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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Forest Preserve Operations Committee Minutes  
September 28, 2021**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve Operations Committee met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at Sycamore Forest Preserve in Sycamore, Illinois on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. Chairman Roman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those Members present were Ms. Mary Cozad, Mr. Tim Hughes, Ms. Terri Mann-Lamb, Ms. Suzanne Willis, and Chairman Craig Roman. Mr. Patrick Deutsch and Ms. Maureen Little were absent. A quorum was established with five Members present and two absent.

Others present included Forest Preserve District Superintendent Terry Hannan and County Administrator Brian Gregory.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Hughes moved to approve the August 24, 2021 minutes as presented. Ms. Mann-Lamb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL/DENIAL OF BIDS FOR RUSSELL WOODS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

The bridge across the Kishwaukee River at the Russell Woods Forest Preserve is now about 60 years old and is in need of replacement. The Forest Preserve District has known this bridge would need to be replaced for quite some time and has been saving for the replacement for multiple years now.

A Public Bid Opening for the Russell Woods Pedestrian Bridge Project was held (today) on Tuesday, September, 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Five bids were received as illustrated on the attached Bid Tabulation Sheet.

The District worked with Wendler Engineering on the project. The engineer's estimate last year was estimated at \$223,044.00. Due to the recent rise in costs, the engineer increased their estimate to be \$291,877.00.

The lowest bid meeting specifications came from Martin & Company Excavating of Oregon, Illinois for provisions of replacing the 60-year-old footbridge across the Kishwaukee River at Russell Woods Forest Preserve in the total amount of \$263,752.80, under the engineer's estimate.

Mr. Hannan added that due to the condition of the current bridge, it will be closed soon for safety reasons. The construction timeline currently has the new bridge being completed by the end of May, 2022.

**It was moved by Ms. Cozad, seconded by Ms. Mann-Lamb and was approved unanimously to forward the Award Resolution to the full Board of Commissioners recommending its approval.**

**DEKANE SNO-TRACKERS REQUEST FOR GREAT WESTERN TRAIL GROOMING**  
Clubs of Region 5 Association, represents members of the: Belvidere Prairie Riders, DeKalb Snotrackers, Elgin Cold Ducks, Genoa-Kingston Trailblazers, Hampshire White Riders, Huntley Penguins, Kishwaukee Super Sledders, and Marengo Snowgoers. The Association currently has an agreement with Kane County to groom their portion of the Great Western Trail from December 10<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup> for snowmobiling.

They are now asking the Forest Preserve District to enter into the same Agreement for DeKalb County's 3.05 mile portion of the Great Western Trail. It would be a five-year agreement during the term of December 10, 2021 to March 15, 2026 and shall on apply to the 3.05 miles on the Great Western Trail in DeKalb County.

Mr. Hannan presented the draft Resolution and the draft Agreement that was similar to Kane County's version. He added that the Forest Preserve District only allows snowmobiling at Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve and on the Great Western Trail.

**It was moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Mann-Lamb and it was approved unanimously to forward the Resolution and Agreement to the full Board of Commissioners recommending their approval.**

#### **FY2022 BUDGET**

##### **a. FY2022 Budget Appeals, if any**

There were no appeals filed for the FY2022 Forest Preserve District's Budget.

##### **b. Committee's Questions & Review of Departments' FY2022 Budget Requests**

There were no questions.

#### **MONTHLY REPORTS & ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Hannan reviewed the District's monthly projects and events with the Committee. Some of those events included:

- Seeds at Sunset – Friday, September 24, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Afton Forest Preserve
- Forest Bathing at Merritt Prairie (Adventure Works)
  - Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 10-12:30
  - Friday, October 15, 2021 from 5-7:30
- Jeff's Trees 2021 – Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at Afton Forest Preserve
- Great Western Trail Extension Ribbon Cutting - Saturday, October 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sycamore Forest Preserve
- Take a Hike with Adventure Works – Friday, November 19, 2021 from 3-5 p.m. at Afton Forest Preserve

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Ms. Mann-Lamb moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Land Acquisition per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) at 6:21 p.m. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Those Members voting yea were Ms. Cozad, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Mann-Lamb, Ms. Willis, and Chairman Roman. None were opposed and Mr. Deutsch and Ms. Little were absent.**

*The Committee entered back into their Open Meeting at 6:27 p.m.*

The Committee took a walk down the Great Western Trail Extension from Sycamore Forest Preserve west towards the City of Sycamore. The Sycamore Park District and the Forest Preserve District have been recognized by the Illinois Association of Park District as the 2021 recipient of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Award. This award recognizes agencies whose successful intergovernmental agreements or partnerships maximize tax dollars and benefit residents throughout the community.

Mr. Hannan also shared details about another partnership coming up. Literacy Lane is a partnership between Sycamore Public Library, Sycamore Park District and the DeKalb County Forest Preserve. The project's content will change monthly with library staff and park district staff providing stories, poetry, essays or health/exercise information to users of the Great Western Trail.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Ms. Cozad and seconded by Ms. Willis to adjourn the Committee Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Craig Roman, Chairman

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Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary