

*Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Forest Preserve Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.*

DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Forest Preserve Committee Minutes  
October 23, 2018**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve Committee met on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., in the Legislative Center's Freedom Room in Sycamore, Illinois. Chairman Brown called the meeting to order. Those Members present were Mr. Bagby, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Little, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, and Chairman Brown. Mrs. Haji-Sheikh was absent. A quorum was established with six Members present and one absent.

Others present were Terry Hannan.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Bagby, and it was carried unanimously to approve the meeting agenda as presented.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**It was moved by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. Roman and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2018 meeting.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**MONTHLY REPORTS & ACTIVITIES**

DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Superintendent Terry Hannan presented the Forest Preserve District's Monthly Report covering August and September. Mr. Hannan shared that seed collection took place during August & September as well as night hikes at Afton and Shabbona from Northern Illinois University students. Forest Preserve staff replaced old toilet facilities at Russell Woods and built a new storm shelter at MacQueen Forest Preserve. He also shared a photos that illustrated the two new water control structures at the trail bridges located in the Afton Wetlands, the DeKalb County Veterans Shelter at Sycamore Forest Preserve, and Sycamore St. Mary's School Fall Fieldtrips to Afton. The N.W. Suburban Astronomers are out about every weekend at Afton and Potawatomi Woods and a photo was shown of the August Perseid meteor shower. Mr. Hannan shared that Derek Lawrence from Troop 40 in Sycamore planted 30 trees, 200+ prairie plugs, and installed interpretive trail signage at Sycamore Forest Preserve for his Eagle Scout Project.

Thousands of birds migrate through DeKalb County every spring and fall, Mr. Hannan noted, and he showed a photo of a flock of White Pelicans as they ventured south. ADA re-surfacing of wheel chair accessible trail in the forest preserves was a project this summer as well as accessible deck and ramp construction at Sannauk Forest Preserve. The monthly report was wrapped up with a photo of Chris Hubbard who has been working on the 1835 Miller-Ellwood Cabin, information about donated memorial benches that are places throughout the various forest preserves, and a maintenance report for the southern preserves.

The Committee additionally reviewed the Natural Resource Management Activities Report for August and September 2018 and Mr. Hannan commented that Sycamore Forest Preserve continued to be the most visited preserve.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

It was clarified that the Evergreen Village Grant has been officially closed out by IEMA and that the process of transferring the land that is now Sycamore Forest Preserve from the County to the Forest Preserve District was currently taking place.

Chairman Brown commented that deer season was upon them and there were additional comments that there is an influx of deer population throughout areas of DeKalb County.

Mr. Hannan had mentioned that Mr. Roman has previously provided him with the information that though the state won't celebrate its 200th birthday until Dec. 3, 2018. The Illinois State Historical Society is preparing for the celebration by offering all 102 counties a descendant of an original Johnny Appleseed tree. Illinois was dotted with apple trees by the famous John Chapman, also known as Johnny Appleseed, in the early 19th century. Mr. Hannan shared that the Forest Preserve District plans to plant one of these trees by the 1835 Miller-Ellwood Cabin.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mr. Porterfield moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Land Acquisition per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) at 7:17 p.m. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion and it carried by a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Little, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, and Chairman Brown. None were opposed and Mrs. Haji-Sheikh was absent.**

*The Committee entered back into their Open Meeting at 7:51 p.m.*

#### **APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**It was moved by Mr. Roman, seconded by Mr. Porterfield and it was approved unanimously by voice vote to forward a Memorandum of Agreement between James O. and Joretta A. Chambers Trusts and the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District regarding property located on the west side of Glidden Road between Carson Road and the Rail Road Property in Kingston Township to the full Board of Commissioners recommending its approval.**

The Committee bid their farewells to Chairman Brown (who will be leaving the County Board next month after eight years of service) and the rest of the Committee Members due to this being their last meeting before the County Board's reorganization after the November Election.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Mr. Porterfield, seconded by Ms. Little and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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## Memorandum of Agreement

This memorandum defines the actions committed to by the James O. and Joretta A. Chambers Trusts (owners) and the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District (District) relative to the farm owned by the Chambers Trusts located on the west side of Glidden Road between Carson Road and the Railroad property. It is to be the basis of a new agreement to replace the existing agreement between the two parties.

The farm is 235.6 acres as shown on a plat of survey by Dundee Engineering dated 4/15/1986, and includes improvements consisting of a 45 by 72 ft. pole barn, 10,000 bu. galvanized steel grain bin with attached newly refurbished fan and propane fired drier with a 1,000 gal. propane tank. The Kishwaukee River flows east to west thru the farm and includes wooded land on both sides.

The owners have had the property and taken care of it for more than 30 years. Unfortunately the passage of years has made it impractical for that to continue, hence the decision to pass ownership to others who hopefully can continue to care properly for the natural nature of the land. It is the present owners strong desire that the River Property(56.6 acres as shown on the survey by William E. Hanna Surveyors, dated 7/20/1999) and as much land adjoining as it is possible for the District to care for properly, after the District has ownership of the entire farm, will be preserved in the future in natural condition for others to enjoy as much as we have.

In order to achieve the desired goal the owners will donate the River Property as defined in the present Agreement with the District at no cost to the District, if the District will purchase the remaining farmland (179.0 acres) in the following way. Each party will obtain from a licensed land appraiser the appraised value of the remaining farmland. If the two appraisals are within 2% of each other, the District will pay to the owners the amount of the average of the two appraisals. If the appraisals are more than 2% apart, the two parties will together obtain from a third appraiser an appraisal which will be then averaged with the first two appraisals to establish the selling price. Payment will be due at the time of closing.

The District will allow access to the grain bin for removal of the 2018 crop until Sept. 1, 2019 if the present marketing difficulties persist until then. The District will reimburse the owners and tenant, who are co-owners, for any residual propane in the grain drier fuel tank at the time of closing.

The District will provide Brett Bunger, the owners farm tenant, the first refusal opportunity to rent any cropland the District will have available after closing.


The District will accept the property as is. There is an agreement with Enbridge Pipeline Co. for a permanent Right-of-Way 60 feet wide adjacent to the west property line which has not prevented farming the area because the pipe top surface is at least 5 feet below the soil surface by Illinois rules.

The District will provide a marker at the entrance to the River Property with the statement “ The River Acres are a gift from the Chambers and Marchello families to the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District.”

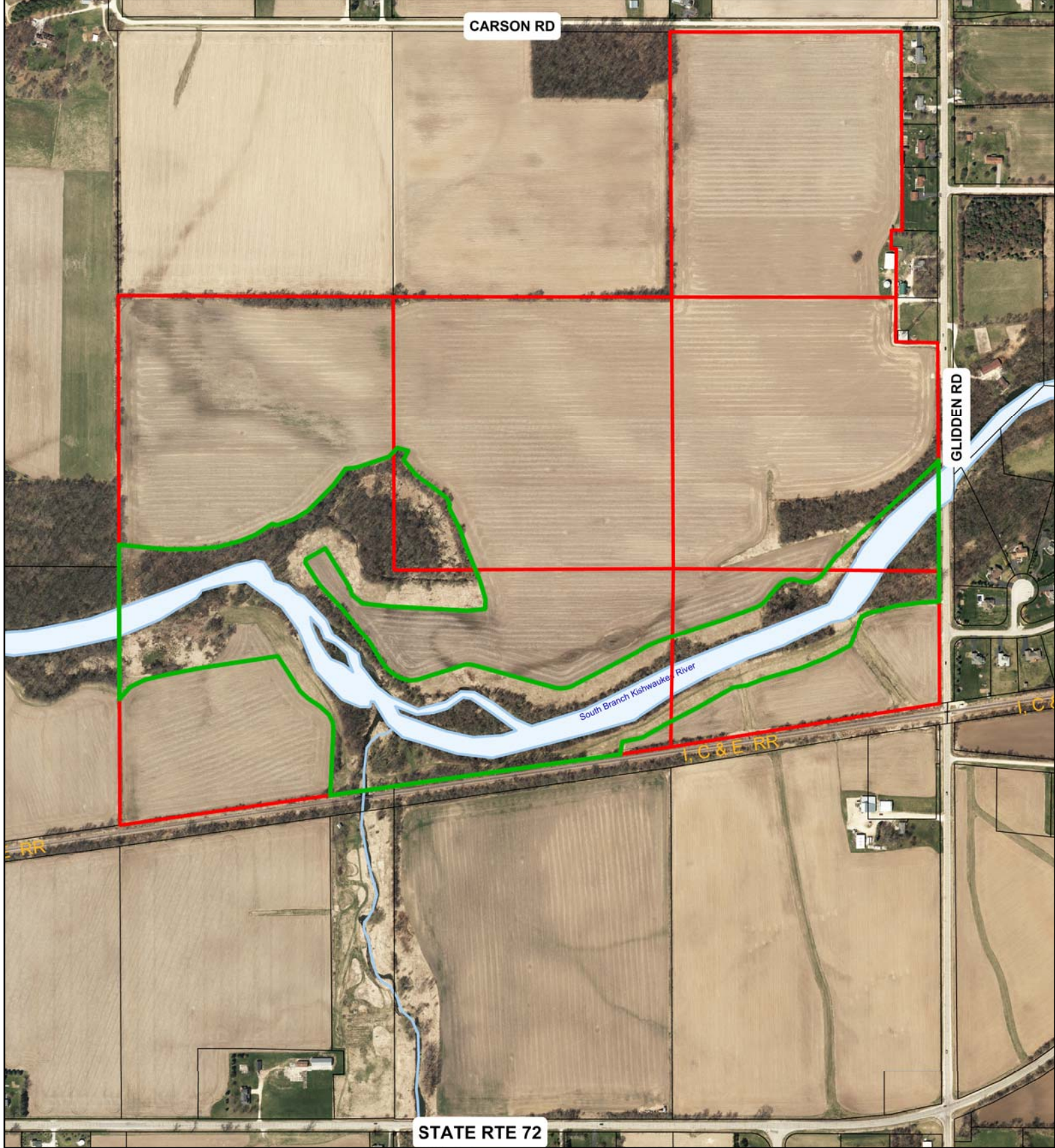
Any expenses associated with the transfer of the ownership of the property will be paid by the District.

The owners will commission a new agreement to replace the existing agreement between the two parties after this memorandum is signed by both parties.

Signed and dated:

 OCT. 22, 2018  
For the owners

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the District



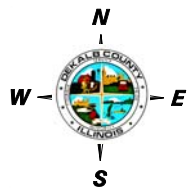
CARSON RD

GLIDDEN RD

South Branch Kishwaukee River

I.C. & E. RR

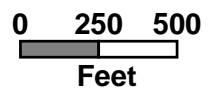
STATE RTE 72



## Future Chambers Family Donation / Sale

- ~ 56.5 Acres to DeKalb County Forest Preserve District
- ~ 180.13 Acres "First Right of Refusal" Option for Forest Preserve District

Kingston Township (02) Section (20)



Acreage is estimated and not an official survey.

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