I. Call to Order

President Wehrli called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Kendall County Board Room.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Invocation

IV. Roll Call

Commissioners Cullick, Davidson, Gilmour, Koukol, Prochaska, Purcell, Shaw, and Wehri all were present.

V. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Koukol made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Gilmour. All, aye. Opposed, none. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Citizens to be Heard Including Public Comments on a Preliminary Site Plan for Henneberry Woods Forest Preserve

Liz Dafoe of Upland Design presented an overview of the preliminary site plan for Henneberry Woods Forest Preserve including the construction of a parking area off of Cherry Road, multi-use trail system, mowed trails, and a shrub land birds overlook and pavilion.

Andy Clements of Oswego expressed appreciation to Commissioners Koukol and Gryder for visiting the Henneberry subdivision since the last meeting. Andy Clements reported on a meeting he held with the Oswegoland Park District. Andy Clements expressed concerns over the proposed location of the parking lot, stating that once the road improvements are fully completed connecting the Whitetail Ridge with Henneberry Woods subdivisions, this will be less of a concern.

Lisa Kittelsen of Oswego expressed concerns over the proposed location of the parking lot, citing safety concerns with increased traffic. Lisa Kittlesen also expressed concerns over use of the preserve by off road vehicles.
Michelle Ali of Oswego expressed concerns over the proposed location of the parking area, and additional improvements proposed for the Henneberry Forest Preserve, citing concerns over the potential for increased delinquent behavior within the preserve once it is opened to the public.

Dan Harold of Oswego expressed concerns over losing the privacy residents now enjoy, and concerns that preserve improvements would deter future development of the subdivision.

Ken Zaliger of Oswego expressed concerns over the proposed parking lot. Ken Zaliger noted that he was informed that trails would be constructed, but not a parking area in the preserve. Ken Zaliger also expressed concerns over the short notice and notification of subdivision residents.

President Wehrli stated that Henneberry Forest Preserve was acquired in 2009 with support from a $750,000 OSLAD grant, which requires the District to provide public access and restore the preserve’s natural areas.

Don Kincook expressed concerns about cars currently entering the preserve at night, citing concerns that extension of the road and parking lot would increase traffic in the subdivision.

Todd Alonzo of Oswego thanked Commissioner Koukol for his site visit to the subdivision. Todd Alonzo expressed concern about the District extending Cherry Road into the preserve, and liability of the forest preserve district if an incident were to occur due to increased traffic into the subdivision.

Bill Wilson of Oswego cited concerns over the development of the forest preserve. Bill Wilson presented a site plan for the Henneberry Woods subdivision which did not show the parking lot access into the forest preserve.

President Wehrli stated that all residents were informed of the future plans for the Henneberry Woods Forest Preserve at the time they signed off on the petition of support of the District’s acquisition of the property. Director Guritz stated that residents signed a petition of support as part of the District’s acquisition project and submission to the IDNR-OSLAD program. President Wehrli stated that Attorney Dan Kramer worked on behalf of the District to secure resident petitions for support of the acquisition of the forest preserve.

Ron Yennerick of Grove Estates subdivision expressed appreciation and support for the concerns of the Henneberry Woods Forest Preserve development, citing concerns of delinquent behavior taking place within the Grove Estates subdivision.

Joe DaLuca of Oswego expressed concerns over the proposed development of Henneberry Woods Forest Preserve.
Pam Wilson of Oswego stated that she assisted with efforts to have residents sign support petitions for the District’s acquisition, but was unaware of the District’s plans to develop the forest preserve at the time that the petitions were signed.

Richard Faltz of Oswego stated that he also was unaware of the District’s plans to develop the forest preserve, and opposed the proposed extension of a gravel road from Cherry Road and construction of a parking area in the preserve.

President Wehrli reported that there is time to consider options as the 2015 OSLAD application cycle has been delayed by the Governor’s Office. President Wehrli thanked the Nau-Au-Say Township Highway Commissioner for attending, and updated Commission that the Township is not in favor of extending the road if it is not fully improved. President Wehrli reported on a meeting held with Oswegoland Park District officials to discuss potential trail connection to Waa Kee Sha Park, which has been ruled out as a viable option. While a preserve access drive and parking area is not an option for the preserve at this time, a small parking lot and preserve entrance will be considered eventually once the infrastructure needed is in place.

Director Guritz stated that the restoration of Henneberry Woods and construction of trails within the preserve is a high priority for the District due to the District’s commitments to fulfill the acquisition grant requirements. Director Guritz stated that without public access to the preserve, there is no opportunity to secure additional funds through OSLAD.

President Wehrli thanked all the residents for coming to the meeting, stating that this is the beginning of the process, and hopes that the eventual improvements to the forest preserve is something that everyone can be proud of.

Bill Wilson stated that the preserve boundaries should be more clearly posted.

Commissioner Koukol stated that the District is required to provide public access because of the grant received when the property was purchased. There are different approaches that this can take, but this is a requirement of the grant provisions.

Commissioner Gilmour thanked the residents for attending.

Commissioner Purcell inquired into the District’s deadlines for completing improvements. Director Guritz stated that the development of the site should begin within the first three years following acquisition.

Commission discussed the need to move forward with the site development and restoration.

Commissioner Koukol requested that Attorney Kramer be invited to a future meeting to clarify questions raised by Henneberry Woods residents.
VII. Director’s Report

Director Guritz stated that efforts are underway to restructure the District’s environmental education program. A second bond rating conference was held with Moody’s and Speer Financial, Inc. resulting in the lowering of the District’s bond rating through Moody’s from A3 to A1, with the report included within the Director’s Report. Pressing issues include the IDOT Rail Safety Grant, with a need to move forward with dedicating Hoover Drive as a public road in order for the project to proceed. Director Guritz reported that Bird Conservation Network and Plants of Concern volunteer monitoring has been completed, with reports of increasing populations of some of the rare plants under annual observation.

Commissioner Davidson inquired into whether the City of Yorkville had requested anything from the District in exchange for their support for dedicating Hoover Road. Director Guritz stated that the City of Yorkville has not indicated that they would expect anything in return at this point.

Commissioner Gilmour inquired into the proposed restructure of the environmental education program. Director Guritz stated that the goal is to hire two part time program coordinators to support the school and camp programs, and that the full time position would not be filled in order to reduce program costs.

Commission discussed the environmental education program schedule, fees and charges, and proposed staffing levels. Commission requested an update on the programs offered, with direction to present an overview at the July Committee of the Whole meeting.

VIII. Henneberry Woods Forest Preserve Preliminary Site Plan and Trail Connection to Oswegoland Park District’s Waa Kee Sha Park

Commission discussed the preliminary site plan. Liz Dafoe was given direction to revise the plan to reflect a future parking area and entrance along the south property line within southeast section of the preserve as shown in the county ordinance, elimination of the pavilion and shrub land bird overlook area, with a north to south multi-use trail connecting White Tail Ridge subdivision to the Chippewa Road right of way, with two mowed trail loops intersecting with the north-south trail.

President Wehrli reported that the existing plan for the Henneberry Woods subdivision expires in 2018, which could impact the final layout of the adjoining developments.
IX. Review of a Proposed Facility Rental Fees and Charges Schedule

Director Guritz provided an overview of the proposed rental fees and charges schedule. New fees include an upcharge for set-up and/or cleanup of Meadowhawk Lodge and Ellis House for rental events. Commission discussed establishing user-friendly policies to increase rental activities, and allow sufficient time for set-up and cleanup of the facilities.

Commission discussed lowering rates during the week for larger events to increase weekday or off-peak rentals.

Commission discussed extending the evening hours of rental time, establishing a 3-hour minimum, and allowing rental time to extend at a lower rate to provide renters an opportunity to take their time with setup and cleanup of their events.

Commission provided direction to update the proposed rates schedule to include a low fee for extending additional time to allow for event set-up and cleanup.

Commission discussed the need to promote use of the site, with affordable prizes.

X. Review of a Proposal from Phillip D. Young and Associates for Completion of a Hoover Drive Road Dedication Survey

Director Guritz stated that the proposal included with Commission packets from Phillip D. Young and Associates was for $1,500 to complete a plat of dedication for Hoover Road as part of the IDOT Rail Safety Grant. The plat is needed for the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Yorkville. Within the agreement, Hoover Road will be dedicated as a public road by the City of Yorkville, and the District will assume all future maintenance costs. This work needs to be expedited in order to insure that the federal funds are secured to complete the project.

XI. American Competitive Trail Horse Association Agreement#15-004-001 Change Order (Date Change Only)

Commission discussed the need for the change order due to the cancellation of the initial event.

XII. Executive Session

Commissioner Purcell made a motion to enter into Executive Session under 2(c)(5) and 2(c)21 of the Open Meetings Act for the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; and for discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under
this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. Seconded by Commissioner Prochaska.

Roll call: Commissioners Cullick, Davidson, Gilmour, Koukol, Prochaska, Shaw, and Wehrli, aye. Opposed, none. Executive Session called to order at 7:52 pm.

Commissioner Gilmour made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Prochaska. Regular meeting reconvened at 8:05 pm.

XIII. Approval of a Motion to Forward Executive Session Minutes for Commission Approval for the Following Meeting Dates:

a. Commission Meetings: 9/1/09; 4/13/11; 6/15/11; 9/14/11; 10/5/11; 10/12/11; 1/11/12; 2/15/12; 3/14/12; 7/11/12; 9/4/12; 10/16/12; 11/7/12; 3/7/13; 4/10/13; 5/15/13; 6/12/13; 8/14/13; 8/20/13; 9/3/13; 9/11/13; 11/26/13; 1/7/14; 1/15/14; 2/11/14; 3/12/14; 9/16/14; 10/7/14; 10/21/14; 11/5/14; 11/24/14; 1/20/15; 3/3/15; 5/5/15
b. Special Call Meetings: 11/20/14; 1/14/15
c. Committee of the Whole Meetings: 8/20/14; 9/10/14; 11/13/14; 2/11/15; 3/11/15; 4/15/15; 5/13/15

Commissioner Purcell made a motion to approve forwarding of executive session minutes for Commission approval as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Prochaska. All, aye. Opposed, none.

XIV. Other Items of Business

None.

XV. Citizens to be Heard

None.

XVI. Adjournment

Commissioner Prochaska made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Koukol. Aye, all. Opposed, none. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Guritz
Director, Kendall County Forest Preserve District