

 <p>CITY OF ST. CHARLES ILLINOIS • 1834</p>	AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		Agenda Item number: IIB
	Title:	Recommendation from Mayor Lora Vitek to approve the appointment of Jeffrey Mengler as Natural Resources Commission Member.	
	Presenter:	Mayor Vitek	
Meeting: City Council		Date: September 5, 2023	
Proposed Cost: \$		Budgeted Amount: \$	Not Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/>
TIF District: Choose an item.			
Executive Summary (if not budgeted, please explain):			
<p>Due to the resignation of Michael Stroud, there is a vacancy on the Natural Resources Commission. Mayor Vitek requests favorable consideration of appointment of Jeffrey Mengler to the Natural Resources Commission with term ending April 30, 2026.</p>			
Attachments (please list):			
Recommendation/Suggested Action (briefly explain):			
<p>Recommendation from Mayor Lora Vitek to approve the appointment of Jeffrey Mengler as Natural Resources Commission Member with term ending April 30, 2026.</p>			

Summary of Local Community Involvement for Jeffrey L. Mengler

[REDACTED]
St. Charles, IL 60174

[REDACTED] [@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)
[REDACTED]

I have lived in St Charles for 37 years. Both of my children went through D303 St Charles schools. My daughter was attending Elgin Community College when she passed away unexpectedly in 2014. My son is pursuing a career as an opera singer and working on a masters in vocal performance at the University of North Texas. My wife of 38 years is a special education teacher at East Aurora High School.

I have worked for the past 37 years as an ecologist/environmental scientist in the Chicago region. My career is summarized on my separate professional resume. Currently I work primarily from home as a senior employee of Hey and Associates, Inc., a local consulting firm. I have a B.S. and M.S. in Biological Sciences from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

Given my background, professional experience, and my long-time residency in St Charles, I am very interested in the vacant position on the St Charles Natural Resources Commission.

I volunteered from 1999 through 2020 for Boy Scouts of America in the Fox Valley area serving in various positions at the Pack, Troop, District, and Council levels. I received several of the highest awards available at each level for my service and dedication to service to youth. I also served as a trainer for all new scout leaders in the Three Fires Council on nature-related topics.

I am currently a member of Fox Valley Presbyterian Church where I serve as an Elder and as chair of their Earth Stewardship Committee.

I also serve as President of the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP), a position I have held since 2016. FREP is a local, non-profit, watershed-based organization founded in 1996. I have been involved in FREP since its inception. FREP co-hosts an annual Fox River Summit in Burlington, Wisconsin each year to foster work across the state line in our watershed. In addition, FREP hosts an annual environmental film screening as a part of the One Earth Film Festival. FREP was also instrumental in securing the National Water Trail designation for our Fabulous Fox! Water Trail that runs through St. Charles.

I think my background and experience would be an asset to the St. Charles community.

JEFFREY L. MENGLER

[REDACTED]
Saint Charles, IL 60174
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mr. Jeffrey Mengler has over 35 years of professional experience in natural resources. He has worked with private, non-profit, and government organizations in the research, management, restoration, protection, and assessment of Midwestern ecosystems. This work included several major planning and transportation projects including NEPA compliance, endangered species consultation, wetland permitting, mitigation design and implementation, resource protection plans, and many aspects of interagency coordination. Over the years, he has developed and maintained close working relationships with policy makers, resource agency personnel, researchers, environmental groups, stakeholders, and elected officials throughout the Chicago region. As a result, he has successfully developed collaborative approaches to resolving resource management issues. His leadership skills have been recognized by his various volunteer leadership positions within conservation and community organizations, including serving as President of the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership since 2016, an organization he has been integrally involved in since its inception in 1996.

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Biology. December 1985. Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL.
Thesis: A Vegetation Analysis of the Boyle Prairie.

Bachelor of Science. May 1982. Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL.
Major: Biology Minor: Chemistry

Associate of Science. May 1980. McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Project Scientist. April 2013- present.

Hey and Associates, Inc., Volo, Illinois.

Serve as Senior Project Scientist and Project Manager for various projects in the Chicago region, as part of interdisciplinary team. Major projects include:

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup— Fullersburg Dam Removal. Coordination of all permitting for a dam removal and stream restoration within Fullersburg Forest Preserve, including historic properties consultation with the SHPO and an Individual Permit with the USACE.

Wheaton Sanitary District—Northside Interceptor. Coordination with multiple design firms to lead permitting under federal (USACE) and County/Village wetland, buffer, riparian, and stormwater regulations for 5.3-mile sewer rehabilitation/replacement project including a section through a significant natural area/marsh complex.

Village of Glenview—Plan for Nature Update. Project manager and principal investigator for an update to 15-year-old inventory and assessment of open space parcels within Village, including prioritization and management recommendations.

Forest Preserve District of Kane County —LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve. Wetland delineation, permitting, listed species consultation, and design assistance for new trails, pedestrian bridge replacement and other public access improvements near Creek Bend Nature Center.

Forest Preserve District of Kane County—Oakhurst Forest Preserve. Wetland delineation, permitting, and design assistance for rehabilitation of all public access facilities along Lake Patterson in Aurora, Illinois.

Forest Preserves of Cook County—Powderhorn Lake Forest Preserve. Wetland delineation, permitting, and design assistance for hydrologic restoration/modification to outlet of Powderhorn Lake.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago—Buffalo Creek Reservoir Expansion. Permitting lead and ecological assessment/perspective for interdisciplinary team tasked with final design and permitting for 180-acre foot expansion of existing reservoir, realignment and expansion of trail system, ecosystem restoration, with follow up inspections within Lake County Forest Preserves property.

AECOM/McHenry County Division of Transportation—Johnson and Thayer Roads over Nippersink Creek. Wetland delineation and assessment, tree survey, drain tile survey, ESR and WIE preparation and submittal for replacement of two rural, structurally deficient bridges in McHenry County.

EEI/Village of Montgomery—Multiple Public Projects. Wetland delineation, assessment, and permitting for flood control basin maintenance, public works facility expansion, new multiuse trail, and proposed riverfront re-development projects.

Patrick Engineering/DuPage County Division of Transportation—Geneva Road bridge over West Branch DuPage River. Wetland delineation and assessment, tree survey, and permitting for bridge replacement along Forest Preserve District land.

Wheaton Sanitary District—Spring Brook Stabilization. Wetland/Waters delineation, design consultation, permitting, grant application preparation/submittal, bid document preparation, and construction oversight for collaborative Spring Brook Creek bank rehabilitation and stabilization project.

Spring Creek, Plum Valley Greenway and McKinley Woods Forest Preserve Herpetological Surveys, Forest Preserve District of Will County. Project Manager for inventories of reptiles and amphibians within Messenger Woods, Messenger Marsh, McKinley Woods, Briscoe Mounds, Moose Island, Conroy Island, Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve, Plum Valley Ravines, Moeller Woods, and Plum Valley Preserve using various methods most appropriate to species and habitat. Documented presence of state-listed species and species new to those preserves, and compared results to prior inventories. Provided report, maps, digital photographs, video and audio recordings, digital data tables, and management recommendations to the Forest Preserve District. Teamed with David Mauger and Tom Anton.

Buffalo Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank, Lake County Division of Transportation and Lake County Forest Preserve District. Project manager for concept design, bank prospectus, permitting, final engineering design, bid document preparation, and construction oversight with management and monitoring for a 65-acre wetland mitigation bank on forest preserve property.

- Buffalo Creek Reservoir Expansion, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.** Permitting lead and ecological assessment/perspective for interdisciplinary team tasked with final design and permitting for 180-acre foot expansion of existing reservoir, realignment and expansion of trail system, and ecosystem restoration within Lake County Forest Preserve property.
- AECOM/Johns Manville – Waukegan Asbestos Remediation Site, Waukegan, Illinois.** Provided all wetland permitting, mitigation design, and endangered species technical support to team managing superfund cleanup at site adjacent to a dedicated nature preserve containing endangered piping plover nesting habitat.
- Upland Design Ltd./Village of Carpentersville – Fox River Shoreline Parks Rehabilitation, Carpentersville, Illinois.** Project manager for all permitting for three projects to stabilize banks, improve access, and native landscape Fox River shoreline in historic area of Carpentersville in a partially grant-supported project.
- Hitchcock Design Group, Ltd – Bellaboos Outdoor Discovery Center, Lake Station, Indiana.** Provided wetland/Waters permitting support for a project expanding highly successful outdoor discovery center utilizing existing water features.
- Oil Spill Remediation and Restoration, Project Manager, West Shore Pipe Line Company/Buckeye Partners, Ltd.** Crude oil pipeline spill in Will County that involved Critical Habitat for a federally endangered species. Duties included providing project management/coordination and oversight for investigation of potential impacts to protected species, their habitat, and other natural resources. This included all resource/regulatory agency, landowner, and stakeholder coordination, directing efforts of the cleanup contractor, assessment of resource impacts, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation coordination, and a migratory bird exclusion/hazing program. Direction and coordination of the full restoration of the oil-impacted wetland that is critical habitat for a federally endangered species, and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and compensatory mitigation is an ongoing part of this project.
- Pipeline Permitting and Compliance.** Project Manager, for pipeline anomaly repair projects for West Shore pipeline. Projects involved excavation and repair of existing pipelines. All project locations provided complex permitting and logistical challenges due to proximity to sensitive natural resources and/or other existing infrastructure. Responsible for all permitting, agency coordination, wetland delineation, endangered species surveys, and other stakeholder and contractor coordination.
- Tar Spill Site Restoration and Permitting, Carlson Environmental/MWRDGC.** Project manager for restoration and permitting aspects of the remediation for a third-party historic spill of petroleum into wetlands along the Des Plaines River.
- City of Aurora – Mastodon Lake Blanding’s Turtle Survey, Aurora, Illinois.** Project manager for a survey to document absence of Blanding’s turtles in Mastodon Lake to obtain positive closure of IDNR consultation.
- Various clients - Rare and Protected Species Surveys and Consultation, northeastern Illinois.** Conducted field surveys for rare and protected species including bald eagles, osprey, Blanding’s turtle, piping plover, eastern prairie fringed orchid, leafy prairie clover, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and other species for various landowners and provided consulting services on regulatory implications of positive findings.
- East Branch DuPage River Watershed and Resiliency Plan, DuPage County Stormwater Management.** Served on the Hey and Associates, Inc. managed project team for the fast-paced data collection, public outreach and report development efforts for the East Branch

DuPage River Watershed & Resiliency Plan. The work included significant stakeholder coordination to develop a major plan that expanded the scope of potential watershed projects beyond the flood control focal point and into a broader watershed-wide plan for future resilience to extreme weather disasters. The final Plan was used by DuPage County to secure significant HUD grant funding.

Michigan City, Indiana Green Infrastructure Planning, Project Manager for a GLRI-funded project working with the Alliance for the Great Lakes, Delta Institute, the Field Museum, and the Michigan City Sanitary District to complete a local green infrastructure network plan that is a local prioritized and stepped-down version of the regional Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision. The plan also gives consideration to climate change adaptations and community resiliency that can be enhanced by implementation of this plan. The final phase of the project will select on-the-ground site-scale green infrastructure projects that are priorities within the watershed-scale plan completed for Michigan City and the Trail Creek watershed.

Wetland Review Services, MWRDGC and Village of North Aurora. Provided wetland permit review services to determine compliance with local ordinance wetland provisions.

Illinois Urban Manual Updates, AISWCD, Project Manager/PI for providing new and updated practice standards and specifications for wetland creation, wetland enhancement, wetland restoration, sediment forebay, and stream crossings. This included all authorship, incorporation of agency/stakeholder comments, and producing the final version in the prescribed format for public notice and final publication. Mr. Mengler also provided a revised permanent vegetation practice standard for the IUM while employed at USFWS. In addition, Mr. Mengler previously served on the Steering Committee and Technical Review Committee for the IUM updates while employed at USFWS.

Senior Project Scientist/Botanist/Wetland Ecologist. July 2010 – February 2013.

Cardno ENTRIX, Barrington, Illinois.

Served as Senior Project Scientist and Project Manager for various projects in the Chicago region. Also integral to business development activities in the Chicago region market. Key projects included:

Oil Spill Remediation and Restoration. (Enbridge and West Shore)

Served as project manager for two crude oil pipeline spills. Both projects involved nearby or directly affected habitat for a federally endangered species. Provided project management/coordination and oversight for investigation of potential impacts to protected species and their habitat and other natural resources. This included all resource/regulatory agency, landowner, and stakeholder coordination, directing efforts of the cleanup contractor, assessment of resource impacts, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation coordination, and a migratory bird exclusion/hazing program. In addition, at one of the two sites it included direction and coordination of the full restoration of a wetland that was designated critical habitat for a federally endangered species.

Coastal Habitat Assessment Program. (Alliance for the Great Lakes)

Served as project manager and principal investigator for a project seeking to design and pilot a citizen volunteer assessment and restoration program for Great Lakes coastal habitats. The program was modeled after several existing citizen scientist programs and tested at three sites on the Lake Michigan shoreline. Results and recommendations were provided to enable development of a program across the Great Lakes when funding becomes available.

Chicago Wilderness.

Provided ongoing leadership to Chicago Wilderness by serving as co-chair of the Natural Resources Management Team and co-chair of the Green Infrastructure Vision Task force. This included the completion of a major revision/refinement of the green infrastructure plan known as GIV 2.1. Provided leadership to the project technical advisory group, hosted stakeholder workshops, and lead the Green Infrastructure Vision Task Force.

Botanist/Wetland Ecologist. November 1992 – June 2010.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago Illinois Field Office, Barrington, Illinois.

Served as senior biologist and worked across all programs of USFWS Ecological Services division including conservation planning assistance, endangered species, private lands, contaminants, and education and outreach. Highlights include:

- Served as agency advisor for a 17-partner working group creating a regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly.
- Coordinated and wrote all compliance documentation for a Safe Harbor Agreement
- Responsible for section 404 review, NEPA review, and Formal Consultation including authorship of the Biological Opinion for major highway project (I-355 South extension)
- Reviewed and provided technical assistance on over 200 private and public natural resource projects that received a total of over \$11.5 million in grant funds.

Partnership and Watershed Planning Coordinator

- Lead and coordinated implementation of the Green Infrastructure Vision for Chicago Wilderness region.
- Provided technical assistance for watershed planning for several local watershed groups and ecosystem partnerships including Poplar Creek, Tyler Creek, Waubensee Creek, Blackberry Creek, Upper Des Plaines River, Lower Des Plaines River, and the Fox River.
- Conserved biodiversity and advanced USFWS priorities by serving as co-chair of Chicago Wilderness Natural Resources Management Team and as a member of the Coordinating Group, the primary bodies within the Chicago Wilderness alliance where real-time conservation work was accomplished.

Served as computer systems administrator for field office; providing onsite management and trouble-shooting, coordination with contractor and regional office, and responsible for all system and component upgrades and maintenance on a local IT network with ten users.

Planned and implemented several local and national conferences including: 22nd International Annual Conference of the Society of Wetland Scientists 2001(co-chair); 34th Annual National Conference of the Natural Areas Association 2004 (planning comm.), Chicago Wilderness Linking Watersheds series in 2004, 2005, 2008 (chair); Illinois Indiana SeaGrant River Restoration Series 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009 (planning comm.), Fox River Summit 2006, 2007 (planning comm).

Team leader for the biological wetland functions working groups on Kane and McHenry County ADID studies including development of methodologies, coordination of office and field teams, authorship of text, and coordination with project manager.

Responsible for Fish and Wildlife Service review, coordination, and response for nearly all

Section 404 permit reviews in the Chicago region 1992-2002.

Appointed member of technical advisory committees for agencies throughout the region including Lake County Stormwater Management Commission Technical Advisory Committee Chair, McHenry County Stormwater Management Committee Technical Advisory Committee, Fermilab Ecological Land Management Committee (appointed by Director since 1987).

Botanist/Senior Wetland Scientist. August 1989 - November 1992.
Environmental S/E, Inc., Glen Ellyn, Illinois. (No longer in business)

Botanist responsible for hundreds of wetland delineations conducted following both the *Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands* (1989) and the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (1987). Projects ranged from 1 acre to over 1,000 acres in size, and the delineations were submitted to the Chicago, Detroit, St. Paul, St. Louis, and Rock Island Corps of Engineers Districts.

Responsible for all coordination and leadership of prescribed burn management of wetland and upland sites.

Responsible for botany portion of wetland delineation, agency coordination, and mitigation/restoration design in several Section 404 enforcement cases.

Botanist responsible for vegetation aspects of wetland delineations and quality and functional value assessments for approximately 101 wetlands along a 20-mile proposed highway corridor including growing season plant inventories for each area.

Project manager for all wetland delineations and consultations for a major utility company, including coordinating the composition of a corporate wetland policy and procedures manual for the utility company. Projects also included resolution of enforcement cases and development of a wetland training video.

Worked as team member for a survey crew conducting wetland surveys, construction staking, and tree surveys.

Wetlands Biologist. April 1989 - July 1989.
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., Rosemont, Illinois.

Performed wetland delineations and quality assessments, and designed mitigation, management, and monitoring plans for projects subject to regulation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Research Assistant. March 1986 - March 1989.
The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois.

Research projects included:

- Monitoring and vegetation studies of prairie restorations.
- Woodland management and monitoring, savanna restoration.
- Wetland re-creation and restoration monitoring.

- Studies of wetland seed banks.
- Planning and leading prescribed burns for woodland, prairie, and wetland management.

Supervised interns and volunteers who assisted with study projects.

Field Ecologist. September 1985 - September 1986.

ENCAP, Inc., DeKalb, Illinois.

Designed and conducted quantitative sampling and qualitative descriptions of woodlands in a major transportation corridor.

CONTINUING EDUCATION/TRAINING

Waters of the U.S. Update, The Swamp School. December 2016.

Wetlands, Waters, Permits, and the Courts. The Swamp School. July 2016.

Waters of the U.S. Final Rule. The Swamp School. July 2015.

Introduction to NEPA and Transportation Decision-making. National Highway Institute. February 2014.

Project Management Training, Cardno University/Lee Lambert Consulting Group, October 24-26, 2012, Houston, TX

Creating a Sustainable Future Using Green Infrastructure, The Conservation Fund and Chicago Wilderness, December 1-3, 2009, Northern Illinois University, Hoffman Estates, IL

Conservation Genetics Workshop, Region 3 Ecological Services, January 14-15, 2009, Rosemont, IL

Strategic Conservation Planning Using a Green Infrastructure Approach, National Conservation Training Center, April 14-18, 2008, Shepherdstown, WV

Logging System Design for ES Field Stations, US Fish and Wildlife Service, October 25-27, 2006, Chicago, IL

Introduction to Supervision Training, USDA Graduate School, March 11-15, 2002, Chicago, IL.

Negotiation Strategies Training, National Conservation Training Center, March 8-10, 1999, Shepherdstown, WV

Stream Analysis and Remediation Workshop, Illinois State Water Survey, May 11-12, 1998, Springfield, IL.

Practical Watershed Planning for Growing Watersheds, Center for Watershed Protection, February 9, 1998, Chicago IL.

Endangered Species Act- Section 7 Consultation Training, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, February 27-March 3, 1995, Shepherdstown, WV

Interagency Wetland Delineation Training, August 29-September 2, 1994, Woodridge, IL.

S234 Firing Methods and Procedures, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, February 1994, Wheaton, IL

Ecological Services Basic Training, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, May 10-21, 1993, Harrisburg, PA

S130/S190/PMS 416 – Introduction to Fire Behavior, Firefighter Training, and Standards for Survival, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, March 1992, Libertyville, IL

Using the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, The Wetland Training Institute, November 1991, Skokie, IL.

Use of the 1989 Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands, The Wetland Training Institute, March 1989, Chicago, IL

Fund-raising for non-profit organizations, The Fund-Raising School, Center for Philanthropic Studies, Indiana University, September 1987, Indianapolis, IN.

CERTIFICATIONS

Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS# 2478)
Hazwopper 40-hour training with annual 8-hour refresher
S234 Firing Methods and Procedures, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, 1994
S130/S190/PMS 416 – Introduction to Fire Behavior, Firefighter Training, and Standards for Survival, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, 1992
Certified Wetland Specialist C-162, Lake County, Illinois
Qualified Wetland Review Specialist W-096, Kane County, Illinois
Certified Wetland Specialist, McHenry County, Illinois

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

The Field Museum, Research Associate, 2013-2017
Society of Wetland Scientists – member since 1999
Natural Areas Association – member since 1986
Fox River Ecosystem Partnership, President since 2016, Exec Comm member since 1996
Fermilab Ecological Land Management Committee, Director-appointed member since 1987
Chicago Wilderness, Corporate/Executive Council member.
Lake County Stormwater Management Commission-Technical Advisory Committee–member 1999-2010, Vice Chair/Chair 2005-2010.
Kane County Stormwater Management Technical Advisory Committee – non-voting member delegate.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Bowles, Marlin L, K. A. Jacobs, and J. L. Mengler. 2007. Long-term changes in an oak forest's woody understory and herb layer with repeated burning. *Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society* 134(2): 223-237.

Mengler, Jeffrey L. 2004. ADID (Advanced Identification) Studies: A Wetland Protection Tool. *Chicago Wilderness Journal* 2(3) 10-16.

Society of Wetland Scientists. 2009. Current Practices in Wetland Management for Mosquito Control. SWS White Paper (www.sws.org). Megonigal, J. Patrick ed. Contributing authors: J. Berg, M. Felton, L Gecy, A. Laderman, C. Mayhew, J. Mengler, W. Meredith, N. Read, J. Rey, G. Sakolsky-Hoopes, W. Walton, R. Wolfe.

Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, USFWS Chicago Field Office, USEPA Region 5, and Kane County Department of Environmental Management. 2004. Advanced Identification (ADID) Study Kane County, Illinois Final Report. (Served as primary author for biological functions portions of report)

Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. 2005. Stream Restoration Inventory Final Report.

64pp report prepared for Illinois Environmental Protection Agency by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chicago Field Office (Mengler) and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission with assistance from the U.S. Geological Survey and Openlands.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2001. Permanent vegetation practice standard 880 in the Illinois Urban Manual. (Served as primary author for this practice standard).

McHenry County ADID Technical Advisory Committee. 1998. McHenry County ADID Study Results. Served as primary author for biological functions portion of report.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. 1998. Native Plant Guide for Streams and Stormwater Facilities in Northeastern Illinois. Served as primary author and technical editor on interagency publication. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.