

Wetland Task Force Meeting Minutes

Executive Conference Room, City Hall, 3rd Floor

1528 3rd Avenue

May 28, 2025

8:30 AM



Task Force Members Present	Nina Struss Mike Thoms Missy Gasiorowski Mayor Ashley Harris Kathy Wine Tim Pressly Jon Duyvejonck Hannah Alexander
Task Force Members Absent	Ald. Randy Hurt
Staff Present	Tom Flaherty Tanner Osing Todd Thompson Miles Brainard
Guests	Kai Swanson, President, Rock Island County Forest Preserve District Jeff Craver

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am.

Presentation and Discussion on conservation easement with the Natural Land Institute (NLI)

Kai Swanson and Jeff Craver from the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District provided an overview of their operations. They noted they cannot speak on behalf of the full Commission, but can offer insight into its processes and considerations.

They emphasized that when the District acquires land it must be paired with a sustainable funding source for long-term management. While transferring ownership is an option, it does not provide funding for necessary improvements such as invasive species removal or habitat restoration. Additional acreage does not increase funding, and the District noted limited staff capacity, particularly for specialized wetland management.

The District's mission focuses on preservation, education, and recreation, with an emphasis on appropriate public access. They are open to low-impact recreational opportunities that support environmental goals. Existing funding sources include an endowment and partnerships with volunteer organizations.

Discussion also included the potential use of TIF funds as initial “seed” funding, with recognition that long-term funding strategies will be necessary beyond the life of the TIF.

Other Business

The Task Force discussed other business including a potential site tour and a draft presentation for a City Council study session.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by consensus.

Minutes submitted by Tanner Osing.