – shoreline stabilization at Tanager Kames, reduction of agricultural runoff at Lake Marie, and wetland creation at Lake Marie. Working with the Fox Waterway Agency to complete the portfolio of projects as part of the Watershed Plan is strategic for the District, as it creates the potential for leveraged funding for restoration projects already on the District's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) unfunded list (i.e. restoration at Lake Marie) and other potential projects that are not yet on the CIP, but that might also be pursued in the future (e.g. shoreline stabilization at Tanager Kames).

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Manager of Board Operations, Corporate Counsel

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF LAKE)

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
REGULAR APRIL MEETING
APRIL 10, 2024**

MISTER PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Your **PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES** present herewith “A Resolution approving Support for the Fox River Waterway Agency in the Development of a Chain O’Lakes Watershed Plan,” and request its approval.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

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

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING SUPPORT FOR THE FOX RIVER WATERWAY
AGENCY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHAIN O'LAKES WATERSHED PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the "District") owns properties that are within the Chain O'Lakes Watershed (the "Watershed"), including Bluebird Meadow, Gander Mountain, Grant Woods, Lake Marie, and Tanager Kames Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, the Fox Waterway Agency (the "Agency") is committed to restoring and maintaining the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of the Fox River and Chain O'Lakes waterways, including the Watershed, to enhance water quality, fish and wildlife populations, and ecosystem health; and

WHEREAS, the District has issues of common interest with the Agency pertaining to the quality and integrity of the Watershed, which impacts the management of District properties and local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has secured a Section 319 grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$110,000 (the "IEPA Grant") for the development of a Chain O'Lakes Watershed Plan (the "Plan"), and as a condition of the IEPA Grant, the Agency is required to contribute local funding in the amount of \$68,000; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has requested that the District contribute \$10,000 toward the local share under the IEPA Grant for development of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, at the District's request, the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves has committed to fund the District's \$10,000 contribution for the Plan; and

WHEREAS, development of the Plan is required to pursue funding opportunities for projects of mutual benefit to the District and the Agency; and

WHEREAS, supporting the development of the Plan and working with the Agency to reduce sedimentation and nonpoint source pollution and improve the water quality within the Watershed are in the best interests of the District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, units of local government, such as the District and the Agency may contract or otherwise associate among themselves in any manner not prohibited by law or ordinance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 5 ILCS 220/1 et seq., any power, privilege, function, or authority exercised by a public agency, including the District and the Agency, may be exercised, combined, transferred, and enjoyed jointly with any other public agency to the extent not prohibited by law;

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. Support of the Watershed Plan; Contribution. The Board of Commissioners hereby approves support for the Agency's development of the Plan and authorizes a contribution of \$10,000 to the Agency to fund costs incurred in the preparation of the Plan, which shall be allocated toward the required local share under the IEPA Grant.

Section 3. Payments. The District Treasurer is authorized and directed to make a payment of \$10,000 to the Agency pursuant to this Resolution.

Section 4. 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 _____, 2024

AYES:

NAYS:

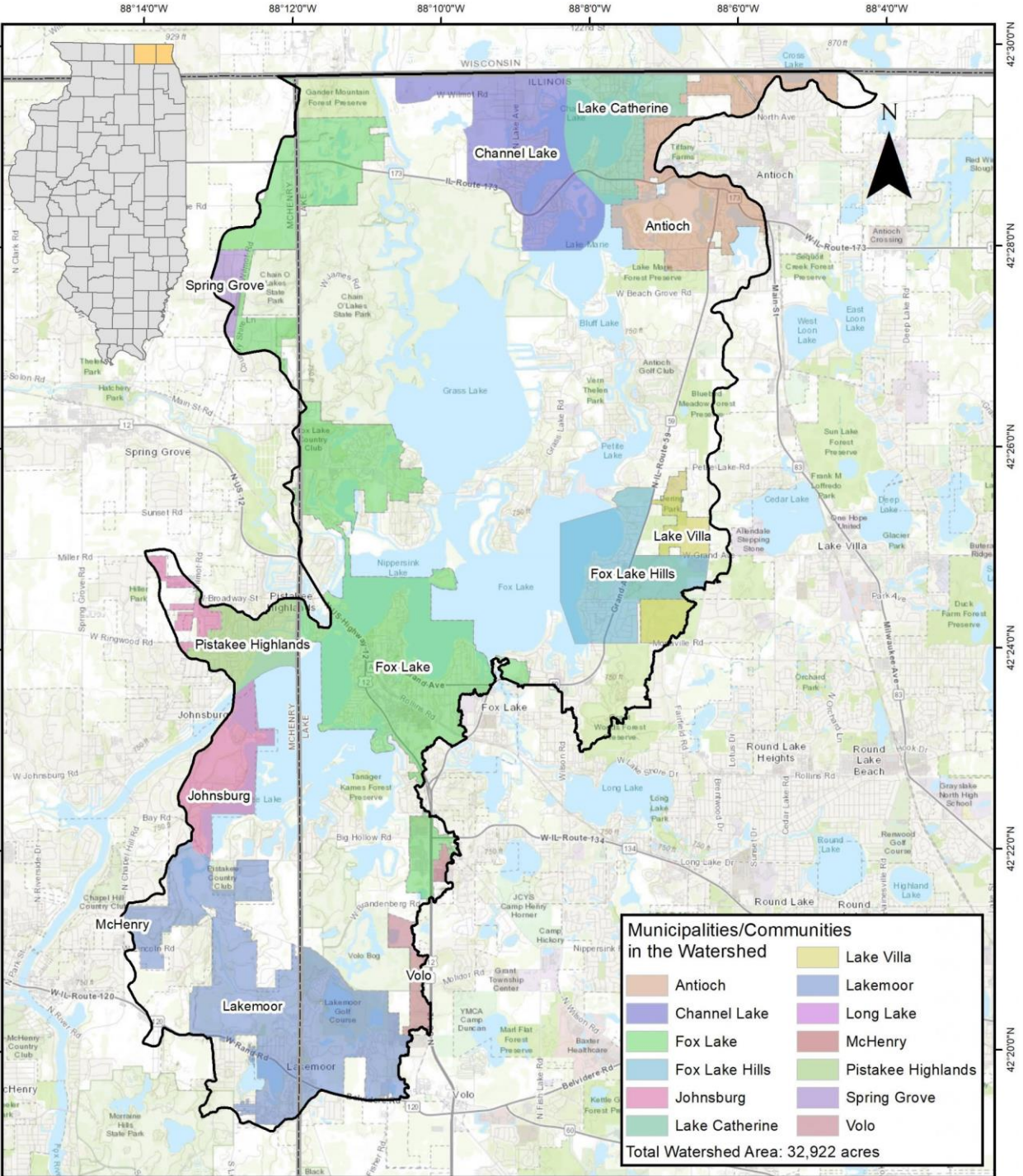
APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2024

Angelo D. Kyle, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____



Watershed Boundary
 State Boundary
 County Boundary

Chain O'Lakes Watershed Overview

0 1 2 3 4 Miles



Proposed Shoreline Stabilization



Disclaimer: Property Boundaries and other data provided is for general information only and not for commercial purposes. The District provides this data for the user's exclusive use only. Any re-use, transmission, duplication, or distribution without the permission of the District is prohibited. Map sources include: Lake County GIS Division | Basemap: 2022 Aerial



Map Created on 10/31/2023

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