

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Forest Preserve Headquarters  
August 20, 2025

**PRESENT**

Judy Barnard  
Mike Eickman  
Gloria Lind – Arrived at 5:38 PM  
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 Resource  
Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager  
Kristy Knapp, Administrative Services Manager

**GUESTS**

Alex Mills      Debbi Hamilton      Ray Ferguson  
Becky Maier    Craig Campbell

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

**PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE** Judy Barnard 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 the July 16 board meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS**

Introduction of New Executive Director, Dan Olson – Jeff Tilly formally introduced Daniel Olson as the new Executive Director for the Winnebago County Forest Preserves. Dan thanked the Board and the Board welcomed Dan.

Draft Budget – Steve Chapman presented to the Board the 2025 – 2026 draft budget.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Bills for July - Steve Chapman presented to the Board the bills for July. Mike Eickman made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for July in the amount of \$655,166.85. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Budget Amendment Ordinance – Steve Chapman presented to the Board the Budget Amendment Ordinance. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the budget amendment. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

**STAFF REPORTS**

Preserve Operations - Vaughn Stamm, Matt Weik, Scott Wallace, and Bryan Helmold submitted a written report. Vaughn Stamm gave insight to the Board the condition of the Ledges Golf Course after the recent flooding in that area.

Natural Resource Management – Mike Brien, Mike Groves, Keith Krey and Liz Hucker submitted a written report. Mike Brien updated the Board in regards to the new Natural Resource shop and to say that the contractors are optimistic that they can break ground by fall.

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

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Lorenz submitted a written report. Sarah Lorenz thanked the Board members who were able to volunteer their time at the Winnebago County Fair.

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

Partner Groups – Alex Mills from Klehm Arboretum thanked the Board and staff that attended the ribbon cutting for the Nancy Olson Children's Playground. Mike Eickman from Sand Bluffs Observatory mentioned to the Board that the observatory is now open for bird banding and that they are looking for volunteers.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

1. August 22 - Bat Hike at Blackhawks Springs Forest Preserve starting at 7:30pm.
2. August 29 - Moth Night with Severson Dells Nature Center at Severson Dells Forest Preserve starting at 8:30pm.
3. September 10 - Invasive & Nuisance Plants in the Forest Landscape: Fall Edition at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve starting at 5:30pm.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:35 PM Gloria Lind made a motion to go into closed session to discuss land acquisition and the lease agreement. Emily Porter made a motion to go back into open session at 7:52 PM. No action was taken while in closed session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Judy Barnard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM; **motion passed unanimously.**

Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Wendlandt  
Recording Secretary