

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
MARCH 19th, 2026 – 6:29PM
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON – PRESIDING

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

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

TOTAL PRESENT 17

D. Mielke, E. Sowards

TOTAL ABSENT 2

*Note—Commissioner J. R. Westpfahl exited the meeting at 6:31 PM

President Swanson stated, "Thank you Ms. Kinney, we're going to dive right in if we can because we've made them wait long enough, at this time I am very grateful that we're being joined by Kristen Enright; Research and Account Executive, and the one and only Amy Benning, who I think is fresh from a vacation of some kind, our wonderful partners from MindFire Communications. Amy and Kristen, the floor is yours."

2. **PRESENTATION:** Kristen Enright, Research and Account Executive, MindFire Communications.

Ms. Benning stated, "Thank you everybody we're always excited to be here, and thank you for the introduction. Once a year at least, and we do a lot of reporting to each of the districts and the leadership within them, we like to get in front of you all and really share where the communication strategies are going, what's working, and what we want to improve on, and just ultimately how we are managing reputation through what we're doing in social channels. What you'll see today is an annualized metrics review. We're going to cover Amôwa, Dorrance, Illiniwek, Indian Bluff, Loud Thunder, and Niabi. With a little help from our friends in technical, we have just launched a new website for one of these properties and we'd like to show it to you. Ta-da, Indian Bluff Golf Course, I almost wish we had done a before and after, but this is your new site. It is fully ADA compliant, it's user experience friendly, and we have put an emphasis on "book the tee time" in the upper right. We enhanced photography, created some movement at the top, and as you scroll down you can see that we really want people to understand it's an entire experience and what it's about. Thank you to

everyone who participated, putting together something like this is a little harder than it looks, but we're proud of the outcome and we hope it yields results. Does anyone here remember the old site? Well, that's best for everybody because we are in a better place now. I always like to start with a little definition moment, you're going to hear us using a lot of technical terms but ultimately here's what I want you to be thinking about; when you hear me say impressions, just simply think eyeballs. That is the number of eyeballs that we got on information around the Rock Island County Forest Preserve. When you hear us say engagement, that is somebody doing something. Think of it as liking or sharing, we even set up posts so that if you click on particular elements of the post, it leads folks to more, so engagement is really important. Then, you'll hear us talking about frequency, this is the rhythm. So social media is, as some may say, a monster that always needs fed, and there's a balance to creating a frequency that keeps people engaged, without creating dissonance. So, you'll hear me say impressions, engagement, and frequency as we move through this. So, let's start with Amôwa, our newest property. We run something called Data Box which are real time metrics that park leadership and others can access at any time. They stay up to date so that they can see at a glance, what's happening with something. We are also using them because as we're making choices, we're not only reflecting on what we think is going to work, but what we know works. That's the mind in MindFire, it's what we're really proud of doing because that creativity and that messaging, it has to hit with a larger number of folks each and every time we go at it. One thing that I think is important to notice right out of the gate is that you're going to see a 28% decrease from last years impressions. There's a reason for that, last year we were running the Endangered Bee shirt. We did a very large kickoff campaign, which was right around the Endangered Bee shirt, so that is why you're seeing that dip. We didn't run that 2 years in a row and that was a very successful campaign. What it tells you is A.) campaigns work, and B.) this is more the norm. Now, more important than that is, while we saw that decrease in the impressions, we actually saw our engagement on the rise. That tells you is "I like that" if we're doing a little less, but getting more engagement then that tells you whatever we're saying is sticking. We want to continue with solid frequency in our posts and continue with campaigns intermittently. We're always looking for taking impressions down to engagement, because that means that they care about it, and they want to create the loyalty. So, we're always looking for those engagement numbers to increase. One thing that's also worth pointing out, in the upper component there, it says the highest number of ranking posts, and then the lowest ranking posts. So, fear not, to have a high, you have to have a low. You can see there are some wild disparities, which tells us what's sticking. So, when we talk about weekends and holiday weekends, you can see we're up in the 15,000's. When we talk about something, maybe one off that is outside of the cycle of when you want to do something at a park, you'll see those much lower impression numbers. One of the key points around that is when we think about Amôwa, hiking and unique species stick out every single time, it is definitely a species kind of program. The last thing I'll

show you in the lower right there is the paid versus organic. There are 2 ways that we can manage social media strategies, one is through paid placements. That is where we are boosting editorial calendar posts. When you boost, because Facebook is a pay to play platform, you're able to target audience and target the duration that the post is live. You can see that we are using a heavy paid campaign program as we establish this park and as we work with all the parks, that isn't because people don't care about what you're doing, it's so we can create the targeting, which you can only do with paid that gets you to the right people. So now, let's take a look because I think the visuals say everything about what was the highest performing. You'll see that when we do what we call "photo dumps" with a lot of these images, they always fare well. When we talk about whether it's animals or plant species, it always peaks interest. One of our paid social campaigns "Support the little guys" obviously that's the little guy, the bee, you can see the impressions, we're nearing 120,000 and our link clicks were about 814, that's a pretty good return. Now let's take a look at Dorrance, again we will kind of go through the same thing. I'd like to point out just a couple of key points on how to review this data, when you see an increase or decrease at right around 5%, 3-5%, that's pretty much flat. So, what you can say is that it remained relatively flat when it came to the impressions that were out in the marketplace. Again, top performing posts, Memorial Day is a big weekend. You can see almost 17,000 impressions on the "long weekend vibes activated" post. You can see that because Dorrance is a little bit more of an established page, even our lower posts are generating more. As you go through and create a community, that really seems to happen on social. Sometimes I like to say to folks, social is a community. Imagine you're at a kitchen table with all your favorite people, talking about things you care about. That's what social is too it's just a big community, so when you start to gather the right folks around it through targeting, you tend to over time, see momentum. So, that's a little about Dorrance again, I think the visuals say everything here. With Dorrance, we had the opportunity to really show some of those great expressions, you see with that mid one, with the person in the helmet, but also just the beauty of nature as a whole. You'll also see that when we don't have a whole lot of content that leads into more content, but a simple bold statement "long weekend activated", you get a little more stopping power, for lack of a better word. Let's take a look at Illiniwek, once again we have lowered some posting frequency. You'll see that our impressions are down as well, part of that stemming from basically, we backed off a little bit. We had a huge posting increase in 2024 tied to renovations, what we've seen is that we had a lot to communicate with renovations in the closure of that riverside campsite, so we just nailed that. What you're seeing now is that we've backed out of it and we've sort of normalized. In particular years as we work with the park folks, there may be a need when we're talking about renovations that isn't necessarily driving anyone there, but it's being a good communicator. You're going to see those spikes and then you're going to see them normalize as you do here. Check out Memorial Day weekend, anyone seeing a theme? 21,000. "The countdown to Memorial Day

weekend is officially on", we're really trying to focus some of our best work and some of the best effort seasonally, or on some of those big peak days because it gathers the momentum, and then you pull out of it. You can also see that worth noting, we do some fairly decent testing on various communication style. We will use some videos, we will use photo dumps, and we will use singular photos. A lot of clients ask me, "well isn't video better?" Sometimes it is, sometimes it isn't. You would be surprised when we get in and see what's resonating with folks. Some pages love the video based on who's seeing it, and other ones don't, so we always make sure to couple a few options in there. You can see in this case, we had a video, which you can see with the black bar there, as our 2nd highest performing. Now, let's take a look at Indian Bluff. You already saw their new website, we actually increased what we're doing with them significantly in the previous year. A lot of that has to do with some of the hiring activities, and I think what you're seeing is that you have a higher post impression, and a little bit lower engagement because not everybody is interested in the job, right? So, when you're doing a lot of hiring activity on social, that's going to be a select audience. I don't remember, Kristen maybe you do, but what's the stat that came from "Blow Your Mind National Record" was, do you remember?"

Ms. Enright responded, "Longest drive I believe."

Ms. Benning continued, "The spike in impressions in February and March are a result of the seasonal hiring campaign, which we talked about, that one spike at the top was the fact about the longest drive. Golfers like to hear facts. Also, probably worth noting, where you'll see things sort of peak and go down, is that next bullet in July we had 19 posts, the years highest. Nearly half those were unboosted, meaning we did them organically and they had to do with course related announcements tied to weather. What we try to do is look at these not only in reference of year over year, but also in reference to what some of the activities that are going to either encourage, or discourage. So, it's important when we're using the golf course as an example, we're going to make a strategic choice not to boost that. We need to get the announcement out, but the dollars should go behind the thing that encourages engagement, not discourages it. Then, you can see that when it comes to this particular page, community counts. We talked about this a bit, but again, the new website feature I think is going to be wildly helpful. We have had direct, so through Facebook you can also have your direct messaging, like DMs and that kind of a thing. We've also heard from folks out at the course is that this is clunky, and that they wanted to get online, or they couldn't find the right thing. We're really hoping to feature this a lot so that we can drive people to make the easy choice. One thing I failed to mention before that, this is a very mobile friendly website, so when you're bummed at work and you're sitting there like "I'm going to get my tee time", you're going to find that very quickly and get that tee time. When we create less obstacles to making choices, you get more results, and that was the point. Let's take a look at Loud Thunder,

what you can see here again are some shifts in impressions, basically flat for the most part. Once again, this is a result of the fact that we ran a pretty significant hiring campaign in fiscal year 2024 not reflected in these numbers. The boat rental opening posts and a giving campaign is what caused our May, when you look at the calendar, our May and November numbers to spike. Boats continue to be the thing at Loud Thunder. Then of course, running the intermittent giving and donation campaign, which I think that realistically it's very hard to get those transactions online, but what it does is build awareness for the opportunity. Also, I think it's really important to note that you'll see our posting frequency was down again, some of the hiring posts and some of the things we did not have to do in the previous year, or this year dropped it down. You'll also notice that the impressions were essentially flat, so that's a good thing. What it means is that we were keeping the same number of eyeballs on it that we had when we were posting more, and what that tells us is that the content that wasn't specific to hiring, or wasn't specific to something that was only for an isolated group was resonating. So, looking at the picture on the left I mean who doesn't love that? I don't know why that's not viral, because that's pretty awesome. You can see Loud Thunder gets a lot of engagement. We also work really hard on what we call UGC, which is user generated content, because people find this to be an online community, as we want them to. As you see things like that picture, folks are proud of what's happening out at the park and the family time. So, anytime we can get other people to talk about us and we get to reuse it, that's even better. The further away your social strategy goes from advertising, the better because we have a tendency to want to say "come visit us", that's about us not about what's in it for them. If you can get user generated content and you can show them that awesome fish, they know immediately what's in it for them, potentially. You can also see a campaign that was run around "you can keep the QC outdoorsy with donations", incredible impression number on that, what it tells you is that people are interested in the activity. That doesn't mean they're necessarily the first to donate, but it is that constant drumbeat that makes it easier and easier as you go."

Ms. Enright stated, "One thing I will add with this one, this is the ad that caused that spike in November, it was right around Thanksgiving time. This is one of those ads."

Ms. Benning continued, "That's a really good point Kristen, if you look back here you can see that spike in November, which you would not typically see. Why are you doing a lot of stuff in November? Well, giving month is why. Now, we're going to take a look at the zoo. The zoo is handled a little bit differently, they do their own posting and they are not utilizing us for those services outside of paid and sponsored campaigns. So, because Niabi Zoo is a little bit more of what I would call a consumer model, they lean on us for things like "Zoo It Big" and advertising campaigns, and stay organic in their social streams. I think the most important thing to look at, and it speaks volumes to the diversity of folks interested in Niabi, is

in the lower right. If you remember, most of the time we're seeing our paid overreaching organic, we have the exact opposite here and that honestly is due to sheer volume, because they are out there walking, taking photos and working it nonstop. There's pros and cons to that because, you get to a point where you have so much volume that you start to see engagement trickle down. So, that's a constant balancing act, but you can look at the numbers and see that. Looking at "Boo at the Zoo" you're closing in on 962,000 impressions, that is a wild number. September free admission days, and then it kind of goes back to the items that you might typically see. Also, of interest is the gap between the lowest and the highest, so that has to do with the sheer volume of what's coming out of there. You're not always going to hit, if you're doing a volume game, you're going to have some things that fall in a different category. Just take a look at that first sentence, Niabi social impressions decreased, but engagements on the other hand remained relatively flat. So again, you're playing a volume game. When we talk to Tammy and Lee frequently to share with them, "Hey, here's what's popping off, and here's what isn't", you're going to see those things. As I noted, it's unique in that, organic reach is higher than paid reach. I can think of maybe over the course of the last 10 to 12 years, maybe 3-4 clients in that space. That is a pretty unique thing to pull away from. Let's look at the boosted posts, i.e. this is maybe where MindFire came in and said "Okay, we're going to help you put together something around a micro campaign," Free admission days, 961,000, Boo at the Zoo which is another paid campaign, closing in on 200,000. Anything that had to do with family entertainment that folks felt was a bit of a tradition, and I think a lot of people see free admission days that way, really popped off. Now, one of my favorites, is a campaign called "Zoo It Big" which kicked off with reintroducing the new species, and talking about what's new at the zoo. Being very bright and bold worked out pretty good, we are very, very pleased with how it performed. In fact, we are going to be tweaking and modifying it because if it's not broke, don't fix it and moving it in to the next season. Those singular images of animals that really focus sort of eyeball to eyeball work, paired with something that feels like we're creating momentum really worked. There are constant renovations happening and then of course, with some of the grant and some of the other work, we're going to have a lot to share. So, Zoo It Big is going to pay off. The Donate to Niabi did quite well too, you know, supporting the notion of conservation and education. Then, we also ran a campaign trying to generate some sort of off-season funding with a Niabi gift card, which also performed moderately well."

Ms. Enright stated, " One thing I do want to point out with the ad you're seeing on the right, that was for the gift card. You'll kind of see some nice photography with people. One thing that we did right at the end of the season last year was, we did a photo shoot as well as a video shoot, and got a lot of really good brand-new photography close-up of the animals, close-up of people, that we are going to be able to utilize a lot throughout this season. They've already started implementing some of those photos, and Amy kind of teased we might be bringing back the Zoo

It Big campaign, I know we're bringing that back and we're utilizing some of the photography that we were able to take last fall, and put those zoo animals back in to that campaign. We're really excited to be able to do that."

Ms. Benning continued, "Again, I am really excited about how well that performed, and that's a great point Kristen because as we moved into the end of the season, we were able to go out and I think we did 1 or 2 full days. Now, it's just the simple notion of really strong photography to take a campaign that already worked, and make it even better. So, a couple best practice takeaways as we think about it. When it comes to Amōwa, it's the trails, the wildlife, and the conservation efforts that really resonate with folks. I think that there's a peacefulness that people feel here, that we need to tap in to. It's a different vibe, and that's a good thing because it gives us an opportunity to talk about what the Forest Preserve is doing, and why it matters. Dorrance has a vibe that is about bringing the community together. It feels like your hometown park that lots of people use for cycling, and casual visitors, and also a huge shout out to the volunteers that help support that. So, it's very community building at Dorrance, and that's the messaging that we lean in to. Illiniwek is about making memories, I mean just flat out it's about making memories, and when we highlight the events where people come together to make those memories, we always see a kickoff there. Indian Bluff, I think this is your magic sauce in its authenticity. Anytime we can get what we call UGC, which is golfers showing us their stuff, their hole in one spotlights. It's a place where everyone is welcome, and it's where you go to have a beautiful golf game where you just relax. We also had some good feedback on giveaway promos that we did, and positive feedback from the golfers on those. Loud Thunder is a fishing and wildlife community. Anywhere again, we can lean into that UGC, and anything fish related always sells. One of the things that we've been talking about is that there should be a "yes, and" to Loud Thunder, that's because Lake George is Lake George, right? But, we're working on more of a "Yes, and" philosophy with that. "Yes, and what happens next year?" "Yes, and have you explored further?" So, building that base and then teasing out that information is really key. The numbers for Niabi Zoo were strong, we talked about that, it does also mean though, as you look at frequency of those posts, we do run the risk of getting a little lost. We're working to discuss maybe how we focus on what those are, but you show anyone a baby fox and you're golden, that's all I've got to say, those things are adorable. We're talking to their team about using data that we have to figure out what we do on a target, right? Because again, when you boost, it gives us the ability to target specific audiences and it gives us the ability to extend the stay of a particular message. That might work great with the splash landing pad, for example, or a piece like that where we know it's going to be a family adventure, that people are always looking for. That is our presentation tonight, what questions are out there?"

President Swanson stated, "Friends, any questions we have for Amy? Dr. Vyncke?"

Commissioner B. Vyncke responded, "Dr? I've never been called Dr. before but anyway, question for you. It looks like a really good rebuild on that website for Indian Bluff, any possibility of any of the other websites? I've struggled through Loud Thunders, it's not a great website."

Ms. Enright stated, "I can talk about that. So, within this current fiscal year, no, that will not be happening. You guys do reset in July, and my goal is for in the next fiscal year, to kind of start looking more at those other websites. We took on Indian Bluff and plan to take on another. They're all underneath the one website, Rock Island County Forest Preserve site for Loud Thunder."

Ms. Benning stated, "We felt that Indian Bluff was the lowest hanging fruit, because there was something transactional that could happen there. But yes, that is certainly something as we look at how those other pages are categorized that yes, is in our sites."

Commissioner B. Vyncke continued, "Well, I know camping reservations are huge, and obviously that's a big part of what Illiniwek and Loud Thunder do, obviously in the season. When campers are out there looking for, and I'm not the only one who camps, there's friends of mine and relatives that do, and securing campsites—I know Illiniwek does not, but Loud Thunder does do online, and to pick a campsite it's just kind of hard to do. I know it's frustrating for some people when they go to look at campsites, because if you can't find out what Site 13 is or looks like, you might not go. Especially if you have a camper, and you're like "I don't even know if this thing will fit."

Ms. Enright responded, "Also, before we go to do a new website, we add in web rotators to the Rock Island County Forest Preserve website. On the homepage now there is a rotator, that rotated between hiking, boating and camping, so that way right there, you can click on the button, and go right to the camping page, or right to the hiking page. So, that is something we did add."

Commissioner B. Vyncke added, "And, they're not user friendly on a mobile device."

Ms. Benning responded, "They are not, you're right. I'm sorry, you are not wrong."

Commissioner B. Vyncke responded, "But, great work on what you've done so far, and I look forward to the future."

Ms. Benning asked, "Are you a golfer too?"

Commissioner B. Vyncke responded, "I can hit a golf ball, I don't know if you would call me a golfer, I think I'm a doctor."

President Swanson responded, "I just promoted him. Thank you, Mr. Vyncke, anything else? Anyone? Well I really appreciate the partnership, and I appreciate the time you spent to be with us this evening. Thank you all very much for being with us, would you join me in thanking our partners please."

(Applause given)

Ms. Benning stated, "Thank you, and it's Kristen's Birthday today so she brought everyone treats."

Ms. Enright stated, "I brought cookies for everyone."

President Swanson responded, "Well were going to have to blow through this agenda really quick so we can get to those."

Ms. Enright responded, "I'm going to leave them here for you all to enjoy."

Ms. Benning stated, "You all know where to reach us if you have ongoing questions, or if anything comes up."

President Swanson responded, "I'd invite us all to sing, but we really like Kristen and we'd probably hurt your ears. Seriously, thank you very much for the partnership. We're going to get moving on this agenda, so we're going to open right up with a motion to approve the February Commission Minutes as presented in your packet."

3. Commissioner R. Simmer moved to approve the February Commission Minutes, as presented. Commissioner L. Burns seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

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

5. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Just a couple of comments from me, the season is opening up soon, camping is just about to start, the first weekend in April. Indian Bluff will open as soon as the weather is steady enough to allow it. You've probably seen the report, staff is working very diligently, making sure that

everything is ready for the openings. I will simply add that you have something new in your lexicon, UGC, user generated content, and I want to put a challenge out to all my fellow commissioners—If you get out to one of these parks, especially with a child or a grandchild, niece or nephew, something like that, take a picture with you in it and send it to me. We'll try and find a way that we can get that worked into some of the socials, let me know where you are, and what you're doing and we'll do our best. I hope everyone gets out and sees some of these parks, that's the most important thing."

6. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$151,469.40 as presented. Commissioner R. Brunk seconded.

Invoice No.	Invoice Description	Status	Item Reason	Invoice Date	Due Date	G/L Date	Received Date	Payment Date	Invoice Amount
FM100E98: Forest Preserve Committee - AP by G/L Invoice Due Date Range 02/01/26 - 02/28/26									
FUND 130 - Forest Preserve	Department 312 - Forest Preserve								
	Sub Department 10 - Professional Services								
108114 - DATATENANT LLC	2759 data storage for server	Open		02/26/2026	02/28/2026	02/26/2026			368.75
	Object detail 631.00 - Professional Services								368.75
108322 - QUAD CITY BANK AND TRUST	0116202600 Constant Contact Month Open	Open		02/18/2026	02/18/2026	02/18/2026			255.00
	by Fee # 16260 and # 0312 1425								
104365 - CAMLIN-TREAS GENERAL FUND	P026-01 postage	Open		02/23/2026	02/23/2026	02/23/2026			9.57
108038 - AT&T MOBILITY B LLC	287338665962; 3226 12728/25 - 1/28/26	Open		02/23/2026	02/23/2026	02/23/2026			47.16
	Object detail 632.00 - Communications								311.73
108089 - KALIS SWANSON	1490206TRVL Travel	Open		02/05/2026	02/09/2026	02/05/2026			433.79
	REMB Conference reimbursements								433.79
101317 - QUAD CITY TIMES / DESPATCH	2121388-1 Statement #117383	Open		02/24/2026	02/26/2026	02/26/2026			2,265.00
	ARCUS Destination Guide								2,265.00
108304 - ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS	2026 IACD annual membership dues	Open		02/26/2026	02/26/2026	02/26/2026			200.00
	Object detail 642.00 - Dues & memberships								200.00
107734 - MINGFIRE COMMUNICATIONS	22423 Website hosting	Open		02/05/2026	02/09/2026	02/05/2026			540.00
107999 - VERMONT SYSTEMS INC	15019765 Monthly Fee 2/1/26 to 2/28/26	Open		02/05/2026	02/09/2026	02/05/2026			3,230.72
108322 - QUAD CITY BANK AND TRUST	3331387469 Adobe subscriptions 1/16/26 to card # 0312 1425	Open		02/18/2026	02/18/2026	02/18/2026			624.70
108116 - PAYHEBANG LLC	1N-008748 Fees	Open		02/23/2026	02/23/2026	02/23/2026			265.75
107335 - CAMLIN-TREAS MFS	HPS Feb 2026 FF 0012510644	Open		02/25/2026	02/29/2026	02/25/2026			20.82
107734 - MINGFIRE COMMUNICATIONS	22438 Retainer: 2025-2026 Service agreement; month 8 of 12	Open		02/26/2026	02/26/2026	02/26/2026			6,685.41
	Object detail 644.00 - Outside Contractual								111,367.40
	Sub Department 10 - Administration								114,946.67

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FM100E98: Forest Preserve Committee - AP by G/L

Invoice Due Date Range 02/01/26 - 02/28/26

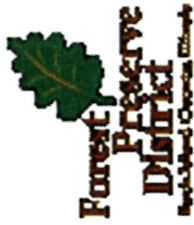
Invoice No.	Invoice Description	Status	Held Reason	Invoice Date	Due Date	GL Date	Received Date	Payment Date	Invoice Amount
Fund 131 - Niabi Zoo									
Department 32 - Forest Preserve									
Sub Department 07 - FP Zoo Program & Special Events									
Object detail 526.00 - Food Purchases									
106322 - QUAO CITY BANK AND TRUST	48981756901 Hyec; sales tax refund; 1/23/26; 6082	Open		02/14/2026	02/14/2026	02/14/2026			(79.20)
									(\$79.20)
Object detail 631.00 - Professional Services									
106322 - QUAO CITY BANK AND TRUST	561639 Volistas; volunteer database; 2/6/26; 6082	Open		02/14/2026	02/14/2026	02/14/2026			45.00
106322 - QUAO CITY BANK AND TRUST	3345930441 Adobe; graphics software; 1/24/26; 6082	Open		02/14/2026	02/14/2026	02/14/2026			34.99
									\$79.99
Object detail 642.00 - Dues & memberships									
106322 - QUAO CITY BANK AND TRUST	671945 ZAA; memberships; 1/26/26; 6082	Open		02/14/2026	02/14/2026	02/14/2026			154.50
									\$154.50
									\$155.29
Sub Department 08 - FP Zoo Animal Care & Enrichment									
Object detail 52.2.00 - Operating Supplies									
100189 - ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTER OF THE QUAO CITIES	162146 medications	Open		02/04/2026	02/04/2026	02/04/2026			18.10
100388 - CENTRAL NEBRASKA PACKING INC	032155-2026 meat order	Open		02/04/2026	02/04/2026	02/04/2026			10,489.22
107369 - MYA VETERINARY SUPPLY CO	65752689 vet supplies (\$77.97); medications (\$432)	Open		02/04/2026	02/04/2026	02/04/2026			509.97
107804 - SYSCO D/W/A	439300700 animal produce	Open		02/04/2026	02/04/2026	02/04/2026			471.37
107804 - SYSCO D/W/A	439302713 refund	Open		02/04/2026	02/04/2026	02/04/2026			(21.95)
101696 - GREAT WESTERN SUPPLY CO	262244 vet supplies - gloves	Open		02/10/2026	02/10/2026	02/10/2026			220.00
107369 - MYA VETERINARY SUPPLY CO	65862947 vet supplies (\$61.51); medications (\$720.76)	Open		02/10/2026	02/10/2026	02/10/2026			782.27
107886 - RYAN ROBERTS	2102026 grass hay; straw; alfalfa	Open		02/10/2026	02/10/2026	02/10/2026			1,308.00
107815 - THEISENS INC	3450140 top soil	Open		02/10/2026	02/10/2026	02/10/2026			231.20
106322 - QUAO CITY BANK AND TRUST	ES78481, 77038 Covevus; medications;	Open		02/14/2026	02/14/2026	02/14/2026			488.53
106322 - QUAO CITY BANK AND TRUST	6106599568 1/00/26; 0447 Boehringer Ingelheim; animal rx 1/20/26;	Open		02/14/2026	02/14/2026	02/14/2026			206.80
106322 - QUAO CITY BANK AND TRUST	19871417 0447 Vetove; vet supplies-	Open		02/14/2026	02/14/2026	02/14/2026			68.93
106322 - QUAO CITY BANK AND TRUST	60823 surgical tape; 1/9/26; 0447 Rubbermat; rubber mats; 1/17/26; 2114	Open		02/14/2026	02/14/2026	02/14/2026			295.40



FM100E98:Forest Preserve Committee - AP by G/L

Invoice Due Date Range 02/01/26 - 02/28/26

Vendor	Invoice No.	Invoice Description	Status	Head Reason	Invoice Date	Due Date	G/L Date	Received Date	Payment Date	Invoice Amount
Department 32 - Forest Preserve Fund 133 - Forest Preserve Liab Ins										
Object detail 63 L09 - Professional Services										
108117 - ALEXANDRA RENAE MAJETIC	25050303	rabies vaccine reimbursement	Open		02/10/2026	02/10/2026	02/01/2026			509.99
108117 - ALEXANDRA RENAE MAJETIC	25050303	rabies vaccine reimbursement	Open		02/10/2026	02/10/2026	02/01/2026			509.99
Object detail 631.00 - Professional Services Totals										\$1,019.98
Department 32 - Forest Preserve Totals										\$1,019.98
Fund 133 - Forest Preserve Liab Ins Totals										\$1,019.98



FM100E98: Forest Preserve Committee - AP by G/L

Invoice Due Date Range 02/01/26 - 02/28/26

Vendor	Invoice No.	Invoice Description	Status	Hold Reason	Invoice Date	Due Date	G/L Date	Received Date	Payment Date	Invoice Amount
108048 - JMEG CONSULTANTS CORP	24002519.05-1	Indian Bluff Golf Course Pathing Overlay	Open		02/10/2026	02/10/2026	02/01/2026			2,777.50
Object detail 631.00 - Professional Services Department 32 - Forest Preserve Fund 335 - Develop-Forests & Construct Impr Object detail 631.00 - Professional Services Department 32 - Forest Preserve Fund 335 - Develop-Forests & Construct Impr Grand Totals										
										2,777.50
										<u>\$2,777.50</u>
										<u>\$2,777.50</u>
										<u>\$2,777.50</u>
										<u>\$37,330.49</u>

* - Prior Fiscal Year Activity

2

A roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call:

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, C. Ramos, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. Woods.

TOTAL YES 15

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. There were no Transfers of Appropriation or Resolutions this month.

8. Commissioner B. Vyncke moved to approve the Three-Year Term Niabi Zoo Food Service Concession Agreement with Vander Vending, Commissioner R. Morthland seconded.

(*Note—See packet for Full Agreement.)

Commissioner R. Simmer motioned for previous roll call, Commissioner C. Enburg seconded.

Roll Call:

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, C. Ramos, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. Woods.

TOTAL YES 15

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner J. Woods moved to approve the Professional Land Survey and Professional Engineering services for the proposed Splash Pad and Deck at Niabi Zoo in the amount of \$78,390.00. Commissioner R. Simmer Seconded.

(*Note—Proposal begins on next page.)

February 23rd, 2026

Jeffrey Craver
Forest Preserve District Director
Rock Island County Forest Preserve District
19406 Loud Thunder Road
Illinois City, IL 61259

RE: Professional Land Survey and Professional Engineering services for the proposed Splash Pad and Deck at the Niabi Zoo in Coal Valley, Illinois

Dear Mr. Craver:

Hutchison Engineering, Inc. (HEI) is pleased with the opportunity to provide this proposal for Professional Surveying, Engineering, and Landscape Architectural services related to the proposed development of a Splash Pad and a Deck at the Niabi Zoo. The design will be based on the provided conceptual plans (Exhibit A & B). Due to the inherent differences in scope and trades involved with the two proposed improvements, it is likely that the project will be bid / constructed under two separate contracts. The following is the scope of services that HEI will provide.

Scope of Services:

Topographical Survey

HEI will perform a topographical survey of the area in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Splash Pad location and the proposed Deck location. The survey will be completed for design purposes and no survey exhibits and/or plats will be produced. The topographical survey will include the following:

- Observed improvements.
- Observed utilities and utility locations based on available information. The inverts of accessible storm and sanitary sewer structures. This does not include a J.U.L.I.E locate.
- Setting three (3) benchmarks around the perimeter of the site.
- Setting three (3) horizontal control points around the perimeter of the site.

Splash Pad Construction Plans and Specifications

HEI will develop a set of Construction Plans and Specifications for the proposed Splash Pad based on the provided Concept Plan (Exhibit A - Homestead Air Reserve Park Splashpad, FL – by Vortex). The Construction Plans and Specifications will be developed in accordance with the Village of Coal Valley / Rock Island County requirements and standards and in accordance with Illinois Department of Transportation standard specifications. The Construction Plans and Specifications will provide the necessary information for public solicitation of bids for the construction of the proposed Splash Pad.

The following is a list of sheets that may be developed as part of the Splash Pad Design:

- Existing Conditions Plan
- Demolition Plan
- Erosion Control Plan
- Storm Sewer and Utilities Plan
- Sanitary Sewer Plan & Profile, if required.
- Site Plan

- Layout and Grading Plan
- Splash Pad Component Layout
- Splash Pad Component Details
- Site and Pavement Details
- Utility Details
- Referenced Highway Standards

Landscape Design / Plans

HEI will develop a Landscape Plan for the site to fit within the motif of the surrounding Zoo. It is anticipated that the site will include planting beds surrounding the splash pad to assist in creating the sense of place. Additionally, if drainage to the storm sewer system is required, bio-retention basins with plantings will be developed.

Deck Construction Plans and Specifications

HEI will develop a set of Construction Plans and Specifications for the proposed Deck around the rear of the Discovery Center Building (Exhibit B). The Construction Plans and Specifications will be developed in accordance with the Village of Coal Valley / Rock Island County requirements and the IBC Commercial Deck requirements. Along with the Deck, it is expected that a new exterior door into the Discovery Center will be included, electrical outlets and lighting incorporated into the deck railing, and concrete sidewalk/ramps at the on-grade tie-ins. Construction Plans and Specifications will provide the necessary information for public solicitation of bids for the construction of the proposed Deck.

The following is a list of sheets that may be developed as part of the Splash Pad Design:

- Existing Conditions Plan
- Demolition Plan
- Erosion Control Plan
- Site Plan
- Layout and Grading Plan
- Structural Deck Foundation Plan
- Structural Deck Framing Plan
- Deck Surface Plan
- Deck Details
- Site and Pavement Details

Storm Water Design

HEI will design the proposed on-site storm sewer system to comply with the Village of Coal Valley / Rock Island County requirements, if determined to be applicable. It is anticipated that storm water will likely release to a surface drainageway.

Splash Pad Site Utilities

It is anticipated that the Splash Pad will be a "drain-to-system" and that the outgoing water will be discharged to either the sanitary sewer or storm sewer. Sanitary sewer discharge is typically preferred by owners; however, due to the amount of water being discharged and the fact that the Splash Pad will also collect rainwater, it often times not allowed by the authority having jurisdiction over the sanitary sewer. If discharge into storm sewer is required, the water will likely be required to go through a "pre-treatment" system such as a bio-retention and/or detention system prior to discharge. The Splash Pad will have a water service connection to the existing 6" main/service just north of the proposed splash pad location. The water service connection will require a backflow prevention device as well

as a protected location for the Splash Pad controls/distribution manifold. It is expected that a vault or enclosed above-grade utility enclosure will be required to house this equipment. Additionally, electrical power will need to be brought to the Splash Pad site for splash pad controls.

Bid Documents

HEI will prepare the front-end bid documents for the project based on the Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC) documents. Any agency specific or grant funding required language can be added to the bid solicitation packet as needed.

Permitting

HEI will prepare and submit plans for both the Splash Pad and the Deck to the City of Coal Valley and other local authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ), if applicable (sanitary sewer) for permitting. It is anticipated that multiple approvals from multiple departments will be required. Permit fees shall be the responsibility of the Owner.

It does not appear that site disturbance will be in excess of 1 Acre and therefore a Notice of Intent for the NPDES of Construction Site Activities will not be required and therefore not included in the scope of work.

If the splashpad drains to sanitary sewer, it is anticipated that the load will be in excess of 1,500 GPD / 15 P.E. and therefore will require a Sanitary Sewer Service permit through the IEPA. If determined to be required, HEI will prepare the necessary documents and plans and submit to the IEPA. The Owner shall be responsible for the permit fees.

It is not anticipated that the water service will require IEPA permitting and therefore water permitting is not included in the scope of services.

Construction Administration / Limited Observation and Inspection

It is not anticipated that full or part-time construction observation / inspection will be needed on the project. However, the work on the project will require occasional inspection of certain items such as deck foundations, deck framing, splash pad component connections and controls, etc. Some of these inspections will also correlate with required AHJ inspections. In addition to the limited observation / inspections, HEI will also perform the Construction Administration for the project. The Construction Administration / Limited Observation and Inspection work will include:

- Pre-Construction Meeting
- Periodic Site Visits for Observation / Inspections – Limited to (12) site visits at 3 hours per visit.
- Construction Meetings – Limited to (6) meetings at 2 hours per meeting.
- Shop Drawing / Submittal Review
- Answer Contractor questions during Construction
- Punchlist Development – Limited to (2) site visits at 4 hours per visit

Additional Services:

Additional services that are not included in the Scope of Work may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Development of Alternate Bids
- Alta Survey / Plats / Survey Exhibits
- Zoning
- Water Main/Service IEPA Permitting

- Construction Staking/Layout
- Materials Testing
- Construction Observation / Inspection beyond limits set forth in the Scope of Services.

Any of the additional services can be performed as needed with a scope, fee, and schedule to be identified and agreed upon by HEI and the Client at a later time.

Fees:

We are prepared to provide the above outlined scope of services for a lump-sum fee of **\$78,390**. The breakdown of fees is as follows:

Topographical Survey	\$4,150
Splash Pad Construction Plans and Specifications	\$16,780
Landscape Design/Plan	\$3,860
Deck Construction Plans and Specifications	\$22,655
Storm Water Design	\$3,800
Splash Pad Site Utilities	\$6,105
Bid Documents	\$2,740
Permitting	\$3,860
<u>Construction Administration / Limited Observation and Inspection</u>	<u>\$14,440</u>
Total	\$78,390

Schedule:

HEI can begin immediately following receipt of the signed agreement. It is anticipated that the topographical survey can be complete within 4 weeks. Design and Construction plans will take another 8-12 weeks after completion of the first survey. The anticipated goal would be to bid the project in early summer with construction to begin in early fall (after the Zoo "busy season")

Jeff, thank you again for the opportunity to propose on this exciting project for the Forest Preserve and the Zoo. I'm looking forward to meeting and working with you and your team. If agreeable, please execute and return a copy of the attached agreement, which will serve as your official authorization for us to proceed with the proposed work scope. If you have any questions and/or wish to discuss further, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

HUTCHISON ENGINEERING, INC.



Nate H. Parrott, PLA – Design Project Manager / Landscape Architect

Agreement for Professional Services

This Agreement is entered into on February 23rd, 2026 between Rock Island County Forest Preserve District ("Owner") and HUTCHISON ENGINEERING, INC., 1801 W. Lafayette Ave., Jacksonville, IL 62650 ("Consultant") for the professional services outlined in the attached Scope of Services Cover Letter ("Services").

The Services provided pursuant to this Agreement are limited exclusively to the following Project and are to be completed with that degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of the same profession currently practicing under similar circumstances at the same time and in the same or similar locality.

Owner and Consultant agree that the Services herein described are subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. BILLING AND PAYMENT

Consultant agrees to perform the Services in accordance with the generally accepted standard of care for the lump sum of \$ 78,390. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Owner shall make an initial payment of \$ 0 ("Retainer"). This Retainer shall be held by the Consultant and applied against the final invoice.

Owner will be billed at an interval of no less than 30 days or as outlined below for milestone submittals:

Invoices are due and payable upon receipt and will be deemed past due if not paid in full fifteen (15) calendar days of the due date regardless of any funding reimbursement agreements the Owner may have with outside agencies.

Invoices not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of the invoice will be considered delinquent and shall bear interest at the rate of 12% per annum from the date of invoice until fully paid and OWNER shall be liable to ENGINEER for any reasonable attorney's fees, court costs or related expenses incurred in connection with the effort to collect said delinquencies. Services may be suspended by ENGINEER if payments are not paid within thirty (30) days of OWNER's receipt of invoice. In the event that the ENGINEER deems that a lien or other legal action is necessary to enforce collection of services rendered, the OWNER shall bear all lien fees, legal expenses and court costs.

2. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Owner agrees to limit the Consultant's liability for the Client's damages to the sum of \$50,000 or the Consultant's fee, whichever is greater. This limitation shall apply regardless of the cause of action or legal theory pled or asserted.

3. WAIVER OF CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, neither the Owner nor the Consultant, their respective officers, directors, partners, employees, contractors or subconsultants shall be liable to the other or shall make any claim for any incidental, indirect or consequential damages arising out of or connected in any way to the Project or to this Agreement. This mutual waiver of consequential damages shall include, but is not limited to, loss of use, loss of profit, loss

070

of business, loss of income, loss of reputation and any other consequential damages that either party may have incurred from any cause of action including negligence, strict liability, breach of contract and breach of strict or implied warranty. Both the Owner and the Consultant shall require similar waivers of consequential damages protecting all the entities or persons named herein in all contracts and subcontracts with others involved in this project.

4. OWNERSHIP OF INSTRUMENTS OF SERVICE

Consultant shall retain ownership of all reports, drawings, plans, specifications, electronic files, field data, notes and other documents and instruments prepared by Consultant ("Instruments of Service"). Consultant shall retain all common law, statutory and other reserved rights, including, without limitation, all copyrights thereto.

Owner agrees that the Instruments of Services are intended solely for this Project, and Owner shall not reuse or make any modification to the construction documents without the prior written authorization of the Consultant. Owner agrees to release Consultant, its officers, directors, employees and subconsultants (collectively, Consultant) from any and all claims arising out of unauthorized use of the Instruments of Service, and Owner agrees, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Consultant against any damages, liabilities or costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees and defense costs, arising from or allegedly arising from or in any way related to or connected with the unauthorized reuse or modification of the construction documents by the Owner or any person or entity that acquires or obtains the construction documents from or through the Owner without the written authorization of the Consultant.

5. CONSTRUCTION MEANS AND METHODS AND JOBSITE SAFETY

Construction means and methods and jobsite safety are the sole responsibility of the general contractor. Consultant has no liability for and no control over construction means and methods and jobsite safety.

6. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Owner and Consultant agree to engage in mediation as a condition precedent to filing any lawsuit. The costs of the mediation will be shared equally by all parties involved. Owner shall not make resolution of any dispute or payment of any amount due contingent upon the Consultant's signing a certification, guarantee or warranty as to the existence of any conditions that the Consultant cannot personally ascertain.

7. TERMINATION

This Agreement may be terminated by either Owner or Consultant at any time with or without cause upon ten (10) days written notice to the other party. Owner's failure to timely pay invoices will constitute grounds for termination by Consultant. In the event of termination by either Party, Owner will pay for all Services rendered by Consultant, including all expenses incurred, up to and including the date Services are terminated. Final payment will be due immediately upon receipt of the final invoice.

8. GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE

Owner and Consultant agree that the laws of the State of Illinois govern this Agreement, and any lawsuit arising out of this Agreement or the Services herein shall be brought in the County where the Project is located.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing contained in this Agreement shall create a contractual relationship with or a cause of action in favor of a third party against either Owner or Consultant. Consultant makes no warranties, express or implied, and none of the Services provided under this Agreement or on the Project constitute a sale of goods. This Agreement contains the entire Agreement between Owner and Consultant and can only be modified in writing and signed by both Parties. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed by their duly authorized representatives, effective as of the day and year first above mentioned.

HUTCHISON ENGINEERING INC.	ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
By: <u>JD Schulte</u> (Signature)	By: _____ (Signature)
Name: <u>JD Schulte</u> (Printed)	Name: _____ (Printed)
Title: <u>Director of Operations – Quad Cities</u>	Title: _____

Commissioner D. Adams motioned for previous roll call, Commissioner B. Vyncke seconded.

Roll Call:

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, C. Ramos, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. Woods.

TOTAL YES 15

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve the Three-Year Beverage Sales Agreement with WP Beverages, LLC to be the exclusive vendor of the District, Commissioner B. Vyncke seconded.

(*Note-See packet for full agreement.)

Commissioner R. Simmer motioned for previous roll call, Commissioner C. Layer seconded.

Roll Call:

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, C. Ramos, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. Woods.

TOTAL YES 15

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

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

12. Commissioner R. Brunk moved to approve all routine reports from the Director and Department Heads to the Forest Preserve Commission, Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

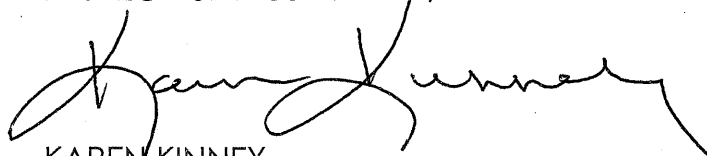
A voice vote was taken.

Motion Carried.

President Swanson stated, "I'll remind you the next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2024 in these chambers following the County Board meeting."

President Swanson declared the meeting in recess at 7:07pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney", written in a cursive style.

KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK: ah