Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 18, 2026, 6:00 pm,
Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at the Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer, Illinois. Commissioner Hundley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Toalson called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Hundley, Knott, Bartlett, Toalson and Goodman.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS
Don Shaw from Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, who conducted an annual audit of the Champaign County Forest Preserves financial statements in compliance with the Illinois Governmental Account Audit Act, presented the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
- **A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on May 21, 2026**
- **B. Minutes of Special Meeting on June 3, 2026**
- **C. Monthly Staff Reports**
- **D. Disbursements for Approval**
- **E. May Treasurers Report**
- **F. Accept 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report**

Commissioner Knott made a motion to approve consent agenda items A. through F. Commissioner Goodman seconded.

A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hundley, Knott, Toalson, Bartlett and Goodman. Motion carried.

FOREST PRESERVE FRIENDS FOUNDATION
Commissioner Bartlett provided an update regarding the status of the fundraising for the Nature Center project. He also provided an update regarding the status of the land acquisition discussed at the June meeting. The next Foundation meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2026. Kelsey Beccue was introduced as the Advancement Officer.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
Commissioners noted positive things about the following items from staff reports and observations:
- Proud to see all the work happening around each of the preserves this time of year.
- The new fire pit at Salt Fork Center looks great and is a wonderful addition to the area.

- Congratulations to Lorrie for giving the commencement address for the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.
- Media coverage has been amazing; Skylar's and Chris' media articles were informative and impressive.
- So many wonderful things are happening and really reinforcing we are on the right path working toward our mission.
- Great to see the YES students participating in jobs at the Forest Preserves again this year. What a great opportunity for those students.
- Impressed by all the youth programs being offered this summer and the broad range of age groups that will benefit, as well as having 8 out of 10 counselors returning this year to run these programs.
- Pleased with the audit work and the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.
- Appreciate all the administrative staff working on the land acquisition project and the Kickapoo Rail Trail progress.
- Trail Challenge sounds fun and exciting, encouraging people to get out in nature.
- Excited about the golf efforts and the spring and summer events going on.
- Breakfast with Bat Scientists was a cool program, well attended, and staff should be commended for creating the event.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director Announcements

Executive Director Lorrie Pearson summarized the improvements that have been made at Homer Lake, including at the Salt Fork Center, over the last few years; noted that Joie Torres, Golf Superintendent, is leaving after eight years, and invited commissioners to the ribbon cutting for the Weaver Park Trailhead to the KRT on September 9.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Retroactive Approval of Emergency Repair of Botanical Garden Well

Commissioner Toalson moved the Board to retroactively approve the quote from Hayes and Sims for up to **Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and 00/100 ($35,000.00)** and authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract. Commissioner Goodman seconded.

A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hundley, Knott, Toalson, Bartlett and Goodman. Motion carried.

B. Approval of Land Acquisition Funding Transfer

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board to approve a transfer of up to **Four Hundred Seventeen Thousand Dollars ($417,000)** from the Forest Preserves Land Acquisition Fund to the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation (FPFF) for the purpose of a land purchase to expand Homer Lake Forest Preserve. Commissioner Toalson seconded. Commissioner Knott requested confirmation that the transfer of the funds, along with additional funds raised, will allow the FPFF to purchase the land to expand Homer Lake Forest Preserve. Pearson confirmed and indicated that any funds raised in excess of the amount required for this purchase will be put toward future land acquisition opportunities.

A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hundley, Knott, Toalson, Bartlett and Goodman. Motion carried.

C. KRT Intergovernmental Agreement Amendment

Commissioner Toalson moved the Board to approve the amended Kickapoo Rail Trail Intergovernmental Agreement. Commissioner Bartlett seconded. Sam Ihm, Planning Director, provided an explanation regarding the need for the amendment as the allocated funding from the Department of Economic Funding (DCEO) is not sufficient to complete the project. The language added to the Intergovernmental Agreement stipulates that the scope may be altered to meet available funding, so the partner agencies are not obligated to pay out of pocket to complete components not covered by DCEO.

A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hundley, Knott, Toalson, Bartlett and Goodman. Motion carried.

D. Approval of Change Orders 2 and 3 for Kickapoo Rail Trail

Commissioner Knott moved the Board to approve Change Orders 2 and 3 for Kickapoo Rail Trail Construction for **Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Dollars and 00/100 ($19,260.00)**. Commissioner Bartlett seconded.

A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hundley, Knott, Toalson Bartlett and Goodman. Motion carried.

E. Nature Center Design-Build Contract Approval

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board to approve the proposal from **Morton Buildings, Inc.** for Nature Center Design-Build for **Seven Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars and 00/100 Cents ($797,167.00)** and authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract. Commissioner Toalson seconded. Deputy Executive Director, Mike Daab discussed that staff solicited proposals for the design-build and Morton Buildings, Inc., was the only proposal received. Sam Ihm confirmed that Morton Buildings, Inc. has experience working with organizations similar to the Forest Preserves and are willing to work with staff to provide the building to the size required for this project.

A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hundley, Knott, Toalson, Bartlett and Goodman. Motion carried.

F. Resolution 2026-02 – Honoring Commissioner William Goodman

Commissioner Hundley moved the Board to approve Resolution 2026-02 – Honoring Commissioner William Goodman for his 10 years of service to the Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Knott seconded.

A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hundley, Knott, Toalson and Bartlett. Goodman abstained. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bartlett made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:49pm. Commissioner Knott seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Mark Toalson, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District