

# EAB MEETING

Location: 118 N. Clark Street, RM 882, Chicago, IL 60601

Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Time: 10:00 A.M.

## Employee Appeals Board

### In Attendance

#### Board Members

G.A. Finch, Chairman  
Michelle Whatley, Member  
Arthur Wheatley, Member  
Gregory Zyvert, Member

### Attorney/ Appearance for Meeting:

Natalis Sanchez, Deputy Chief Attorney, Forest Preserves of Cook County  
Cynthia Rote, Counsel for Appellant  
Frank Schmeda, Appellant

### Representatives for BHR

Carlos Claudio, Senior Labor Counsel  
Liliana Arellano, Paralegal

## Meeting Minutes

### 2025-003, Courtney Hoskin v. Cook County Forest Preserves District

- Following deliberation, the Board will issue a decision and order.

### 2025-002, Frank Schmeda v. Cook County Forest Preserves District

- Matter before the Board Hearing.
- All members of the Board were present.
- Deputy Chief Attorney—Labor and Employment, Forest Preserves of Cook County, Natalie Sanchez, was present on behalf of Cook County Forest Preserve Districts.
- Cynthia Rote, on behalf of the Appellant, was present.
- Appellant, Frank Schmeda, was present.
- There were no public comments.
- Appellant's counsel informed the Board due to a misunderstanding, the Appellant's witnesses were not present or available for the hearing.
- The Board and parties agreed to reschedule the hearing to allow witnesses to appear.
- A hearing was set for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at 118 N. Clark St., Room 882, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

**Next meeting (s):**

**January 14, 2026 | 3:00 p.m.**

- 2026-001 Christopher Naujokas v. Cook County Forest Preserve District
  - o Initial Status Hearing

**February 11, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.**

- 2025-002, Frank Schmeda v. Cook County Forest Preserves District
  - o Hearing.