

**KENDALL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**JANUARY 7, 2026**

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Koukol called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm in the Kendall County Historic Court House – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Courtroom.

**II. Roll Call**

X	Bachmann (entered the meeting at 5:31 pm)	X	Koukol
	DeBolt		Peterson
	Flowers	X	Rodriguez
X	Gengler		Shanley
	Kellogg		Wormley

Commissioners Bachmann, Gengler Koukol, and Rodriguez were all present.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Bachmann made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Gengler. Aye, all. Opposed, none.

**IV. Public Comments**

No public comments were offered from citizens in attendance.

**V. Review of Financial Statements and Cost Center Reports through December 31, 2025**

Executive Director presented an overview of the financial statements and cost center reports through December 31, 2025.

**VI. Review of FY26 Farm License Agreements**

Executive Director White reviewed Drafts of the Farm License Agreements to go out to Licensees the week of January 12, 2026. Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion to forward FY26 Farm License Agreements to Commission for Approval. Seconded by Commissioner Gengler. Aye, all. Opposed, none.

**VII. Employee Handbook – Updates**

Executive Director White reported the District is working with the County Resources Department to make updates to the District’s handbook and those will all be presented together.

## **VIII. Approval of Special Use Permits**

### **A. Kendall County Planning, Building, and Zoning – Comprehensive Plan Open House at Ellis House on February 26, 2026 – 5:00 pm-9:00pm**

Commissioner Koukol made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit – Kendall County Planning, Building and Zoning – Comprehensive Open House at Ellis House on February 26, 2026, 5:00 pm- 9:00pm. Seconded by Commissioner Gengler. Aye, all. Opposed, none.

## **IX. Grounds and Natural Resources Reports**

### **A. Truck Updates**

Executive Director White reported the F-150 voted to be purchased in July of 2025 has been delayed in production and now is not expected to start production until March 2026.

### **B. Meadowhawk Lodge – Dance Floor Discussion**

Midwest Tents & Events will be closing their Yorkville location and sent a proposal to the District to purchase their 18' x 18' dance floor, frequently rented for use at Meadowhawk Lodge. The 18' x 18' dance floor is under ten years old and comes with all equipment needed for set up, as well as a storage cart. Rental costs were discussed as well as purchase prices of brand new dance floors.

## **X. Environmental Education and Ellis House and Equestrian Center Reports**

### **A. Ellis Herd Update**

Stefanie Wiencke, Environmental Education and Public Outreach Division Manager provided an update on the Ellis horses. Casper, one of the horses at Ellis, had passed, therefore decreasing the number of horses available for use for lessons and programs. Stefanie noted the aging state of the herd.

### **B. FY26 New Programs**

Stefanie Wiencke, Environmental Education and Public Outreach Division Manager, has been working on new Public Programming wo include themed programs offered throughtout the year. The first program explores Native Illinois bird courtship patterns and will include a sunset hike, photo opportunities, an education program about birds, a crackling fire with marshmallows and cocoa, and an opportunity for participants to leav etheir mark by painting birdhouses and birdfeeders. The "Love is in the Air" program will take place at Subat Forest Preserve on Saturday, February 14, 4:00 pm-5:30pm at a cost of \$8.00/participant and is open to ages 16+.

## **XI. Other Items of Business**

None.

## **XII. Chairman's Report**

None.

## **XIII. Public Comments**

No public comments were offered from citizens in attendance.

**XIV. Executive Session**

None.

**XV. Adjournment**

Commissioner Bachmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Gengler. Aye, all. Opposed, none. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette White

Executive Director, Kendall County Forest Preserve District