I. Call to Order

President Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Kendall County Board Room.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Citizens to be Heard

No public comments offered.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cullick made a motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes of November 20, 2014. Seconded by Commissioner Gryder. All, aye. Opposed, none. Motion passed unanimously.


Commissioner Gryder made a motion to approve the refunding proposal directing Speer Financial, Inc., to begin the process for refunding $10 million in bank-qualified bonds. Seconded by Commissioner Prochaska.

President Wehrli informed the Board of Commissioners that Speer Financial, Inc. had contacted the District to propose a refunding of a portion of the 2007 series bonds, and that a discussion is needed to establish direction and a minimum threshold of savings for closing.

Anthony Miceli of Speer Financial, Inc., informed the board that costs for refunding the bonds are only incurred if the bonds are refinanced with the exception of the $15,000 charge for review and assignment of a bond rating through Standards and Poor’s rating agency. Assuming the bond refunding occurs, this cost is included within the refunding
costs. If however the refunding does not occur, the District would incur 60% of this cost directly.

President Wehrli stated that the sole purpose of the bond refunding is to save the taxpayers money.

Commission provided direction to Anthony Miceli to review the District’s bond rating, and provide a recommendation for a minimum savings threshold where there would be a high level of confidence for closing.

Commissioner Purcell reported that the forest preserve district and county are considered as a single unit of government for this particular refunding opportunity, meaning that if the forest preserve district were to pursue this refunding of $10 million in bank-qualified bonds which provides an additional interest savings of .25%, this would preclude the county from pursuing a bank-qualified bond refunding opportunity in this same year. This would not preclude county, or the forest preserve district from pursuing non-bank qualified refunding opportunities.

County Administrator Jeff Wilkins stated that county would not be pursuing a bank-qualified bond refunding opportunity in this year, but would be considering it for 2016.

Anthony Miceli informed Commission that it would need to approve a bond ordinance establishing a minimum savings threshold at a future date.

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

VI. Approval of a Request from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to Access Select Forest Preserve Areas for the Purpose of Lethal Harvest of White-tailed Deer for Monitoring and Management of Chronic Wasting Disease in Kendall County

President Wehrli provided an overview of occurrence of Chronic Wasting Disease in White-tailed Deer in Kendall County, and past Commission approval of IDNR sharpshooting activities. In 2013, two deer tested positive, and in 2014, four deer tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease. Last year, Commission approved IDNR sharpshooting activities in select forest preserve areas.

Director Guritz introduced Tom Gargrave, Regional Forester, and Joe Rogus, District Biologist for the IDNR, to provide an overview of the issue. Director Guritz reported that Kendall County is located along the southern boundary of the spread of CWD from
Wisconsin. The IDNR is implementing increased monitoring and management efforts in Kendall County to reduce the incidence rate and spread of CWD in Illinois, and to support healthy populations of deer in Kendall County.

Commissioner Davidson asked how many deer were harvested by the IDNR in Kendall County, and how many tested positive for CWD. Joe Rogus reported that 49 deer were harvested, and of these, two tested positive for CWD. Sharpshooting activities were limited to the Reservation Woods area between Oswego and Yorkville, adjacent to Pickerell-Pigott forest preserve. No deer were harvested from Kendall County forest preserves in 2014.

The IDNR CWD sharpshooting program begins the last week of January after the hunting seasons end, and extends through the end of March. Baiting begins after all seasons close.

Commissioner Davidson expressed concerns over a perceived decline of population of deer in Kendall County. Joe Rogus stated that the population will fluctuate from year-to-year, and without helicopter counts, there is no certainty, and deer migrate into and out of the county. However, hunter success ratio in Kendall has not declined.

Commissioner Gilmour asked where the disease is a bigger issue. Joe Rogus responded that CWD is moving across the landscape, with higher incidence in McHenry, Boone, Will, JoDavies, DeKalb, Winnebago, Grundy, and LaSalle, and it will spread further over the next couple of years. When CWD tests positive in a new area, IDNR works to increase monitoring where it is detected. The goal is to increase sampling in the positive test area, and reduce the local group of deer to reduce spread in the section area.

Joe Rogus reported that Kendall County will have a mandatory check station for Kendall County hunters, either in Kendall County, or hunters will need to travel to DeKalb or Grundy.

Director Guritz asked what can be expected in terms of CWD incidence rate in Kendall County with expanded sampling next year, and what impacts are seen in deer populations in other areas where monitoring and management is not occurring. Joe Rogus stated that there will be increasing positive tests and progression of the disease across Kendall County. The goal of the program is to keep prevalence rate to 1-2% within the population statewide. In states where management is not occurring, incidence rate is as high as 60%.

Director Guritz asked what health impacts are seen during progression of the disease. Joe Rogus reported that deer can carry the disease for 1-2 years until symptoms are seen. Infected deer die within a few weeks’ time from the onset of symptoms.
Commissioner Koukol inquired into why IDNR did not set up a check station in 2014. Joe Rogus responded that staff pushed to establish a mandatory check station in 2014, and did encourage local hunters to provide samples at existing check stations.

Commissioner Cullick inquired into whether residents in and around forest preserves would be informed of sharpshooting activities, and how safety concerns would be addressed. Tom Gargraves and Joe Rogus provided details on safety measures taken.

Commissioner Purcell inquired into whether the program was actually working to stop the spread of CWD in Illinois. Joe Rogus stated that although the spread has not been halted, it has worked to reduce the CWD prevalence rate within the deer population where the program is occurring. Of the four deer testing positive, two occurred in the Reservation Woods – Pickerell-Pigott management area, one near Minooka, and one near Millington. In 2015, sampling would occur in or around Baker’s Woods, Millbrook North and South, and the Henneberry – Reservation Woods forest preserves.

Commissioner Shaw made a motion to approve the IDNR request. Seconded by Commissioner Cullick. Roll call: Commissioners Cullick, Purcell, Shaw, and Wehrli, aye. Opposed, Commissioners Davidson, Gilmour, Gryder, Koukol, and Prochaska. Motion and approval denied by a vote of 5-4.

VII. Motion Authorizing the Petition of the Kendall County Board of Commissioners for the Release of Land-Cash Funds for Acquisition of the Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve in the Amount of $421,886.

Commissioner Cullick made a motion to authorize the petition of the Kendall County Board of Commissioners for the release of Land-Cash funds for acquisition of the Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve in the amount of $421,886. Seconded by Commissioner Prochaska.

Director Guritz reported that this request is made in accordance with the Kendall County Land-Cash ordinance. Director Guritz recommended that the Land-Cash fund balance be used to support the acquisition of the Fox River Bluffs forest preserve.

Commissioner Davidson inquired into the balance of the 2007 bond funds. Director Guritz stated that there is approximately $2.6 million remaining in the bond fund, with additional grant funding supporting the acquisition including a $750,000 IDNR-OSLAD grant, a $600,000 Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation grant, and a potential $700,000 grant from The Conservation Foundation’s application to The Grand Victoria Foundation’s Vital Lands Program.
Director Guritz stated that Land-Cash funds would conserve the bond fund balance to address other capital projects identified in the FY 2015 budget. Use of the Land-Cash fund would assist with acquiring the Fox River Bluffs forest preserve, with an anticipated increase of total acres purchased from 250 to 283.

Commissioner Purcell suggested that if only bond funds were used to support the acquisition, there would still be a bond fund balance of approximately $300,000.

Director Guritz stated that the bond fund budget did not account for the additional cost for acquisition of the full 283 acres.

Commissioner Purcell inquired into whether Land-Cash funds could be used to address other capital project needs. Director Guritz stated that the goal is to use Land-Cash funding available to close on the Fox River Bluffs preserve, and that the Land-Cash funds could not be used for other capital improvements. Director Guritz also stated concerns that the District would not be able to close on the Fox River Bluffs preserve without expending the Land-Cash fund because the IDNR-OSLAD grant amount is reimbursable to the forest preserve district, stating uncertainty whether there was enough funding in the bond series budget to cover the full closing costs.

Commissioner Purcell requested a breakdown of costs for the acquisition, and the amount available in the bond series budget.

Commissioner Koukol expressed concerns that use of the Land-Cash funds had not been discussed earlier in the process, and why this is now an issue. President Wehrli stated that without the Land-Cash funding support, the bond fund balance may be close to, or below a zero balance.

The Board discussed the restoration costs and approaches for securing additional grant funding for the restoration of the Fox River Bluffs forest preserve.

Commissioner Prochaska inquired into the petition for use of the Land-Cash fund, and whether there were other county projects pending these funds would need to address. Director Guritz stated that the Land-Cash funds are collected exclusively for use by the forest preserve district.

President Wehrli discussed the pending acquisition footprint, stating that the decision to be made is whether the forest preserve commission will access the Land-Cash funds to support closing.
Commissioner Purcell stated that the question is one for the forest preserve board to determine. Once approved by the Forest Preserve Commission, the decision to use the funds, in his mind, will have been determined.

Commissioner Gryder inquired into whether the Land-Cash fund could be used for other purposes. Director Guritz stated that the purpose of the Land-Cash fund is to acquire land for the forest preserve district.

Commissioner Davidson stated he would feel more comfortable if he had a chance to review the actual figures.

Commissioner Wehrli suggested that the vote could be held off until a formal financial report could be presented to the board.

Commissioner Cullick made a motion to approve the petition. Seconded by Commissioner Prochaska.

Commissioner Gryder stated that his initial reaction is to vote no, but the discussion to use the funds does make some sense. Additional information would be useful for further consideration.

Commissioner Cullick withdrew her motion, tabling the agenda item for further discussion at the Tuesday, February 3, 2015 Commission meeting. Motion tabled for further consideration.


President Wehrli stated that funding for the fire alarm repair would be deducted from the 2007 bond series budget. Commissioner Koukol made a motion to approve the contract with Wire Wizard in the amount of 1,378. Seconded by Commissioner Davidson. Roll call: Commissioners Cullick, Davidson, Gilmour, Gryder, Koukol, Prochaska, Purcell, Shaw, and Wehrli, aye. Opposed, none. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Approval of a Temporary Horse Boarding Agreement at Ellis Equestrian Center

Director Guritz stated that in early December 2014, the Forest Preserve district extended support of a local resident by temporarily stalling horses as a result of a fire that destroyed their stable. The resident has requested continued support through the end of March, and
Director Guritz stated that the agreement has been reviewed by the State’s Attorney’s office.

Commissioner Koukol inquire into whether any of the horses are stallions. Director Guritz reported that the horse herd behavior at Ellis is conditioned to the stallion’s presence.

Commissioner Gryder inquired into whether the boarding rates are consistent with market costs for horse boarding. Director Guritz stated that this particular arrangement is different from a standard boarding agreement. The owner is furnishing all feed, supplies and professional services while the horses are in residence. Forest Preserve staff does feed hay in the evening.

Ellis Barn Manager Amy Clever reported that we are spending less than 10 minutes each day in feeding boarded horses, and the owners have extended daily volunteer support of stable maintenance activities.

Commissioner Purcell inquired into the duration of the agreement. Director Guritz stated that the agreement presented would extend from January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015, with the owners paying the Forest Preserve district $300 for each of the three months proposed.

Commissioner Prochaska made a motion to approve the boarding agreement as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Cullick. Roll call: Commissioners Cullick, Davidson, Gilmour, Gryder, Prochaska, Purcell, Shaw, and Wehrli, aye. Opposed, Commissioner Koukol. Motion carried by a vote of 8 to 1.

X. Executive Session

None.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Purcell made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Cullick. All, aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Guritz
Director, Kendall County Forest Preserve District