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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Forest Preserve Operations Committee Minutes  
January 25, 2022**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve Operations Committee met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at the Legislative Center's Gathertorium in Sycamore, Illinois on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. Vice-Chair Little called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those Members present were Ms. Mary Cozad, Mr. Patrick Deutsch, Ms. Michelle Pickett, Ms. Terri Mann-Lamb, and Vice-Chair Maureen Little. Mr. Tim Hughes and Chairman Craig Roman were absent. A quorum was established with five Members present and two absent.

Others present included Forest Preserve District Superintendent Terry Hannan and IDNR Wildlife Biologist Patrick McDonald.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Ms. Cozad moved to approve the October 26, 2021 minutes as presented. Ms. Mann-Lamb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**IDNR REQUEST FOR SHARPSHOOTING ACCESS AT POTAWATOMI WOODS FOREST PRESERVE FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) PROGRAM**

The Committee welcomed Mr. Patrick McDonald, Wildlife Biologist, from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Mr. McDonald thanked the Committee for allowing him to be present and share his report along with once again formally requesting to enter Potawatomi Woods Forest Preserve in Kirkland, Illinois in order to manage (in the form of sharpshooting) resident deer to conduct Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing.

Mr. McDonald further explained that management using sharpshooting to supplement hunter harvest allows the Department to conduct localized, focused deer reductions in small areas known to have CWD. The IDNR's goal is to reduce disease transmission rates by lowering densities in infected areas, to reduce environmental contamination from infected deer, and to remove sick deer from the population at a higher rate than deer are becoming newly-infected. Advantages of sharpshooting include: (1) reductions are limited to areas with disease, so healthy populations in the remainder of a county are not impacted as they would be if we relied solely on hunting for management; (2) sharpshooting can be conducted on properties that do not normally allow hunting (or allow only very limited hunting), so management can occur in areas that normally serve as refuges to hunting; (3) focused sharpshooting has been shown to remove sick animals at a higher rate than hunting programs; and (4) sharpshooting can target specific high-

risk deer social groups known to have CWD. Sharpshooting also provides detailed, localized surveillance information about disease distribution and prevalence rates within infected areas.

The Potawatomi Woods area is of great concern to the IDNR. This area has produced a large number of positive tests of CWD infested deer. Following the close of deer hunting seasons in January, teams of IDNR staff that are trained/certified for sharpshooting begin culling deer wintering in or around known CWD locations. All IDNR sharpshooting activities are carried out between now through March on Monday – Thursday evenings.

Sharpshooting areas are generally limited to locations within a 2-section buffer zone around each known CWD-positive section (1 section = ~1 mile<sup>2</sup>). Sharpshooting is only conducted with the permission of the landowner. All animals (including fawns) from which suitable tissue samples could be collected are tested for CWD. Additional tissue samples are collected for genetic testing and evaluation of reproductive status at the University of Illinois Champaign/Illinois Natural History Survey. All deer with negative CWD test results are processed and donated to the Feeding Illinois Food Pantry Network.

Depending on the relative success of a given area dictates how much time the IDNR will spend in that area as well as the prevalence of the disease in that area. Last year, the prevalence rate for all adult deer was 4.4% (males – 5.4%, females – 3.0%). DeKalb County prevalence was 2.0%; this year, 3 of 75 harvested adult deer tested positive. CWD has been detected in 19 counties. As a comparison, last year Wisconsin's prevalence rate for adult deer was 7.9% (1,287 cases/16,169 samples analyzed). Their agency culling program ended in 2007.

**Ms. Mann-Lamb moved to approve allowing the IDNR into Potawatomi Woods Forest Preserve to continue their Chronic Wasting Disease Sharpshooting Management Program. Ms. Cozad seconded the motion. All Members present voted yea. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. McDonald thanked the Committee again and noted that he would be happy to provide updated data to the Committee following the sharpshooting season.

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

Mr. Hannan shared that the Great Western Trail's Literacy Lane book had been updated to fit with the Winter Olympic Season.

He also reviewed the monthly wildlife highlights and staff activities from the months of October, November, and December 2021.

Lastly, Mr. Hannan shared that the Forest Preserve District received a generous donation for the Riverwood Forest Preserve from a neighbor. This is not their first time donating and Mr. Hannan expressed that the donation will go towards more prairie seed for the property.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Ms. Cozad moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Land Acquisition per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) at 6:24 p.m. Ms. Mann-Lamb seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Those Members voting yea were Ms. Cozad, Mr. Deutsch, Ms. Pickett, Ms. Mann-Lamb, and Vice-Chair Little. None were opposed and Mr. Hughes and Chairman Roman were absent.**

*The Committee entered back into their Open Meeting at 6:43 p.m.*

### **OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS**

The Committee welcomed their newest Committee Member Ms. Michelle Pickett.

The Committee decided that they would meet for a Special Meeting prior to the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in order to vote on a potential land acquisition in Kingston Township.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Mr. Deutsch and seconded by Ms. Mann-Lamb to adjourn the Committee Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Maureen Little, Vice-Chair

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Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary