I. Call to Order

President Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Kendall County Board Room.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Invocation

Commissioner Prochaska offered an invocation for the meeting.

IV. Roll Call

Commissioners Cullick, Davidson, Flowers, Gilmour, Gryder, Koukol, Prochaska, Purcell, Shaw, and Wehrli all were present.

V. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Prochaska made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Gryder. 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

Michelle Kelly of Upland Design, Inc. presented an overview of the preliminary site plan for Henneberry Woods Forest Preserve. Michelle Kelly presented a poster of conservative bird species that have been documented within the preserve’s habitat areas. The site plan includes conservation of forested areas, restoration of prairie and shrub land habitats, and areas to remain in agricultural production. The plan proposed a 24-car parking lot leading from the Cherry Road right-of-way into the eastern boundary of the preserve. The plan proposed a bird observation pavilion, an east-west limestone screenings trail, a north-south limestone screenings trail, and to mowed trail loops.

Cost estimates included $94,000 for parking, trail head and way finding signage; $87,000 for the bird observation overlook and pavilion, interpretive signage, and trail spur; $62,000 for the woodland trail loop and northern trail connection; and $400,000 for the prairie trail, which includes a 47-acre prairie restoration estimated at $307,000.
The Cherry Road right-of-way access connection is an additional $90,000, which would not be funded within the OSLAD proposal, bringing total proposed project costs to $808,000.

Commissioner Koukol inquired about the baseline development needed to satisfy the grant requirement for development. Michelle Kelly stated that in order to be accessible in accordance with State and Federal guidelines, the preserve will need ADA accessible parking, a trail system, and restored habitat areas included in the preliminary plan.

Commission discussed capital funding available for preserve improvements.

Director Guritz stated that at this point in the process, the District is collecting public feedback on the preliminary site plan. Once the site development plan is finalized and approved, Commission will need to approve a resolution supporting submission of an OSLAD grant application, which will include the approved site plan, to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The OSLAD grant, if funded, will cover 50% of total project development costs up to a maximum amount of $400,000.

Commission discussed the ADA requirements for the project. Michelle Kelly reported that so long as the trails are stable, firm and slip resistant, and provide access to the preserve’s types of spaces, the improvements are ADA compliant. The parking lot can be gravel so long as there is an ADA paved parking stall. Trails are compliant so long as they fall below a 1 foot rise to 20 foot running slope, and the site does not exceed 1 foot rise to 50 foot slope.

Commission discussed the costs for restoration. Michelle Kelly stated that costs were confirmed by firms specializing in ecological restoration, with estimates ranging between $4,000 and $8,300 per acre within a two-year restoration and management program.

Andy Clements, of Oswego, Illinois and President of the Henneberry Woods Home Owner’s Association expressed concerns over the construction of a parking lot included as part of the preliminary site plan for Henneberry Woods Forest Preserve, and the additional traffic, citing concerns for safety of the residents’ children.

Lisa Kittilson of Oswego, Illinois expressed concerns over teenagers, delinquent behavior, and other publics visiting the preserve increasing traffic on subdivision roads, and trespassing on private property, suggesting that trail connections could be explored that would not require construction of a parking lot.

David Kittilson of Oswego, Illinois expressed support for the enhancement of natural areas, but expressed concerns over speeding on Cherry Road, safety, and increased traffic into the
subdivision, asking the District to explore trail connections to the Oswegoland Park District’s park areas located northwest of the preserve.

Todd Alonzo of Oswego, Illinois expressed concerns over the costs of the project and potential for a tax increase, notification of the residents, and how quickly this decision was being reached. Mr. Alonzo shared history of misuse of a structure that once existed in the preserve that has since been demolished, and expressed similar concerns over resident safety and increased traffic within the subdivision that would result from extension of Cherry Road access into the preserve’s parking lot.

Lisa Alonzo of Oswego, Illinois expressed concerns over the lack of sidewalks within the subdivision, and because of this, safety of children using the subdivision roads for travel and play from increased traffic within the preserve.

Michele Ali of Oswego, Illinois expressed concerns over increased traffic in the subdivision, and reductions in property values that will occur if the road is extended to preserve parking and opened to the public, which has already been impacted by subdivision improvements that did not get completed including a clubhouse, pool, and other improvements within the subdivision.

David Byrdo of Oswego, Illinois, a newer resident of the Henneberry Woods subdivision, expressed concerns over public access to the area, and inability to monitor the parking area if it were constructed, citing existing concerns of use of private areas within the subdivision by individuals outside the subdivision. Mr. Byrdo asked about the timeline for development. Director Guritz responded that typically, preserve areas purchased with OSLAD support are opened to the public within three years.

Matt Cooper of Oswego, Illinois expressed concerns over safety of subdivision children on subdivision streets without sidewalks. Mr. Cooper also expressed concerns over monitoring of the parking area, expressing concerns of existing issues with individuals dumping trash currently at the end of Cherry Road.

Bill Wilson of Oswego, Illinois expressed interest in having the District consider trail connection to the Oswegoland Park District’s existing park area, suggesting an intergovernmental partnership would be a good approach and solution.

VII. Approval of Minutes for the May 19, 2015 Commission Meeting; May 14 and May 28, 2015 Finance Committee Meetings; and May 13, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting.
Commissioner Flowers made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the Commission meeting held on May 19, 2015; the Finance Committee meetings held on May 14 and May 28, 2015; and the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 13, 2015. Seconded by Commissioner Cullick. All, aye. Opposed, none. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of Claims in an amount not-to-exceed $29,117.13

Commissioner Cullick made a motion to approve the claims list in the amount of $29,117.13. Seconded by Commissioner Flowers.

Commissioner Cullick inquired into the status of research into utility billings discussed at the Finance Committee. Director Guritz stated that staff has begun to explore the issue, but has not completed its audit at this time.

Commissioner Koukol stated that this issue had been brought up to Alliance Energy with a representative present at the meeting who will support completion of an audit.

Roll call: Commissioners Gryder, Koukol, Prochaska, Purcell, Shaw, Cullick, Davidson, Flowers, Gilmour and Wehrli, aye. Opposed, none.

IX. Approval of an Updated Rental Fees and Charges Schedule for District Facilities

Director Guritz presented a proposed rental fees and charges schedule to Commission. Commissioner Cullick stated that this agenda item is scheduled for review by the Committee of the Whole for discussion.

Commissioner Cullick made a motion to table discussion to the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Davidson.

Commissioner Purcell requested that a column be added to the spreadsheet showing current fees and charges for the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Aye, all. Opposed, none.

X. Motion to Approve a Contingency Transfer for Conference Registration and Lodging Expenditures for an Amount Not-to-Exceed $875.00 for Megan Gessler, Natural Beginnings Program Manager to attend the 2015 Nature-Based Preschool National Conference on August 19-22, 2015 in Gainesville, GA.
Commissioner Flowers made a motion to approve a contingency transfer for conference registration and lodging expenditures for an amount not-to-exceed $875.00 for Megan Gessler, Natural Beginnings Program Manager to attend the 2015 Nature-Based Preschool National Conference on August 19-22, 2015 in Gainesville, Georgia. Seconded by Commissioner Shaw.

Director Guritz stated that this item is proposed for consideration because the District is currently over budget for the year for conference expenses. Megan Gessler was asked to participate in this conference as a keynote speaker, and had discussed attendance with the District’s previous director, receiving approval to participate.

Director Guritz stated that the District’s budget is running a deficit for the year, and at his request, Megan Gessler had worked to reduce the cost to a minimum by requesting waiving of fees from the conference organizers, and looking into options for reducing travel costs to attend. Director Guritz stated that cost for attendance will include payment of Megan Gessler’s salary during travel to and from, and participation within the conference.

Commissioner Davidson inquired into whether attendance was included in the conference budget for the year. President Wehrli stated that at this point, the available budget has been expended, and a transfer is needed in order to pay the costs for Megan Gessler to attend.

Commissioner Gryder expressed concerns over year-to-date expenditures currently over budgeted appropriations, and asked Director Guritz if this cost was the best use of District funding. Director Guritz stated that it was not the best use when looking at the District’s current financial outlook for the year.

Commissioner Gilmour inquired into whether the conference planning team would consider offsetting fees for her participation. Director Guritz stated that this had been explored, but the registration fee was not waived by the planning committee.

Roll call: Commissioners Shaw, Flowers, Gilmour, and Wehrli, aye. Opposed, Commissioners Gryder, Koukol, Prochaska, Purcell, Cullick, and Davidson. Motion denied by a vote of 6-4.

Commissioner Shaw offered to assist with Megan Gessler’s costs for attending.
XI. Executive Session

Commissioner Koukol made a motion to enter into executive session under 2(c)1 and 2(c)5 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; and to discuss 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. Seconded by Commissioner Flowers.

Roll call: Davidson, Flowers, Gilmour, Gryder, Koukol, Prochaska, Purcell, Cullick, Wehrli, aye. Commissioner Shaw, present.

Executive session called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Commissioner Prochaska made a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Flowers. Aye, all. Opposed, none.

Regular meeting reconvened at 7:12 pm.

XII. Other Items of Business

None.

XIII. Citizens to Be Heard

None.

XIV. Adjournment

Commissioner Shaw made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Flowers. Aye, all. Opposed, none. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Guritz
Director, Kendall County Forest Preserve District