

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 18, 2025 – 5:58PM
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON - PRESIDING**

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil,
D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer,
K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL PRESENT 17

E. Dewith, E. Sowards

TOTAL ABSENT 2

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Madam Clerk. Appreciate that very much. Well, if there's one frustration I have and there aren't many with getting to work with the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, it's that not more people in the county know about the amazing professionals that make up the Forest Preserve District staff and especially the zoo. Scientists who work at the zoo are world class and tonight, friends we get to hear from one of my favorites and so it's my pleasure, at this time, to turn these over to Zoo Assistant Director, Tammy Schmidt. Tammy the floor is yours and you might want to pull the mic a little closer. There you go and thanks for being with us."

Ms. Tammy Schmidt stated, "Are you saying I'm short?"

President Swanson stated, "No, no the mic is in the wrong direction...want it to pick up every word."

(laughing)

Ms. Schmidt stated, "Okay, well thank you for having me today. When the big boss asks you to come out you come out. I postpone my hair appointment and I invited my mom. So, anything I say is her fault."

Anyway, we do a lot of amazing work out at the zoo. I want to touch just a little bit on it I don't want to take terribly too much of your time. I like pictures, illustrations to kind of show you what we're doing. But I came specifically to talk about our...our animal management programs and some of a little bit of our research and participation and partnership in that.

So overall, we have 500 plus animals at the zoo today. Over a 113 species and here's your listing here. I won't bore you with the fish and the insects. And here's just a smattering of images of some of our beautiful individuals at the zoo today.

We participate in, multiple accreditation body facilities and organizations. And a couple of the things that we're really proud of in the last couple of years, we have joined the Safe Program, which is saving animals from extinction. It is an AZA based program. However, Safe Programs are in such need that they want everybody they want the village of professional animal folks to come out and it's in the name, Save These Species. So, we have American Red Bulls, African Painted Dogs, and just most recently in the last two months, we've joined the SAFE American Turtle Program.

We also have been a sustainability partner with a Black and White Colobus Monkey for over a decade, and we have been participating with the Fennec Fox and Cape Porcupine. If you watch our Facebook page or standing in about, well, what's going on at the zoo, you will see a multitude of Fennec Foxes that we have, produced just out of our local valley corner of the world. We have had three pairs, 20 kids born, raised and born, and we just started a new pair. So that's just been within four years. So, any of these animals that have gone out to other zoos, because we're a sustainability partnership, we follow or manage the manager of the Fennec Fox, program, and they recommend where these animals go.

So, Niabi Zoo actually owns all of these Fennec Foxes that are on a slide and then have gone on to either be in sibling groups or start their own, little family at another zoo. So, pretty cool. I haven't made this one as snazzy, but this program from Black and White Colobus Monkey, who are really favorites of all of our...of our guests that come out, we've had 15 offspring over eighteen years. That's incredible. We just actually have to say goodbye to Miss Spunky Monkey who is the grandma of our colobus family.

She's been, at the zoo since the nineteen nineties, which is an amazing comment on the care over the years. And we've had all of these boys, and we're a little top heavy on boys, but our last little girl, Herradira, was born, this past year, and we're...we have recommendation for another, another kiddo or two coming in this year. So, we're really, really excited and very proud. The zookeeper that's working with them has worked with them almost all these years, and it's just a really great comment on her relationship with these primates. And then our Cape Porcupines is a little bit newer for us.

We got the pair a couple of years ago and they had to kinda grow into their...into their quills, so to speak. And since they, joined Charles and Melele, they have had eight porcupettes, is what little baby porcupines are called, in the last three years. And don't tell anyone, but we just had two born on the 15th. So, we had another pair of twins born. And, again, this group, we own the parents.

Therefore, any animals that have gone on to other facilities, they are another sustainability partnership. All AZA at this point are owned by Niabi Zoo. That

doesn't, it sounds yucky to say owned. However, there are animals that could be coming back to us. That's our name going out there.

To me, it's important no matter what the letters are of our accrediting body. We are out there providing for the the, professionalism of the zoo community, the aquarium community, and we're all doing it together. And I would hazard to say that with our professionalism and our team, we are sought out just today, actually, from the bobcat group because of our professionalism and because of what we are achieving at our little corner of the world. We also have many of our, 600 animals that are part of species of concern. So, we have critically endangered species...endangered species, just as I have them listed here, vulnerable species, and threatened species throughout our collection.

And then we are part of managed programs. So, if you know anything about ZAA, we have animal management programs. When we join ZAA, I join the animal management program because someday, we're gonna get Kia the Rhino a girlfriend. So, I thought it was important that I join that group and it's really cool to be a part of it. To know where every white rhino is in The United States of America and beyond and then you may recognize SSPs. They're really not called those anymore. They have, downgraded to signature, provisional, and secure because of all the work that's been done around the community with our animals. There are animals that don't need that tight focus as much as some others do. So, we have some of those animals in those programs. And, again, we are sought after for our space and our professionalism and our...our collective experiences with many of these animals.

We also, in 2024, joined the Wildlife Confiscation Network. This is so important. It gives me chills to think about it because we have been called upon by the state of Illinois and by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to take in certain animals that have been caught at the border illegally. Let's say rolled up in a sock and a suitcase. It's gross, but it makes you feel like you are helping the greater good when you're called upon to take care, at least give a, a temporary home for those that have a criminal open case or for those that are gonna be a way station at our place and move on.

So, to date...so since 2024, we joined last year we're the first zoo in Illinois to become part of the Wildlife Confiscation Network. It...it...it started with USFWS, and it also was a ZZA program. Ultimately, it is USFWS. Those officers in our ports catching these, animals being put in horrendous conditions, coming in to be put into the pet trade.

So, to date we have brought our first animals brought in right here tortoise's last year, rolled up in socks, hidden in toys. Two Cane Toads, that just joined us this year from Azusa, California. Two Red Handed Tamarins caught at the Texas border. Two Fennec Fox that came confiscated, but sometimes we don't know what the

circumstances are, but still an open case. Twelve Santa Isabella frog dark frogs are just these cute little frogs with yellow stripes and...and spots, and they're red.

And then, some of you may know that the two peacocks that were running around Bettendorf last year, though they were not confiscated, they were rescued by the Humane Society in Iowa, and they called on us to see if we can hold them and give them a home. And they are, of course, both beautiful males that are gonna be strutting around, trying to impress one another. But, we did take them off the streets because...streets...the main street, school streets in Iowa, at this time of year, are not friendly to peacocks. Not sure how they ended up out there. Nobody...they were in the news, people were following them, not sure what happen, but we gave them a home. And then we also were called upon by the Humane Society of Scott County on some animals that have been confiscated from a horrifying home life, both for children that were human and animal children.

So, we brought in a Blue and Gold Macaw that will be out on our common exhibit this year now that the case is closed. So, we take this responsibility very seriously. We've had USFWS come out and say they had quite a different opinion about zoos now, that they have seen what we could do and what we can provide for these animals that need us at the border. We're working on another group of animals right now that, just got confiscated down in Brownsville, Texas, so we may be bringing those guys up soon as a forever home. And then just a little bit about what besides what we do every day, if you imagine us schlepping grain and hay and water, there's so much more to that.

That's proactive, care for our animals. But we also take it seriously on what's going on in our environment, what we can provide as information about our zoo animals for wild animals. So, this is a list of some of the research we've done since I've been at the zoo, since late 2017 to today. And the most recent is that we, at the University of Dubuque have gotten and received a grant for their Paraguay invertebrate nephelopia diversity. And we actually just completed a chapter, in a book that will be released later this year.

So, it's really amazing for us to be a part of it. We're part of the, the USDA SARS CoV research with the wildlife as well as with what's going on in our in our stream in the back 40, just to show, do we have COVID in our area? Is it in the water? Like, we heard about it in...in our in the news. So, we were happy to be a part of that.

So, these are some of our universities around us. We discovered the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee in our pollinator gardens, as we have expanded those. So, this is just a small portion of what we have provided for the global community as far as science. When we learn something, we share stuff. So, in the past couple of years, we've also had some of our primary keepers share what we have learned with our Fennec Foxes.

We have had many. And we were asked to hand rear some one season for to be program ambassador animals. So, some of our keepers have presented posters. We, like I said, just have...has...finished a chapter. We just had one of our keepers who've been working with our...our giraffe for seventeen years to give a, giraffe, Conservation Club presentation.

So, when we learn it we want to share it with our global animal community. And then Jeff said some people may not know what you do and why you exist. So, I brought Cleo, my favorite animal, to see you. I'll have to take about a month off if and when she passes away. So, she's going to help me tell you that I manage the animals and the zookeepers to take care of the animals.

I oversee the veterinary care, so I liaise with the veterinarian and the veterinary technician, and we share...we work together to create our monthly veterinary, calendar care. I also oversee Joel. So, if you met Joel, he has to report to me, you guys. So, don't even let him fool you with the hat.

But, we...we work as a group, as a team at the zoo for conservation, education, as you can see from my slides before with research and conservation and what we're learning at the zoo while taking care of our animals in our corner of the world. I also work with our dynamic, office manager and our registrar, our part time registrar, for all of our records and all the permits to keep straight. And that is no... there, I think our just as an example of our to get guinea pigs, all girl guinea pigs, it took about 52 pages of documentation to make sure we could get those guinea pigs to be outside during the day, for 60 degrees to 85 degrees. So, there's a lot that goes into permits. If it's annual, this year is our year to re up on our three-year USDA, inspection if they all still have jobs there, and it's our CAA reaccreditation year. So, we're working on that application right now. Any USDA inspections, I get to walk along with her or him when they come. And we also have to have contingency plan in order and ready to be inspected through USDA. So, we have that it's a live document that's...that's updated, as needed.

I also work with the rest of the team for safety, security, and risk assessment. As I approach a risk, I write an assessment. So, it's...it's a tall order to write a risk assessment for everything, but as it comes up, we do it. I oversee the nutrition oversight procurement. We have a...at the zoo, we have a...a....she does that kind of for hearts.

I worked with her at another institution. She comes every other year to oversee our diets, make sure we're giving the best diets we possibly can for our animals in the season of their life if they're pregnant, not all of it. So, it's umm a group effort for our nutrition program. We also have environmental behavioral enrichment. If you've been to the zoo in the fall and buy any of our animal art that is enrichment, and

now that money all 100% of that money goes back to purchase the enrichment items that you see around the zoo.

I procure our supplies. Not my favorite thing. I used to like shopping. My mom knows that. Not anymore.

And, then I liaise with USFWS, USDA, ZAA, AZA, Wildlife Conservation Network. We work a lot. That's with a partner, in University of Illinois, for all thing's animal health. We have a browsing toxic plant program. We have animal welfare, wellness, and well-being assessments throughout the year, and I listed some there.

We're just now working on our animals. And somehow, during the pandemic, I also became a social media person. So, any animal things you see on Facebook, I come up with. So, Scarlett does all the fun, encounters and try to sell people things. I'm just trying to make them love the animals.

And, that's kinda me in a nutshell duty as a sign. When we leave time there and take on the rest of the things, we are all HR. We are all IT. It depends. Steve can't come and help us, or Kurt and Steve can't come and help us. So, we do a little bit of everything. So, I will talk ...stop talking because I know I went longer than I had planned in my head. So, thank you for letting me talk.

We do an amazing amount of work out there together. I would say there's not one lazy person that works at the zoo. We're all in it to win it for the zoo. I think 2025 is gonna be an exciting year with our cat house completion. I might have to drive to China to get our mesh, and I don't know where to steal it, but I will drive there to get that too because we're waiting on that. Then the cat house and the bald eagle can finish. But we have some fun surprises coming up, and I think it's gonna be a great year. So, if you have any questions about what I talked about or any other things, I will try to answer them."

President Swanson recognizes Dr. Moreno.

Mr. Moreno stated, " Thank you very much. Fantastic presentation. Do you have baby cams for the baby umm, the baby porcupines"?

Ms. Schmidt stated, " We could. There are there are positives and negatives to that. We actually the...porcupines that were born early last year, a guest got to see it and filmed it and then wrote back to us and because we didn't even know she was pregnant. She's now giving birth twice a year because that's what rodents do. And they know how to do it now, so we live in no stopping them. And she shared she wrote up she wrote back and shared that. You can. We can film it. We do we watch our Amber Leppard skid birth on camera, and we did show some of that based on Facebook. It's an it's a love/hate I have with that because if something goes wrong, because in that instance, we had three Amber leopards'

pups born that day and one failed to thrive. So, I if you could tell, but we wanted to give mom a chance to see if she if she was first time mom, it just didn't have it in it to survive.

So, you can show that stuff, but there's a little delay is what I like to do. So, we'll share everything. We have over a hundred grand cams around the zoo to shoot right up, Kurt and Steve. But it shows us a lot we have to say goodbye to the animal today and we weren't we didn't know until we looked at the camera that this little guy had some trouble last night. And we knew, he's 23 years old, he outlived his life by ten years.

And, we knew what to look for when we got in there today, this morning. We can't move our eyes to the cameras. I want to constantly, want to move the camera, but it tells us a lot and allows us to share things on a little bit of a delay."

President Swanson recognized Dr. Simmer.

Mr. Simmer stated, "What did you say the baby porcupine were called? Baby porcupine what are they...call them?"

Ms. Schmidt stated, "They're Cape Porcupine."

Mr. Simmer stated, "But what are they called, babies?"

Ms. Schmidt stated, "Porcupettes....believe it or not, I know it's crazy."

Mr. Simmer stated, "I believe ya."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "I know, it's scientific – I don't know who came up with it."

Mr. Simmer stated, "It is, it's great."

President Swanson stated, "Even those not on camera – you get out there and see those babies. I mean, that is ten times cuter than I thought a porcupine could be."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "I know and they are very propulsion. They are ready to go. They are already climbing the mountain in their exhibit."

President Swanson stated, "It's so cute." (Recognizes Mr. McNeil)

Mr. McNeil stated, "Really interesting, to learn all that. I didn't know there were 500 there are 500 animals."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "Five hundred plus. Yes, I try not to count all the Koi in the pond because I feel like it's cheating if I count all them. Yes, we are five hundred plus."

Mr. McNeil stated, "So, the Fennec Foxes...are all of those litters...are they all there now?"

Ms. Schmidt stated, "They are not. So, at some point, I have to remove boys from mom and girls from dad as they get sexually insured. So, typically, the Fennec Foxes can stay with parents up to six months until you start seeing the moth mountain. And that means son or daughter or somebody is, like, oh, feeling your oats. So, then we do the soft in, separations where we separate for short periods of time. They're already on solid foods on their own, and then we separate, and then we wait for the sustainability partnership coordinator to get attached to them. We let them know throughout what we're about, who we have, what the genders are, because we don't touch anybody until we got good mom kid relationships going on. Dad's with them the whole time, foxes and porcupines, Amber Leopards not so much. So, they know what we have going on, and then they start looking for homes. And, they actually do a match.com for many of the animals in the zoo community so that you're getting the best genetics put together. And then, you think regionally. Do they, you know, who wants to send somebody? Like, we have our information sent on the foxes of Australia. It did not end up working out but you got to think long and hard about sending them that far, going through a quarantine like Australia would put them through. So, you're looking regionally too. What's the best place? Like, our last two porcupines just got to Madison at the Henry Vilas Zoo. They wanted both boys, didn't want to breed and siblings can stay together. So, there is a lot that goes on with the match.com and a lot goes on with where they are going to go. We have to vet them and they are vetted by everyone and anyone in AZA. I'm a pro at it now, but I also make others do that. It's our morals and ethics going out there too, and our team has put so much into these animals, and the animals feel good and feel comfortable where they are here. And, I wanna make sure they feel that way when they go out in the world."

Mr. McNeil stated, "Sure. Thanks."

President Swanson stated, "And, I do apologize. I cut Dr. Simmer off too soon, go ahead."

Mr. Simmer stated, "Yeah. Well, you've mentioned that the American Turtle is in, dire need...umm..."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "Multiple species."

Mr. Simmer states, "Okay, I was just saying, because there's yeah. There's I see 51 different species. Yes. Wolf boat, which ones? I mean, I see them on the rivers all the time. What do we look for?"

Ms. Schmidt stated, "Umm you're looking at certain sliders that are in trouble. I mean, you're looking at climate change and what it's doing to our waterways, our droughts, our floods, what's going on with those guys. We the reason we joined was because we currently have 20 animals that are under a criminal investigation that I can't talk about, that are very interesting to the population. Five of them are critically endangered and only have one other zoo who has them in The United States besides us and one of them laid five eggs."

So, the...it behooves us and them to get all together so that we can start working together on some...most of them are Water Turtles, and Box Turtles, like, when I lived in the South, they sold them in the medians of trafficks for buttons, for soup, for pets. So, it's illegal, that's why it's illegal in Illinois to get or take any Illinois native animal out of the wild, it's illegal. You know, rehabbers have to have license, we don't take them in because I don't want whatever they have, to be given to our collection animals. So, I can't list them all for you, but I know I'm certain that Water Turtles are in trouble."

Mr. Simmer stated, "Say American Turtle. I don't know."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "Yeah, it's called the American – they all now call themselves Safe First and then American Turtle. So, it's an all-encompassing I have a whole document I can share if you're interested."

Mr. Simmer stated, "Just want something once I see."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "Yeah. Yeah. Yeah."

Committee Member stated, "I have a question. This...this...this will be now some of these that have been smuggled in are from Mexico. Will you be working, across lines with Mexico? Because you'll have to get them safe on that call."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "Yes. In some case, we'd love for those five to go. We actually had a Mexico zoo reach out to us because they have some stolen. And they had marked them, and these particular turtles were not marked. These particular turtles are only found in one city that's riddled with drug cartel in a ditch, and they are being taken out. So, to get them back across the border, deals with the endangered species act and the relations between the two countries. That's where our hope would be that they would go back, but it is going to be...it would take two acts of God to get them back."

President Swanson stated and recognized a committee member, "Yeah well...and appreciate that question. Mr. Layer had a question and then we have Mr. Westpfahl."

Mr. Layer stated, "I just have to say, wow. I think the last twenty minutes, everything that you've been through, it's just got my head spinning with with all these things in there. And you can tell how much you enjoy what you do by the enthusiasm in your voice. And I just wanna say you're one of the most interesting speakers we've had to stand before us. Thank you."

Ms. Schmidt stated, " Well, Thank you."

President Swanson recognizes Mr. Westpfahl

Mr. Westpfahl stated, "You've a lot of bird species and stuff out there. Now what kind of security and protocol do you have in place to try and keep the bird flu out of there."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "We've been doing this since 2022 so with the first, I do not know what number we are on, H5N1 I think is right now. I don't remember what the number was before it's all HPAI to me. When you hear me talk about when the keepers hear me talk about it it's all HIAP to me. Dr. Lauren and I work closely together with the keepers on the bio security and all the PPE. Most birds are in and no matter what anyone says we're getting it, cows are getting it, llama, alpaca, whales, otters besides the birds I could go on. I sat in on a USDA zap webinar before the USDA shut all that stuff down. So, we have all the protocols, we wear booties, we use Verco for disinfectant for feet when we are going in. We've got most of our bird prey that are outside that will not do well inside, covered in plastic. We are not...I called all of our vendors, so I called our meat vendor that has horse and beef and bone. I called our rodent vendor who sells quail to us for some of our our snakes and birds of prey. I called our grain company because they all get birds undoubtedly in their grain facility so everybody is on high alert. A reporter called me, I don't know, a month or so ago when this all started to hit the fan again. We never really laid down our protocols on biosecurity. We have foot baths everywhere for a lot of our species. Ostrich would lose their minds if I put them in a barn. So they're outside, and we're just watching them as carefully as we can. Trying...we don't feed wild birds. We mitigate as much as we can. Every bird and every, frankly, every animal that passes away at the zoo will be tested for HPAI and COVID as long as I work there because COVID will be here forever, and I can't vaccinate for everybody. We can only vaccinate for the ones that there's a vaccine for, and there's no vaccine for HPAI. So, I can give you all the materials. And we've also touched base with the state of Illinois veterinarian as well to make sure because we feed browse. We feed approved nontoxic branches to our host doc, and the birds are pooping and peeing on it. So, we need to make sure. And we freeze it every year. So thankfully, before this round started, all of our 900 bags

of browse were already bagged and, in our freezers, so I don't have to worry about that today. But it's always a worry for those disease are my nightmare. I color my hair because there's a lot of gray under it."

Mr. Westpfahl stated, "And I got one more question for you. You said you had animals out there that were being held for criminal cases. Who pays for their care? Is that on the taxpayers of Rock Island County or..."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "We take we absorb some of that and then the Wildlife Confiscation Network through the, the USFW also pitches in and lends a hand."

President Swanson stated, "And as you mentioned, a couple of those animals will become part of the collection that people will enjoy here in Rock Island County."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "Probably all of them now. Yeah."

President Swanson stated, " Alright. Yeah. I don't see any other requests, but I have a request and that is you all join me in thanking the amazing Tammy Schmidt for being with us this evening. Thanks, mom, for coming along."

(Group Applause)

Ms. Schmidt mom stated, "Hey I get to listen to her all the time. She likes this, in case you can't tell. Yeah. And one more thing. She and Lee, she's not saying this, but they have been in this zoo field for a very long time. They have wonderful, wonderful contacts that you have no idea the contact she has in this field. And they go to the different conferences and they they meet new people and you tell she's not shy. They all share. It's it's a wonderful Zoo family throughout The United States and beyond, I'm sure."

President Swanson stated, "We are very fortunate and, also I don't know that a lot of, my co commissioners are aware but both Tammy and Lee and others are constantly contributing to scholarship. You featured some of, those here but it's great to see the reports, the name of Niabi is getting around the world thanks to these scientists. So, thank you very, very much for your time. And you don't have to sit through the rest of it. So, there you go. I appreciate your coming in for this."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "Thank you very much."

2. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the January 21, 2025, Commission minutes, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded."

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS - (NONE)** (Three calls were made.)

4. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Our staff has been dealing with snow and various amounts and consistencies and maintenance is continuing for the staff. I hope you get a chance to read those reports that are given to us. There's a lot of good stuff going on across the district even though we sort of went around, you see. And hopefully, with you, this reason we'll gather and start playing. More to comment later in the meeting."

5. Commissioner Burns moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$180,972.76, as presented. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

Commissioner Burns moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Enburg seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES **17**

TOTAL NO **0**

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner McNeil moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriations, as enumerated in your packets. Commissioners Vyncke and Mielke seconded.

Commissioner Burns moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Enburg seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES **17**

TOTAL NO **0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Enburg moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding the 2025 Bike Path Grant and Improvements, as presented. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

(Note** Resolution is in pdf format and begins on the next page)

RESOLUTION
FY 2025 Bike Path Grant Improvements

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District was awarded grant funds to resurface a portion of the Great River Trail in unincorporated Rock Island County, and

WHEREAS, a grant award fee is required, and

WHEREAS, additional expenditures for the design and construction documents will be forthcoming, 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. Funds are available from unappropriated funds within Fund #335 Development of Forest and Construction of Improvements to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$1,999.00	335-32-35 991.12	Transfer to Other Agencies

SECTION 3. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 17th day of February, 2025.



Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission



Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Adams moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Morthland seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 17

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Mielke moved to authorize Forest Preserve District President to execute agreements with Visit Quad Cities, and the Forest Preserve District of Rock Island County and Chairman Brunk, as presented. Commissioner Perkins seconded.

Commissioner Simmer moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Layer seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES **17**

TOTAL NO **0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the I-80 Bridge Project Construction Concurrence, as presented. Commissioner Burns seconded.

Mr. Westpfahl stated, "Yeah, what can you tell us about this."

President Swanson stated, "Mr. Westpfahl, I've asked Mr. Craver to set up the podium and give us a little briefing on this. This is basically as they're working on the I80 project. They've got a couple of public hearings. They just need us to, I think, sign a couple of things."

Mr. Craver stated, "The two letters are from the Illinois Department of Transportation. We've been working with them since they've been hosting their public input meetings about the I 80 Bridge project corridors. It's not just bridge. It's corridor from I 88a or, you know, I 88 there to I 80, and then it runs across the river for several miles. What will get affected with the district is, obviously, we have the, Great River Trail there that runs underneath the I80 Bridge. So, we're just basically saying we understand that you're going to be constructing the bridge and the impacts there will be minimal. The letters reference, a couple of federal laws basically impacting natural/nature areas. So, with like that...there's really no impact there. Actually, hopefully, it will be an improvement. With the low forest reserve, they're gonna be expanding cloverleaf there, taking up approximately three and a half acres, moving the cloverleaf out and rebounding Hubbard Road; which will take up that three and a half acres. That area is not ecologically sensitive or has any...has any ecological conservation value. It's basically right away with cool season grasses and some great invasive. So, we're just concurring with their opinion after their service."

Mr. Westpfahl stated, "Ahhh okay that's fine. I understand now I thought maybe it had some idea, that stupid idea of putting a park on the old bridge, putting buffalo on it."

Mr. Craver stated, "No. We just understand what they're doing and, agree that it impacts to the proposed projects, not impact. Those areas."

Mr. Westpfahl stated, "Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Mr. Craver, Mr. Westpfahl thank you for the question."

Commissioner Vyncke moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Morthland seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 17

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "I just want to check with Rebecca I did get the original motion and second on that, didn't I?"

Ms. Rebecca states, "You did."

President Swanson stated, "Okay, thank you very much."

11. **Comments from Commissioners: (None)**

12. Commissioner McNeil moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner Mielke seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

13. President Swanson stated, "Alright friends one final thing, I do hope you take to heart what you heard here tonight. We have a lot of reason to be very proud of what's going on in our Forest Reserve District that other districts simply don't have

will to call to do. So, Jeff thank you for leading a great team and putting them on display for us.

Friends, the next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission will be Tuesday March 18, 2025, at 5:30pm, following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board in the Rock Island County Office Building, 1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois in these Board Chambers!"

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed at 6:34pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

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