

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 21, 2021 – 6:55 PM  
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING**

1. Karen Kinney, County Clerk, called the roll: (Record)

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns,  
D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno,  
M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson,  
L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL PRESENT 24**

D. Clevenger,

**TOTAL ABSENT 1**

2. President Swanson informed Commissioners that the Presentation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2021 Audit by RSM US, LLP will be presented at the next meeting on January 18, 2022.
3. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the November 16, 2021, Forest Preserve Commission meeting minutes, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns,  
D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno,  
M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson,  
B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES 23**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: (None) (Three calls were made to the public.)**

5. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Friends behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy. It is with tremendous excitement I am able to report a project that this Commission, more importantly of the staff of the District have been working diligently on. Yesterday the East Moline City Council with a 5 – 2 vote, grave its concurrence to the project to acceptance of the One Million Dollar Grant (\$1,000,000.00) from the Clean Energy Foundation. Will create 180 acres protected old growth Forest Land in our County and establish a new Forest Preserve. So as Commissioners, I want to congratulate for your diligence and thank you for service and leadership. Pat

yourselves on the back, we have ourselves a new Forest Preserve. Shout out to Commissioner Normoyle who came to the City of East Moline meeting last night. Mr. Craver that has been our guide throughout this process, by I's dotting and t's to crossing but I want to thank you for your role.

Jeff Craver was recognized to speak. Mr. Carver stated that now the real work begins.

President Swanson restated, now the real works begins. Just a reminder for those of you that might hear questions from the community. Jeff, Mike and Ben the professional leadership of the District forged an amazing partnership with groups like Friends of Off-Road Cycling, River Action, Living Lands and Water. We would not be where we are without Chad Pregracke right now. These partnerships enable us to develop park land in a way preserve in a pristine condition yet but grant appropriate access for those of us that like to hike, mountain bike and all that kind of stuff. Yes, the hard work begins now. But it is going to be fun to watch. I am quite proud of that.

6. Commissioner McNeil moved to approve the Claims and Forest Preserve Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$744,808.45, as presented. Commissioners L. Moreno and Cremeens seconded.

Commissioner Sowards moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Adams seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES                    23**

**TOTAL NO                    0**

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner Normoyle moved to waive the reading and approve the FY 2022 Transfers of Appropriation in the General Fund, as presented. Commissioner Enburg seconded.

Commissioner M. Moreno moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 23

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Thompson moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding Niabi Zoo Fund FY22 appropriation amendments – Rhino Yard Project, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

## **RESOLUTION**

RE: Fiscal Year 2022 Niabi Zoo Fund Appropriation Amendments for Rhino Yard Project

**WHEREAS**, Niabi Zoo acquired one white rhino in the spring of 2021, and

**WHEREAS**, the zoo intends to acquire additional white rhinos in the future, and

**WHEREAS**, the white rhino exhibit requires modifications to house and display additional white rhinos, and

**WHEREAS**, the Niabi Zoo Foundation has raised funds to given to pay for the exhibit modifications, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** An emergency exists as outlined above.

**SECTION 2.** Revenues in the amount of \$29,367.00 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
\$29,367.00	131-32 364.10	Contributions from Private Sources

**SECTION 3.** Expenditures in the amount of \$29,367.00 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
\$29,367.00	131-32-08 767.00	Infrastructure over \$15,000.00

**SECTION 4.** This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2021.

Commissioner Adams moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Deppe seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES**            **23**

**TOTAL NO**            **0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Deppe moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding the Designation of Banks and Other Depositories, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

## **Resolution**

### **Rock Island County Forest Preserve District Re: Designation of Banks or other Depositories**

**WHEREAS**, Louisa A. Ewert, County Collector and County Treasurer, of the County of Rock Island, State of Illinois, and being appointed Treasurer, of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District by the Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of the County of Rock Island, State of Illinois has pursuant to the terms of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, 70 ILCS 805/8b, requested this Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of Rock Island County to designate a Bank or Banks or other Depository in which the Funds and Public Monies in the custody of the County Treasurer and monies received by her in the collection of taxes may be kept, and

**WHEREAS**, the following designated banks have furnished copies of the sworn Statements of Resources and Liabilities, as furnished to the Comptroller of currency or to the Commissioner of Banks and Trust Companies of Illinois.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FOREST PRESERVE  
COMMISSIONERS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY**, aforesaid, that the following named Banks are hereby designated as Depositories in which the funds and monies received by Louisa A. Ewert, County Collector and County Treasurer and in the collection of taxes may be deposited to-wit:

***Bank of Orion; Moline, Illinois***

***US Bank; Rock Island, Illinois***

***Quad City Bank and Trust; Moline, Illinois***

*First Midwest Bank; Moline, Illinois*  
*Clock Tower Community Bank: Hillsdale, Illinois*  
*Peoples National Bank (fka Reynolds State Bank); Reynolds, Illinois*  
*CBI Bank & Trust; Buffalo Prairie, Illinois*  
*SENB; Moline, Illinois*  
*Blackhawk State Bank & Trust; Milan, Illinois*  
*American Bank of Rock Island; Rock Island, Illinois*  
*First National Bank; Moline, Illinois*  
*Midwest Bank; Andalusia, Illinois*  
*Kone Employees Credit Union; Moline, Illinois*  
*Moline Municipal Credit Union; Moline, Illinois*  
*QC Postal Credit Union; Moline, Illinois*  
*Service Plus Credit Union; Moline, Illinois*  
*DuTrac Community Credit Union; Moline, Illinois*  
*Commerce Bank, Kansas City, Missouri*  
*PFM Asset Management LLC, Chicago, Illinois*  
*IMET, Dublin, Ohio*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each bank herein designated as a depository for such funds or monies shall furnish the said Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of Rock Island County with a copy of all Statements of Resources and Liabilities which it is required to furnish to the said Comptroller of Currency or Director of Financial Institutions of the State of Illinois while acting as such Depository and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if such funds and monies are deposited in a bank herein designated, as Depository, the amounts of such deposits shall not exceed sixty-five (65%) of the Capital Stock and Surplus of such Bank and such County Treasurer shall not be discharged from responsibility for any such funds or monies deposited in any bank in excess of such limitation.

**ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSIONERS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS**, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2021.

Commissioner L. Burns moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Deppe seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES**                    **23**

**TOTAL NO**                    **0**

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve the 2022 Forest Preserve Meeting and Holiday Schedule, as amended.

**Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates for the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District and Forest Preserve Executive Committee meetings for the calendar year 2022 pursuant to the Open Meetings Act**

Pursuant to Section 2.03 of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2.03, the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District has prepared and makes available this Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates for the calendar year of 2022. The Rock Island County Forest Preserve District may schedule other special meetings, emergency meetings, and reconvened meetings as deemed necessary and as allowed by law pursuant to Section 2.02 of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2.02, in addition to any amendments or other modifications to the regular meeting date schedule. All regular meetings unless otherwise notified shall take place at 5:30 PM in the Rock Island County Chambers in the Rock Island County Building, 1504 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board of Supervisors as follows:

January 18	July 19
February 15	August 16
March 15	September 20
April 19	October 18
May 17	November 15
June 21	December 20

The Forest Preserve Executive Committee will meet at 8:30 AM in the Rock Island County Chambers in the Rock Island County Building, 1504 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois unless otherwise noted.

January 11	
February 8	
March 8	
April 12	
May 10	
June 14-Niabi Zoo, 13010 Niabi Zoo Road, Coal Valley, IL 61240	
July 12-Indian Bluff Golf Course, 6200 78 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Milan, IL 61284	
August 9-Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, 19406 Loud Thunder Road, Illinois City, IL 61259	
September 13-Illiniwek Forest Preserve, 836 State Avenue, Hampton, IL 61256	
October 11	
November 8	
December 13	

These schedules of regular meeting dates as adopted pursuant to a vote of the Forest Preserve Commission, of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, at the regular meeting on December 21, 2021.

Commissioner L. Moreno amended the following meetings as follows, November 15, 2022 Meeting moved to November 22, 2022. Executive Committee from October 11, 2022 moved to October 12, 2022 and November 8, 2022 moved to November 15, 2022. Commissioner Cremeens seconded.

Commissioner Thompson moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES**            **23**

**TOTAL NO**            **0**

Motion carried.

Commissioner Adams moved to approve the 2022 Forest Preserve Meeting and Holiday Schedule, as amended. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

Commissioner Normoyle moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Thompson seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES**            **23**

**TOTAL NO**            **0**

Motion carried.

11. Commissioner Normoyle moved to approve Jeffrey Craver, Director, as the District's FOIA Officer for Calendar Year 2022, as presented. Commissioner McNeil seconded.

Commissioner Vyncke moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES**      **23**

**TOTAL NO**      **0**

Motion carried.

12. Commissioner Cremeens moved to approve the 2022 Fee Schedule of the District Facilities and Services, as presented. Commissioner Brunk seconded.

Commissioner L. Burns moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Adams seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES**      **23**

**TOTAL NO**      **0**

Motion carried.

13. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve Crawford & Company bid for Niabi Zoo Rhino Yard Project at \$29,367.00, as presented. Commissioners Brunk and Cremeens seconded.

Commissioner Vyncke moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES**      **23**

**TOTAL NO**      **0**

Motion carried.

14. Commissioner Adams moved to approve Tyler Technologies quote for additional Financial Software and Maintenances, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Thompson seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES**                    **23**

**TOTAL NO**                    **0**

Motion carried.

15. Commissioner Deppe moved to approve the Conservation Fund Recipient Agreement with Enbridge Flanagan South Pipeline Project, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

Commissioner Morthland was recognized.

Commissioner Morthland asked if he would elaborate a little bit. Is this the new horse trailer?

President Swanson stated no. Thank you Commissioner Morthland. Some years back there was a Legal Settlement that created a fund for lands that were displaced. Wild Lands that were displaced by the Enbridge Flanagan South Pipeline Project. Those funds can be used for restoration projects. Mr. Craver do you want to say anything about this specific project?

Mr. Craver was recognized.

Mr. Craver stated that the funds were administered through the Pipeline Project. These funds were given to the Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund works with US Fish and Wildlife Service dispersing those to funds projects. We have been awarded at minimum \$75,000.00. As you can see there is a red line draft of the agreement in there. There is a bubble note that the minimum amount awarded to be \$75,000.00. I do not believe there will be any other material or material changes other than finalizing that dollar amount upon your approval here. These funds will be used to help with the acquisition of the New Forest Preserve.

President Swanson stated that you know that majority of the cost of the new acquisition will come from the Clean Air Foundation but there was a matching component. As what Mr. Craver has pointed out in the past usually means Grant Funds it is about they put up 60% and we have to come up with the rest. This one is extraordinary that 80% of the total project cost is coming from the Grant. Leaving much less that we have to come up with. President Swanson asked Commissioner Morthland if that answered his question.

Commissioner Morthland said that answered that question. Another question how is the location chosen?

President Swanson stated so the location was kind of chosen by the sellers. The sellers have been trying for years to get development interest on those particular parcels. Failing that over a number many years they opened themselves to the possibility making it a .... Actually they were advised by one of the appraisers the highest and best use would be as public lands. Probably there is not enough funding to turn into a more Urban Park given the size of it, so we are grateful that the sellers were open to the idea to discussing with the Forest Preserve District the possibility of acquisition. That is what got the ball rolling, then Mr. Craver and his team had to find ways of acquiring the land and at a price that would satisfy the sellers. Then that is where we were tremendously fortunate but also the beneficiaries of the hard-diligent work of professional staff. Being able to obtain access to One Million Dollar Grant (\$1,000,000.00) and leverage other funds that due to the careful fiscal management of the District Finances by Mr. Craver and his team, we were able to access funds like this Pipeline Project settlement.

Commissioner Morthland stated that it does seem to appear like we are sweeping it as rescuer of a whole bunch of parcels. Please persuade my concern about that.

President Swanson stated I would share your concern if there was nothing redeeming about the parcel. However, we have been given understand by naturalist of a scope and a stature that of Chad Pregracke plus our own arborists Mike Peterson and others that we will find tree specimens on these two properties that you simply will not find anywhere else in Illinois, in the wild. There is astonishingly old hickory and oak here. This is also a habitat that is very commensurate that we have seen at Illiniwek. As you know, thanks to Mike Peterson careful stewardship we have attracted four endangered or threatened species back to Rock Island County thanks to that management. Two species that have not been seen in Rock Island County for generations. They are not threatened but they are coming back. So, our intent would be first part of our Mission Statement of the Forest Preserve District is to Conserve is to create these parcels or steward these parcels in a way we have done at Illiniwek, so we can pass this along as a legacy to our grandchildren and future generations. So, address your questions specifically if that was not the outcome I would not support

this either. That is the likely outcome. That Conservation would be the highest and best purpose of this land. There is no better steward of Conservation, I can think of in Rock Island County then the Rock Island Forest Preserve District.

Commissioner Morthland said Thank you President Swanson.

President Swanson asked if there was any other questions or discussions.

Commissioner Normoyle moved to approve the previous roll call vote.  
Commissioner M. Moreno seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES**                    **22**

J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL NO**                    **1**

Motion carried.

**16. Comments from Commissioners:**

Commissioner Vyncke was recognized. Commissioner Vyncke stated that he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I would like to also recognize the efforts put forth by the staff in the County Office Building for the awesome decorating that they have done. I know that there is a completion going on there. Thank you for decorations. It is nice to see them all.

Commissioner Deppe was recognized. Commissioner Deppe stated he could not say it better.

Commissioner L. Moreno was recognized. Commissioner L. Moreno stated Merry Christmas and Happy Festivus and a big airing of grievances for the rest of us.

President Swanson stated that here is announcement that could be made by someone else. Thank you to Commissioner Simmer and Commissioner M. Moreno that those cookies were not brought specifically for the County Board Meeting. I am sorry Chairman those were specifically for the Forest Preserve Commission I hope you have all had a chance to enjoy them. So, thank you so very much.

County Clerk Karen Kinney was recognized. Ms. Kinney stated that the Recorder's Office was declared the winner of the decorating. Ms. Kinney wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

17. Commissioner Adams moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner L. Burns seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES**            **23**

**TOTAL NO**            **0**

Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, January 18, 2021, at 5:30pm, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinctive upward flourish at the end.

KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:wlrb