

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
MAY 20TH, 2025 – 6:56PM
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON - PRESIDING**

1. Karen Kinney, County Clerk, called the roll:

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, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL PRESENT 16

TOTAL ABSENT 3

President Swanson stated, "Thank you very much. We start our meetings with presentations on occasion, and tonight, our speaker will be introduced by Mr. Jackson, who is joining us here in chambers. Mr. Jackson, the floor is yours."

Mr. Jackson stated, "Hello everyone. Over the last few months, and over the last few years, you've heard me talk a lot about the role of conservations, how it's a critical component and one of the main things that we do for the modern zoo. So, we have joining us tonight, Dr. Daniel Hilliard from the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group, or ZCOG, who is one of our primary partners in our endeavors in conservation. Particularly of, conservation in the field. So, I turn it over to Dr. Hilliard."

Dr. Hilliard stated, "Thank you, Lee. Thank you for the introduction. It's been a very interesting evening. I'm glad I've had the opportunity to witness county government in action. So, I thank you for that. I'm also hoping that this is an appropriate forum to give this presentation. I do have about 10 min presentation. Hopefully, we'll go through this as quickly as possible because I respect all of the work you're doing for your community. Again, I'm being very sincere when I say it's been a pleasure to witness your work of local community members and elected officials in action. So, thank you."

Dr. Hilliard began his presentation, "I can see that on the screen now, thank you very much. Again, my name is Daniel Hilliard, I am the Director of the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group. Thank you for having me here tonight. We have a long history of working with Niabi Zoo and I've got a quick little agenda for you. On the top, a little bit of the background and the mission of the organization, the Guiding Principles that the group follows, discuss briefly the change in conservation landscape of animals and habitats, for recovery, protection, and conservation, give a quick overview of our programming and how Niabi Zoo is involved, and then hopefully we'll have some questions or discussion if there's time for that. There are, embedded in here, some videos as well. I hope those convey on your screens. So, first of all, ZCOG is a coalition of zoos, aquariums, and related

partners that is dedicated to promoting wildlife and habitat conservation throughout the Americas. That goes from the Arctic Circle, all the way to Tierra del Fuego in South America. Our focus is in Latin America. We do our work by providing opportunities for professional development for our colleagues in the region and then providing direct tactical material and financial assistance to active, as Lee said, active programs in field conservation. The Organization has been a 501(c)(3) since 1991. We are currently headquartered in the offices of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in Silver Spring, Maryland. We have been a conservation partner with that association since 1998. We're overseen by a 15-member Board of Directors. Here, you'll see 14 of them. One, the organization has not yet been approved by vote, and will be so, hopefully in our June Retreat that will happen in Louisville, Kentucky. So, the guiding principles of the organization is, we look to pursue wildlife and habitat conservation through collaborative measures. Utilizing the diversity of stakeholders and actors, particularly in Range Country Partners throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. We provide long-term support or product conservation programs. We don't like to do grants. We like to invest for the long term because it yields a better impact and conservation result. We are investing in people as well, because conservation is not just about wildlife, it's about people. So, we're investing in people through capacity building, providing scholarships to training programs here in the United States. We identify particularly young professionals and bring them to the United States so that they can train in week-long courses that are usually run by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, or by some of their adjacent groups. Finally, we serve as an incubator for new additions, which is some of our most exciting work that we do. The conservation landscape itself, throughout the globe has been shifting, particularly over the last decade or so, and how zoological facilities are supporting these efforts. It's become a much more collaborative and stakeholder-driven approach, integrating people and communities into the conversation and giving them a voice to a lot of their natural patrimony, and how work is done in the field to protect, recover, and conserve wildlife. A lot of the work now is very strategic in approach. It's transparent and accountable. Reporting is done, usually, on a biannual basis, but certainly on an annual basis in some countries. The AZA Community itself, that's the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which is the major accrediting body in North America, is aligning all of its resources under the SAFE brand, which is the Saving Animals From Extinction program. There's an icon here about the framework, that explains how the program works. Currently, there are 52 species-based programs of AZA; of that, ZCOG currently manages 3 of those. (inaudible) of that space. We were an adopter, an early adopter, of the Safe Species Program model, because quite frankly, it fit our Guiding Principles. We have been a conservation partner of the AZA for well over a decade, and it made just a lot of sense. It was also a great opportunity for us to address, what oftentimes, has been the underrepresentation of species from the Americas. Not only within collections of zoos and aquariums, but particularly in the conservation programs and recovery programs of these species, not only in Latin America currently, but also here in the United States. Finally, we were sitting in an ideal

position to provide leadership and management experience for these programs. We had over 30 years of experience in working with Partner Country colleagues throughout the region, had developed a well-defined sense of cultural understanding, language fluency, and member resources that we had been able to deliver to the region for that time. So, we had a long-term relationship and partnerships that we could rely upon to promote these Safe Species programs. Currently, we are the program leader of 3 species. One, for Short Tailed Chinchillas, which is a critically endangered species in Chile, the Andean Highland Flamingos, also threatened and endangered in Chile, and the Maned Wolf, which you'll find throughout Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. There are 2 other programs that we do not lead, but we are partners with. That is the Spectacled Bear Program, and also the Jaguar Program. So, with respect to save the Andean Highland Flamingo, all of our program objectives and actions support the Chilean Ministry of the Environment's Flamingo Conservation Recovery Plan. Our program is also part of Chile's National Bird Strategy for Conservation. All of our program focus-the majority of our program focus, is centered on satellite monitoring for these species. So, we have teams of experts who go out into the field, capture and tag these birds with satellite transmitters that are about the size of a matchbook, and it is being done to help us identify priority habitat for species conservation so that we can protect and conserve the areas where they feed, breed, and nest. Most importantly, these areas are under threat by lithium mining. So, any cell phone, laptop, iPad that you'll find, is powered by lithium, and in order to move from a MacArthur-based economy, to a Global Carbon-based economy, to a more environmentally-friendly economy, we need to be mining more lithium. So, it's a very complicated issue. So, if these birds are to be protected, we need to better understand the relationship with the habitat and also with the mining sector. One of the exciting things about this program is, it's the first ever time in science that a Chilean Flamingo had been tagged with a satellite transmitter and monitored across time and space. It received a lot of domestic press in Chile, but also International, picked up by the AP and Reuters. We work with local communities for education and stakeholder programming, so that the future generations have a greater appreciation of their wildlife, particularly with these flamingos. There are Flamingo Guardian Ambassador Programs that we undertake with K-12 schools that are within the range of these species, so, local communities. For many of them, it's the first time they've ever been able to see these birds in the wild. We've also developed interpretive signage within the national parks so that children, and the park guards, and the local indigenous communities can have their voices heard and have the importance of these birds represented in a way that would be culturally sensitive, but also that conveys the information to international visitors that are visiting the park. Here's a quick little video about the overview of the program."

(Note** Video plays in Spanish, no translation available)

Dr. Hilliard continues, "The resources for that work comes from the AZA community. ZCOG serves as the organizer, the logistics manager, the dedicated fund, and again, it's a member-driven program. The labor, the man hours-or person hours, are from our Range Country partners. So, we provide the support, the technical, the financial, the materials support, and they conduct the research and the studies to protect and study these birds. We also do the same with the SAFE Chinchilla program. Again, its objectives and actions are in-line with what's called the, 'Plan Recoge', which is the Plan for the Recovery and Conservation of this species, that was approved by the Chilean National Congress. We're focusing on Short-Tails in Chile Colony identification and monitoring. It is a critically endangered species, in danger of going extinct. Its number one threat, like the Highland Flamingos, is mining. It's not lithium mining in this case. It's heavy metals and gold, in particular. These are resources that are critically needed by the global economy, but there has to be a middle ground so that we can better live together, so that this species won't go extinct. Here's a quick little Range Country map of where a lot of the work is done. Again, this is also part of the Lithium Triangle, where lithium is mined, and it also happens to be the number one mining sector in Chile, which is a major driver of their economy. It's the number one export that helps fund social programs in Chile. So again, it's a complicated issue that deserves attention, but if we are to save the chinchilla, and again, here's an example, the first photographic evidence, thanks to our program research, this is the first time the species has been photographed in an area where it had been declared extinct for over 20 years. So, we're very happy and very pleased about some of the work we're doing here. Again, to highlight the importance of the species and to make it relevant for all of us, not just those in Chile and the region, but also here in the United States, there is work that we can do collectively and collaboratively to help protect wildlife, while also conducting the necessary economic business to fuel our economies. We have worked with local school children to promote the importance of this species to develop programs, along with local communities, so we can appreciate local wildlife and learn more about it. For many folks, it's the first opportunity that they've had to go out in the field and experience what would be the equivalent of a field trip, that when I was a child, I had access to in the woods of New Hampshire. We develop all kinds of materials for educational materials and programming for them, that they use in their schools, of course translated into Spanish. Here's a quick overview of this education program, which is a pilot program last year, we're really proud of the results."

(Note** Video plays in Spanish, no translation available)

Dr. Hilliard continues, "Developing that conservation awareness, not only among the youth, but also different age groups throughout communities, is key to conservation so that we can have that buy-in from local communities. So, they not only have an awareness, but also an appreciation for their natural habitat. Oftentimes, their daily lives don't allow them to get out into the fields to partake in nature. Again, many of us have had the same issues, but we're providing those opportunities and integrating it into a comprehensive conservation and recovery program for critically endangered species. In the past two cases, we show that our Range Country partner was the National Zoo of Chile. Here, it's the Fundacion Temaiken, which is also an AZA accredited facility, it's in Argentina. The SAFE Maned Wolf, it's more like a large fox than a wolf per say, but it is a species threatened to extinction principally, from the overextension of agriculture and its mechanization and industrialization throughout the Pampas Grasslands of Argentina. Such so, that the wolves are now redistributing to areas in small cities, even on the outskirts of the suburban Buenos Aires, which is one of the largest cities in Latin America. So, our program objectives again, are linked directly with a national program that is developed by the Argentines. All of the SAFE Species programs need to be linked with another country's, or international body's, previously existing recovery plan. All of our objectives and actions are based on collaborating and helping other countries achieve their goals. Our focus here, is on long-term monitoring and study of this animal. Again, using GPS satellite technology, the Fundacion Temaiken is involved in rescue, rehabilitation, and release of these animals back to the wild. They have done such a great job lobbying the Argentine Government. Now, anytime one of these wolves is rescued after it is hit by a car, or confiscated as an inappropriate pet, they need to have a satellite collar so that we can collect the data to better understand how they're now distributing themselves throughout the range in Argentina, with the pressure on a changing landscape. Again, we also are involved- we also help support, the education and stake-holder engagement activities, which are key to the species survival. This program is the first SAFE Species program to be pulled in by a non-US, AZA accredited member. So again, the Fundacion Temaiken, which has its own zoological facility, first-rate, is the one AZA accredited facility that is located within the geographical range of this species. ZCOG and Fundacion Temaiken have had a 10-year relationship, a collaborative relationship, much like we've had a multi-decade relationship with the National Zoo of Chile, so it allows for us to work, sort of seamlessly, on the conservation and the recovery of this species. I have another quick video for you, to show how the (inaudible) work has been done and been supported by ZCOG and the community."

(Note** Video plays in Spanish, no translation available)

Dr. Hilliard continues, "Based on the 3 SAFE Species programs that ZCOG leads, we've invested, with community support and financial support, hundreds of thousands of dollars for conservation of these 3 species. We've achieved impressive results so far and we're very proud of these relationships that we developed, and have become a key member of the AZA community. The second part of our mission is equally important. Many of the individuals that you saw in those videos have received passive support for training through our scholarship program. With that scholarship program, which focuses on early-career professionals, we provide access to training opportunities, and have become the single largest supporter of professional development capacity-building, not only for Latin Americans and their community, but we are the single largest provider for scholarships for AZA's professional training program courses, and have been so, for the better part of 2 decades. Over 160 scholarships have been rewarded, not including the ten that we will be able to award in 2025. Over a half a million dollars invested in, again, in people. Investing in people, because we're the ones that need to be doing the work for recovery and conservation of threatened species throughout our landscape. I think many of you have probably seen some of the episodes of Tom Hanks in 'The Americas'. This hemisphere is majestic, and the species and the habitats that are part of it, need to be protected. So, we're investing not only in wildlife conservation, but in individuals and in their careers, so that they can become future champions for wildlife habitat conservation. They come from a wide range of backgrounds. I've got a couple of quick 40 second interviews, of two recent recipients and how they view their training opportunity."

(Note** Video plays in Spanish, no translation available)

Dr. Hilliard continues, "We're providing the tools and the training for these individuals so that they can help conserve and protect the wildlife in their natural patrimony. We have a portfolio of scholarships that range anywhere from 10-15 per year. The Cameron Park Zoo Amphibian Conservation Scholarship is just one of them. The second one here-oh, and another thing is, it's probably worth mentioning very quickly, is that although his video was done in Spanish language, they need to speak English to be able to train here in the United States. So, that's one of the qualifications, or the criteria, that is required. Here is the second individual from the La Aurora Zoo in Guatemala, who attended a course last year."

The video begins, "Hello everyone, my name is Jose Teo and I am the Zoo Nutritionist here at the La Aurora Zoo in Guatemala, and today I want to thank the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group and Greenville Zoo for providing me the Environmental Enrichment Scholarship. It gave me the opportunity to attend one of the AZA Training Professional Courses, the Environmental Enrichment in Zoos and Aquariums class, at Disney Animal Kingdom. That course gave me the opportunity to learn more about the animal needs and how to create enrichments that

promote the animals' psychological health. So, I want to thank the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group and the Greenville Zoo for providing me and my institution these amazing courses that will help us conserve all of the animals that we have. Thank you very much."

Dr. Hilliard continues, "By providing these opportunities they become better caretakers in animal management, animal welfare, veterinary medicine, and education programs within their own zoos, within their own countries. By focusing on zoos and aquariums, in these Range Country Partners throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, we're raising the standards throughout all of the Americas because if one zoological facility receives critiques, or criticisms, or international denunciations, it affects all of us in the community. So, this is an opportunity for us to lift all those together and really provide the tools and training that these individuals need to help them manage a modern zoological facility and care for the species that are within their collections. I want to thank the County Commission tonight, thank you so much for allowing and providing me the opportunity to speak. It was a fascinating meeting and I'm grateful for that opportunity. I want to thank Niabi Zoo and Lee Jackson, especially. Niabi Zoo has been a Program Partner with ZCOG since 2011, a Board Member Institution since 2012, and Lee has been an active board member since that time, also serving as a SAFE Animal Advisor for Paraguay, he's the Paraguay expert, and we appreciate the insight and expertise that he brings to our program."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you very much Dr. Hilliard, we're so grateful. That was a very thorough presentation and I have Dr. Moreno here who has a question."

Commissioner L. Moreno asked, "I have a question for you. In the last video, you reference the Maned Fox, the gentleman actually referred to it as a 'large fox' rather than the Maned Wolf. I was just wondering, do they...is it referred to as...?"

Dr. Hilliard answered, "Technically it's neither a fox nor a wolf, it's its own species. I don't have the Latin name, but it's neither a fox nor a wolf. It's known locally, here in The States, as the Maned Wolf. In Argentina, well, in parts of its range, it's known as a 'Lobo de Crin', which is again, a wolf, 'lobo' is wolf. But in Argentina, it's called 'Agiara Guazu' which is a Tupi-Guarani word for 'Maned Wolf'. But technically, not a wolf nor a fox. I think the translation was done just so that we would understand it in English."

Commissioner L. Moreno stated, "He verbally said it was a 'Zorro Grande'."

Dr. Hilliard responded, "Yeah, Zorro Grande, which would be 'Big Fox'. Right, exactly."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you Dr. Moreno. Any other questions for our guest? Well, I really want to appreciate you taking the time to be with us tonight, and I also want to thank you for shining light under Lee Jackson's leadership. Our zoo certainly has certainly stepped into a global arena of work, and conservation, and restoration, and species preservation. Thank you for the partnership."

Dr. Hilliard stated, "We appreciate the partnership, we appreciate the support, and we are grateful for Lee's leadership. Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Alright, and next time you're in town, come see us in person."

Dr. Hilliard stated, "I look forward to it."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Dr. Hilliard."

2. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve the April Commission minutes, as presented. Commissioner McNeil seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

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

4. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Under the President's Comments, a couple things to share with you. As you may have noticed, until sometime today, we've had a streak of dry weather and that has been frustrating for some gardeners, but it's been very good for our staffs. The preserves have been busy doing a lot of update work as quickly as they could. It looks like, even with the rain, the holiday weekend is going to be very nice. We expect we'll have a lot of people coming out and enjoying our preserves. If you haven't noticed, Niabi has a smaller species of otters that you can now enjoy. It's very interactive in the Biodiversity Hall. As mentioned in the executive committee last week, if you have not started following Niabi Zoo's social media pages, primarily on Facebook, you should do so because it's a great way to find out about all the great stuff that's going on out at Niabi. That's going to do it for President's Comments for now."

5. Commissioner Brunk moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$774,876.97 as presented. Commissioners Adams and Perkins seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods.

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner Perkins moved to approve Transfers of Appropriation, as presented. Commissioner Foster seconded.

Commissioner Burns moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Adams 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, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods.

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Moreno moves to waive the reading and approve the Resolutions regarding the Zoo Improvement Appropriation, and Bike Path Grant Improvements, as presented. Commissioner Mielke seconded.

(Note** Resolutions are in .pdf format and begin on the next page.)

RESOLUTION
FY 2025 Niabi Zoo Improvements Appropriations

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District was granted funds from Rock Island County for improvements at Niabi Zoo, and

WHEREAS, design and engineering for the improvement projects has been performed, and

WHEREAS, the balance to finish the project including retainage is now \$671,284.47, and

WHEREAS, there are no longer available ARPA funds to offset expenses, 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. Expenditures in the amount of \$232,941.60 shall be increased from unencumbered funds & \$29,706.48 from Transfer from Dev of Forest & Construction Fund received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$262,648.08	131-32-35 767 ARPA24-60	Infrastructure over \$15,000

SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$29,706.48 shall be increased from Transfer from Dev of Forest & Construction Fund revenue received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$29,706.48	131-32-35 391.68 ARPA24-00	Transfer from Dev of Forest & Constr Fund

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 20th day of May, 2025.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

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, expenditures for the design and construction documents are 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
\$2,757.00	335-32-35 765.00 IBPG26-50-765	Construction in Progress

SECTION 3. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 20th day of May, 2025.



Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission



Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Enburg moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioners Burns and Simmer 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, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods.

TOTAL YES **16**

TOTAL NO **0**

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Moreno moved to approve the laying on display for 30 days, the FY26 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinances for the General Fund, Niabi Zoological Preserve Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, Audit Fund, and Development of Forests and Construction Improvement Fund, as presented. Commissioner Perkins seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Woods moved to approve the ordinance regarding the New Investment Policy. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

President Swanson stated, "I think you'll see in your packet, a pretty good rationale from Treasurer Camlin. I want to thank you Mr. Treasurer for putting that together for us. It's a way to make the tax payer dollars entrusted to us, work a little bit harder."

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, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods.

TOTAL YES **16**

TOTAL NO **0**

Motion carried.

10. **Comments from Commissioners:**

Commissioner Brunk stated, "Thank you Mr. President. I just wanted to call out, a couple of weekends ago, I was at Niabi with my youngest grandson's Cub Scout Pack. We actually went through a Conservation Workshop with Joel, the curator of Conservation and Education, and his team. I just wanted to say that they did a wonderful job, not only with the kids, but with the parents and grandparents that attended as well. So, I just wanted to give that shout-out, a great job from the team out there."

President Swanson stated, "It really is great to get out there, either on your own, or with kids, if you don't have any, I've got some grandkids that I can rent you for a weekend. Thank you very much Mr., Brunk, I appreciate that."

Commissioner Simmer stated, "I'll have another zoo member shortly, my daughter just had her third, so I'm again a grandfather, I just wanted to tell you guys. She's doing great, and my wife delivered her. So, it's (inaudible)."

President Swanson stated, "Well congratulations Grandpa."

Commissioner Westpfahl stated, "I've got one comment on your 25-minute presentation you had. I'm probably the only one that feels this way, but the mind can only absorb what the ass can endure, and that's just too damn long. It's ridiculous."

Commissioner Moreno stated, "I'm appreciative of all the information that was provided, that was very fascinating to me, and I appreciate the time to be with us, and it was a lot of information. I loved it. Thank you very much."

President Swanson stated, "I appreciate you Dr. Moreno. Any further questions or discussion on this? I will note, one reason to have these presentations, there's some public conversation going on in the community about an Economic Development Project that will actually help to fund habitat restoration. If you listen carefully to what Dr. Hilliard is telling us, he's telling us you don't just turn land over (inaudible) and see what happens. Because all you do, is get invasive species and you don't get any threatened or endangered species of animals coming back. What we've done at Illiniwek, is we've been very careful and scientific about very carefully managing the habitat. By doing that, we've brought back, to my latest count, 5 species that are threatened, or endangered, or once native to our area that have left, and have now come back. It's not because we stopped mowing. It's because we invested, and presentations like we had tonight help us

understand the importance of investment, in making these wonderful stories possible. So, I thank you for that."

11. Commissioner Adams 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.

President Swanson stated, "The next meeting of this Commission will be Tuesday, June 17th, 2025, in these Chambers, following the County Board meeting. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your service, we are adjourned."

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

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