

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Forest Preserve Headquarters
February 18, 2026

PRESENT

Judy Barnard
Mike Eickman
Gloria Lind – Absent
Cheryl Maggio
Jerry Paulson
Emily Porter
Jeff Tilly

STAFF

Daniel Olson, Executive Director
Steve Chapman, Director of Finance
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Sarah Lorenz, Communications Coordinator
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources
Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager
Kristy Knapp, Administrative Services Manager
Emily Wendlandt, Board Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Ann Wasser Alex Mills Debbi Hamilton Becky Maier

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM, by President Jeff Tilly.

ROLL CALL Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE Judy Barnard led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Judy Barnard made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 21st, 2026 meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Report – The Director of Finance, Steve Chapman, presented to the Board the corporate fund details and financial results from November 21st, 2025 to January 31st, 2026.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills for January - Steve Chapman presented to the Board the bills for January. Mike Eickman made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for January in the amount of \$1,122,188.82. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Purchase of Front Deck Mower– Vaughn Stamm presented to the Board to approve the purchase of a front deck mower for the North Area Preserve Maintenance Department. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the purchase. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Purchase of Golf Slope Mower – Vaughn Stamm presented to the Board the resolution to approve the purchase of a golf slope mower for Macktown Golf Course. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the purchase. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Purchase of Pickup Truck with Plow – Vaughn Stamm presented to the Board the resolution to approve the purchase of a pickup truck with a plow the North Area Preserve Maintenance Department. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the purchase. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Acceptance of Bids for Klehm Garden Gazebo Roof Replacement – Vaughn Stamm presented to the Board the resolution to accept the bids for the Klehm Garden Gazebo roof replacement project. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the purchase. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Acceptance of Bids for Fertilizer and Chemicals - Vaughn Stamm presented to the Board the resolution to accept the bids for fertilizer and chemicals. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the purchase. **Motion passed unanimously.**

STAFF REPORTS

Preserve Operations - Vaughn Stamm, Matt Weik, Scott Wallace, and Bryan Helmold submitted a written report. Vaughn Stamm mentioned to the Board that the new hires for golf will attend the Board meeting next month to introduce themselves to the Board.

Natural Resource Management – Mike Brien, Mike Groves, Keith Krey and Liz Hucker submitted a written report. Mike Brien let the Board know that the Deer Management program has concluded and that the deer removed were given to the IDNR to test for Chronic Wasting Disease. Mike Brien also gave the Board an update on the Natural Resource building.

Golf Operations – Vaughn Stamm, Rich Rosenstiel, Tyler Knapp, and Mark Freiman submitted a written report.

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Lorenz submitted a written report.

Human Resources – Jody Kennay submitted a written report.

Partner Groups – Alex Mills, from Klehm Arboretum, updated the Board on the renovation of Klehm's beams and arches for the gazebo. Alex also mentioned that the bids for the spray pad have been accepted.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:08 PM Mike Eickman made a motion to go into closed session to discuss land acquisition and personnel. At 7:02 PM the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED – Consent Agenda

Judy Barnard made a motion to approve the following closed session minutes: March 17th, 2021, April 21st, 2021, May 6th, 2021, May 19th, 2021, June 16th, August 18th, 2021 and September 1st, 2021. **Motion passed.** Jerry Paulson abstained.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Approval to Release, destroy meeting verbatim recordings – Emily Porter made a motion to approve of the resolution. **Motion Passed unanimously.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

1. Eastern Bluebird Monitor Training over Zoom starting at 5:00pm on March 12th.
2. Budburst Monitor Training over Zoom starting at 6:00pm on March 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl Maggio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 PM; **motion passed unanimously.**

Next regular Board Meeting– 5:30 PM Wednesday, March 18th, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wendlandt
Recording Secretary