

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Forest Preserve Headquarters
July 16th, 2025

PRESENT

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

STAFF

Steve Chapman, Director of Finance
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Sarah Lorenz, Communications Coordinator
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resource
Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager

GUESTS

Debbi Hamilton Rose Shedd Charity Butts Ann Wasser Ethan Schultz

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

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE Mike Eickman led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES Judy Barnard made a motion to approve the minutes for all of the Executive Director interviews. **Motion passed unanimously.** Gloria Lind made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 17 board meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS

Debbi Hamilton, on behalf of The Valley Trail Riders, proposed that Funderburg Forest Preserve add an equestrian area.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:38 PM Gloria Lind made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel. Mike Eickman made a motion to go back into open session at 5:47 PM. Roll Call taken. No action was taken while in closed session.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Executive Director Contract – Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the Executive Director Employee Contract. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Bills for June - Steve Chapman presented to the Board the bills for June. Jerry Paulson made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for June in the amount of \$1,168,772.50. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Extension of the Severson Dells Nature Center Lease – Judy Barnard made a motion to amend the extension of the Severson Dells Nature Center Lease to state that the lease will expire on September 18th. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the resolution as amended. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Lease Agreement for County Line – Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the lease agreement for County Line. **Motion passed unanimously.**

IMRF Authorized Agent – Emily Porter made a motion to approve of appointing Jody Kennay as the interim IMRF authorized agent. **Motion passed unanimously.**

STAFF REPORTS

Preserve Operations - Vaughn Stamm, Matt Weik, Scott Wallace, and Bryan Helms submitted a written report. Vaughn Stamm let the Board know that the well at the Seward Bluffs equestrian area has been closed down for the rest of the season. Vaughn Stamm made the Board aware of the issues with the well at the Seward Bluffs equestrian area.

Natural Resource Management – Mike Brien, Mike Groves, Keith Krey and Liz Hucker submitted a written report. Mike Brien gave the Board an update on the newest developments for the Natural Resource Shop.

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

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Lorenz submitted a written report.

Law Enforcement – Sheriff's Department submitted a written report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

1. July 25 – Nine & Dine at Ledges Golf Course
2. August 2 – Walk With U at Blackhawk Springs
3. August 6 – Walk Up Fishing Clinic at Four Lakes Forest Preserve from 10:00am – 3:00pm.
4. August 15 – 815 Day.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:14 PM Gloria Lind made a motion to go into closed session to discuss land acquisition. Judy Barnard made a motion to go back into open session at 6:59PM. Roll Call taken. No action was taken while in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Eickman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM; **motion passed unanimously.**

Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, August 13th, 2025 at Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wendlandt
Recording Secretary