



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 26, 2025

TO: Forest Preserve District Planning & Utilization Committee

FROM: Jennifer Rooks-Lopez, Director of Planning & Land Protection

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of a Contract with WBK Engineering for Professional Engineering Services to relocate the Eakin Creek Crossing at Rutland Forest Preserve

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of a contract with WBK Engineering (WBK) of St. Charles, Illinois, for professional services which include engineering and permitting required to construct and relocate the access drive and crossing over Eakin Creek at Rutland Forest Preserve in Hampshire.

BACKGROUND:

Rutland Forest Preserve is a large preserve located just west of Elgin on Big Timber Road. The area of the preserve north of Big Timber Road has been improved with picnic areas, parking and trails. The area south of Big Timber Road has some areas of wetland along Eakin Creek, which flows through the site, however a majority of the site is currently farmed in the District's agriculture program. Currently, access to the agricultural field utilizes an easement with the adjacent land owner. The current crossing over the creek is very narrow for the wide farming equipment, and the supporting footings are beginning to fail.

In 2017, WBK Engineering was retained by the District to review the existing conditions and recommend the best approach to address concerns. It was determined that the best long-term solution would be to abandon and remove the existing crossing, and construct a new wider structure further to the east. The new location would allow the District to eliminate the shared access easement with the adjacent land owner, to reduce risk and establish a future public access to the southern half of Rutland Forest Preserve. The wider crossing will be safer for the current farmer and District maintenance vehicles it and will be designed in such a way as to accommodate pedestrians when the area is restored.

WBK has a privileged understanding of the project and required permitting, as the engineer that completed the initial study for the District. A scope of work was developed, and WBK submitted a proposal for engineering and permitting services of \$27,760. Additionally, \$3,000 shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs that may arise during design and permitting, for a total project amount of \$30,760.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$135,000 were budgeted in the 2025/26 fiscal year, in account #03-35-35-7050 for engineering, permitting and construction.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of a contract with WBK Engineering of St. Charles, Illinois, for professional engineering and permitting services for \$27,760, plus a contingency of \$3,000 to cover any unanticipated additional costs that may arise during design and permitting, for a total project cost not to exceed \$30,760.

ATTACHMENTS:

Rutland Forest Preserve Location Map

Rutland Forest Preserve Map

Proposal for Resident engineering services: WBK Engineering

Crossing site plan