

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 21, 2024 6:00 pm,
Education Classroom, Museum of the Grand Prairie,
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at Education Classroom, Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois. Commissioner Kerins called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Hundley called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott. Commissioner Herakovich was absent with notice.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Executive Director, Pearson, summarized an email sent to the Board from Kari Couch regarding land near River Bend that is under contract with the CCPFD and the land owner.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Special Meeting on February 5, 2024**
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 15, 2024**
- C. Minutes of Executive Session on February 15, 2024**
- D. Minutes of Special Meeting on March 4, 2024**
- E. Monthly Staff Reports**
- E. February Treasurers Report**
- F. Resolution 2024-03 Approve Sale of Surplus Goods**
- G. Approval of Bid for Lake of the Woods Golf Course Irrigation Wiring Replacement**
- H. Approval of Bid for Lake of the Woods Stake Bed Truck**

Commissioner Goodman made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Knott seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

FOREST PRESERVE FRIENDS FOUNDATION

Pearson noted the group recently met and discussion included fundraising and activities being planned for 2024, Stable Roots endowment account information, and lastly, noting trails will be the key fundraising initiative for 2024.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Lisa Sprinkle, Marketing Manager, reported staff are currently working with Preserve volunteers on creating an engagement group for outreach.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioners noted positive things about the following items from staff reports and observations:

- Spring work being done by staff
- Sustainability Group’s work with solar consultants
- Stidham Woods bike repair station

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- Volunteer work
- Golf numbers
- Christmas tree recycling
- Museum and Education school programs/field trips
- Preserve hiring numbers

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director Announcements – Pearson noted the new directional signage installed at Lake of the Woods, and Values work. Also, recent invasive removal and prescribed burns throughout the Preserves, and noting special thanks to staff members from that helped with some of these events.

Mike Daab, Deputy Executive Director, shared a map of the property that was the subject of the Public Comment. Daab noted as this property is being purchased with grant funds, stipulations of the grant would not allow such requests. Daab also noted staff had recently spoken with the owners of the cemetery located next to the Lake of the Woods Operations facilities on their possible plans to expand their operations, and lastly, Daab advised information from the Homeowners Association of the subdivision north of Stidham Woods was shared with staff regarding possible land available for trail access.

Daab also shared plans are underway for a shared event with the Upper Sangamon River Conservancy this summer. The event will be called Summer Splash and will align with the Take Me Fishing event and will also include events on the lake and the river, with more info coming!

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of ILDCEO Grant Agreement for the Kickapoo Rail Trail (KRT)

Commissioner Knott moved the Board authorize the Executive Director to sign the grant agreement between the Champaign County Forest Preserve District and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the design and construction of the KRT, in the amount of \$11.2 million. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

B. Approval of A/E Contract for Kickapoo Rail Trail

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the proposal for the Architecture and Engineering services at the Kickapoo Rail Trail from Farnsworth Group for One Million Four Hundred Three Thousand and 000/100 (\$1,403,000.00). Commissioner Hundley seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

C. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with Village of Saint Joseph

Commissioner Knott moved the Board approve the Kickapoo Rail Trail Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Saint Joseph. Commissioner Goodman seconded. CCFPD Planner, Bridgette Moen, gave an overview of the document included with the packet. A roll call

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vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

D. Approval of Lake of the Woods Utility Vehicle

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the bid from Lithgow Motorsports for Thirty-Two Thousand Twenty-Four Dollars and 00/100 Cents (\$32,024.00) for a Utility Vehicle at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve and authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract. Commissioner Knott seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

E. Approval of Lake of the Woods Discovery Garden Pre-Fabricated Greenhouse

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the base bid and alternate 1 for Greenhouse Construction (Material and Installation) at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve from Midwest Greenhouse Construction LLC for Three Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand Forty-Five and 00/100 (\$334,045.00) and authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract. Commissioner Knott seconded. Moen gave an overview of the information supplied in the packet, noting the difference in cost was associated with local contractors not being able to easily access supplies and experience with building greenhouses. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

F. Approval of Bid for Middle Fork River Dark Skies Trail Construction

Commissioner Knott moved the Board approve the bid for Dark Skies Trail Construction (Materials and Installation) at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve from William Charles Construction company, LLC for Three hundred Ninety-One Thousand Five Hundred and 11/100 (\$391,500.00) and authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Staff noted this contractor had also done the work on the recent Willow Pond Renovation. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

G. Approval of Bid for Homer Lake Invasive Tree and Shrub Control

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the base bid from Stantec for the Homer Lake Invasive Tree and Shrub Control Project in the amount of One Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Nine -Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$146,950) and authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract. Commissioner Hundley Seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

H. Rejection of Bid for Lake of the Woods Stream Barb Construction

Commissioner Knott moved the Board reject all bids for Stream Barb Construction (Materials and Installation) at Lake of the Wood Forest Preserve. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Moen noted the rock used in the bid is hard to find in this area, so will be bid out next time with a material that can be found locally. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

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I. Resolution 2024-04 Support Application for IDNR Recreational trail Program Funds

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve Resolution 2024-04, authorizing the application for a Recreational trail Program (RTP) grant, administered through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Commissioner Knott seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Knott made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:57 pm. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

Wendy Hundley, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District