



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: November 6, 2017
MEMO TO: Craig Taylor, Chair
Operations Committee
FROM: James L. Anderson
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the award of one farm license at Ray Lake Forest Preserve to the highest qualified bidder.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Conservation; Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: This farm license will generate \$17,759.70 annually, and will be credited to the Farmland Management Fund (28642500-403000).

BACKGROUND: The farming program is conducted with local farmers to provide cost-effective, interim land use and management until the District is ready to convert farmland to other forest preserve purposes. The current assumed lease agreements covering Ray Lake Forest Preserve will expire on December 31, 2017. The farm license was advertised in the News-Sun and bid packages were available on the District’s website. The license was advertised for a 2-year term. Three potential Licensees submitted bids. The highest qualified bidder for the parcel is noted below:

Site	Term	Acreage	Highest Bidder	Price per Acre
Ray Lake – Squaw Creek	2 Years	84.57	Bradley Cockrum	\$210.00

Mr. Cockrum is new to the District’s Farm Program, but has 20 years of farming experience. Mr. Cockrum has verified his understanding of the Farm Program requirements and agreed to comply with all obligations.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Corporate Counsel

APPROVED:

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes: _____ Nays: _____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____