

**Journal of Proceedings**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT**  
Rotary Hill Shelter, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois  
**Thursday, September 17, 2020**

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2020. Commissioner Kerins called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Hays called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, and Kerins. Commissioner Livesay was absent with notice.

**REMOTE ATTENDANCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS** – None

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on August 20, 2020

B. Monthly Staff Reports

Commissioner Hays made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Commissioner Herakovich moved to amend the minutes to add under Discussion Items: 2020 Budget Update, “Commissioner Herakovich volunteered to work with Commissioner Goodman and Finance Director John Baker to develop a program budget”. Commissioner Goodman seconded with noted change. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION**

A. **2019 District Audit – Hope Wheeler, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Ms. Wheeler gave a visual presentation review of the District audit, and also shared the final audit document with Commissioners. Commissioner Kerins asked Ms. Wheeler if there was anything the Board needed to address. Ms. Wheeler noted that adding an Assistant Finance Director position should help the District finance department meet its deadlines and stay on top of its workload in the future. Commissioners thanked Ms. Wheeler for attending the meeting and for CLA’s work on the District and Foundation audit. Baker also thanked Ms. Wheeler for her and her team’s help with the District audit.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

A. **Forest Preserve Friends Foundation**

Executive Director Wuellner noted that Ms. Wheeler had reviewed the Foundation’s annual audit with board members at their September meeting. The meeting also included a lengthy discussion on the referendum. Wuellner noted that longtime Foundation member Robert Espeseth would soon be retiring from the foundation, so the group is planning to honor his service by purchasing a bench for placement in one of the preserves.

**B. Citizens Advisory Committee**

Commissioner Hays noted the next meeting will be held October 7<sup>th</sup>, but currently the group is continuing to be very active in the efforts for the Forest Preserve referendum.

**C. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioners cited the following items from staff reports and observations:

- the People's Choice Awards
- the increase in astro-tourism at Middle Fork's International Dark Sky Park
- the increase in play at the golf course
- the popularity of the botanical garden pond's koi fish
- the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment exhibit at the museum
- partnering with UPD and CCAS on the educational kits
- the sustainability committee's work on its long term goals
- volunteer work with Farm Credit Services staff
- the great condition and usage of the Middle Fork Campground
- the salary compression information
- the application for the Americorp Volunteer Program for 2021, and
- research into Project Labor Agreements.

In response to clarification about the status of the Glover RR Crossing east of St. Joseph, Wuellner confirmed that Union Pacific had acknowledged the District's underlying rights to the crossing but UP engineers were still prohibiting construction of an at-grade crossing. IDNR trail experts believe that UP's concession to jurisdiction is a major step toward eventual completion of the crossing.

Commissioner Hays noted the Village of Mahomet canoe access is almost completed and will soon be ready to open.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**A. Draft Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

Wuellner noted thanks to the Planning and Development department staff, Mike Daab and Bridgette Moen, and Finance Director, John Baker, for their work on the information that was supplied to the Board in the monthly packet. Commissioner Herakovich noted her desire to investigate metal roofing for future replacements.

**B. Sustainability Committee Report**

Commissioners commended the work being done by the Committee and noted the great information included in the report. Committee member, Stacey Clementz, was in attendance and reported one of the committee members, a seasonal staff with Natural Resources, has been a huge help over the summer providing information contained within the report. Commissioners

asked about solar initiatives. Daab noted possible leasing options will be reviewed for consideration.

**C. Referendum Updates**

Wuellner stated she had just returned from a meeting with the Farm Bureau, and that she and other staff have been attending many similar meetings throughout the county to provide information on the District's proposed referendum.

**D. Announcements**

It was noted the District will be submitting a boat access development grant for a canoe and kayak launch at Lake of the Woods along the Sangamon River. The launch would be constructed in the vicinity of Izaak Walton Cabin.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Disbursements for Approval**

Commissioner Goodman moved to approve the payment of \$229,231.50 in disbursements dated August 21, 2020 through September 17, 2020. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, and Kerins. Motion carried.

**B. Treasures Report - August**

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the August 2020 Treasures report. Commissioner Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, and Kerins. Motion carried.

**C. Resolution 2020-10 Authorizing Submission of an ITEP Application**

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve Resolution 2020-10, authorizing the application for an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant, administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), for the next phase of Kickapoo Rail Trail construction. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Commissioners confirmed the termini for proposed trail grant, which would be west of Ogden to the Vermilion County line. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, and Kerins. Motion carried.

**D. Heron View Invasive Species Removal**

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the hiring of Cardno JFNew, a professional ecological restoration contractor, to remove understory non-native, invasive woody species in the 23-acre upland oak-hickory section of Heron View Forest Preserve for Sixteen thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$16,000). Commissioner Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, and Kerins. Motion carried.

**E. Golf Course Irrigation system Repair**

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the proposal for Golf Course Irrigation Controller Replacement from Commercial Irrigation & Turf, located in East Peoria, IL for Twenty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$29,500). Commissioner Hays seconded. Commissioners questioned the sparse bid turnout. Staff noted it was probably due to timing of the bid for that type of work. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, and Kerins. Motion carried.

**F. Point Pleasant Water Control Structure Installation**

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the proposal for the Point Pleasant Water Control Installation project from Dig It of Champaign, Inc., located in Champaign, IL for Forty-Six thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$46,200.00). Commissioner Goodman seconded. Executive Director Wuellner noted that the work will be covered by grants and donations. Commissioners commended staff for the breakdown included in the proposal. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, and Kerins. Motion carried.

**G. Farm Fund Transfer**

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the transfer of \$44,741 for reimbursement of 2019 Natural Resources projects from the Construction Farm Fund to the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following Commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, and Kerins. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Herakovich made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:01 pm. Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, and Kerins. Motion carried.

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Scott Hays, Secretary  
Board of Commissioners  
Champaign County Forest Preserve District