

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 Operations Committee Minutes
July 27, 2021**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve Operations Committee met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at the Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve in Shabbona, Illinois on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. Vice-Chair Little called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those Members present were Ms. Mary Cozad, Ms. Mann-Lamb, Ms. Willis, and Vice-Chair Maureen Little. Those absent were Mr. Pat Deutsch, Mr. Tim Hughes, and Chairman Craig Roman. A quorum was established with four Members present and three absent at the time of roll call.

Others present included Forest Preserve District Superintendent Terry Hannan, Jim Johnson, Dan Nolan, and Josh Clark.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Ms. Cozad, seconded by Ms. Willis and approved unanimously by voice vote to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Willis moved to approve the May 25, 2021 minutes as presented. Ms. Mann-Lamb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

SHABBONA PATHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee was joined by Shabbona Pathway Committee President Dan Nolan, Treasurer Jim Johnson (Shabbona Township), and Pathway Member and Forest Preserve District Staff Member Josh Clark. The Shabbona Pathway is a community project, building trails and trail experiences for work, play, and life. It is a multi-use trail for the public. Mr. Nolan shared that Shabbona, Illinois is a peaceful farming community with a lot of potential for growth. The trail will allow the thousands of visitors to the state park to safely see what their small town has to offer. It will provide local residents the opportunity to safely move from place to place. The path will also connect to the 30-miles of trails within the state park. Walkers and cyclists will see health benefits in addition to the beautiful scenery.

The mission of the Committee is to promote a safely-connected community through a cooperative effort by citizens, businesses, and local governments. The primary goal is to provide a safe means to access educational, recreational, commercial, and residential destinations, while promoting outdoor recreational opportunities, nature appreciation, and healthy lifestyle.

Mr. Nolan provided the Committee with a history of how the Pathway Committee was incepted as well as what their goals are for the future. Mr. Johnson provided a brief overview of the funding mechanisms and engineering that has gone into the path thus far and what the future connections will look like.

Chairman Craig Roman arrived.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE COMED GREEN REGION GRANT PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP FOR THE RIVERWOOD FOREST PRESERVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION PROJECT

Mr. Hannan explained that the Forest Preserve District has applied for and was awarded grant funds for prairie restoration work at Riverwood Forest Preserve as part of the 2021 ComEd Green Region Grant Program in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the purpose of carrying out this project.

Mr. Hannan presented a draft Resolution to the Committee that he recommended approval on. This request would meet the ComEd Green Region Grant Program Guidelines. The Resolution would approve the prairie restoration project work and authorize the grant from the ComEd Green Region Program in the amount of \$10,000.00. The Resolution additionally commits to the expenditure of funds in the amount of \$20,000 necessary for the project's completion and success.

It was moved by Ms. Cozad, seconded by Ms. Willis and approved unanimously to forward the Resolution to the full Board of Commissioners recommending its approval.

MONTHLY REPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Forest Preserve District Superintendent Terry Hannan shared that speaking of grants, he added up the grants that the District has obtained over the years and he came up with a figure of \$4,981,000! In addition to that number there have been a large number of other forms of grants and donations as well as land donations to the District that have been obtained. Mr. Hannan thanked all of the various grantors for helping contribute to making the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District such a great asset to the County. The Committee additionally thanked Mr. Hannan for all his hard work and dedication to the District and for the work he and his staff have put in, in order to obtain over \$4.9 million in grant funds.

Mr. Hannan additionally reviewed his monthly Forest Preserve District Report that covered May, June, and July of 2021. Along with a wide variety of summer maintenance activities that the staff have been working on, the District has been hosting more "Pop Up Naturalist" as well as more public education events that have been promoted on the County's Website and the District and County's Facebook Pages.

Work is nearing completion on the Great Western Trail Extension Project into the City of Sycamore, Mr. Hannan shared. Additionally, a small parking lot for public access along Kishwaukee River planned for this Summer at the property that was formerly known as the "Chambers Property" along Glidden Road in Kingston Township.

In addition to the Monthly Report, Mr. Hannan encouraged the Committee to review the May, June, July Monthly Maintenance Report, the Mid-Summer 2021 Natural Resource Management Report as well as the attached report that provided a detailed list of the work that was done at each preserve.

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Mr. Hannan shared that at next month's meeting, the Committee will be presented with the first draft of the FY 2022 Budget and will be asked to place that budget on file for public inspection.

Lastly, the Committee was provided a brief history of Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve. Hugging the northeastern border of Shabbona Lake State Park is Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve, once home to the namesake and his Potawatomi tribe. The preserve was purchased in March of 1941. It offers three enclosed shelters with wood stoves for hosting friend and family gatherings throughout the year. From north to south, along its one mile, 88-acre stretch, this preserve transforms from an Oak savanna to a Sugar Maple dominated forest. One of only a few sites in northern Illinois where the rare Oval ladies'-tresses Orchid has been observed, this gently rolling woodland also contains uncommon ferns and milkweeds, as well as a few of DeKalb County's last original Butternut trees that haven't yet succumbed to the Sirococcus virus. The increasingly uncommon Red-headed Woodpecker can be seen here on occasion, and the "crow sized" Pileated Woodpecker has been recently sighted at this preserve.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Mann-Lamb and seconded by Ms. Willis to adjourn the Committee Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Roman, Chairman

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary