



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** December 4, 2017

**MEMO TO:** Carol Calabresa, Chair  
Planning Committee

**Agenda Item#** 9.6

**FROM:** James L. Anderson  
Director of Natural Resources

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of a Resolution approving an Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain Habitat Restoration Project, funded by a Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant, in the amount of \$117,340.40.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED:** Conservation; Leadership; Organizational Sustainability

**FINANCIAL DATA:** Funding for habitat restoration for this agreement in the amount of 117,340.40 will be 100% provided by a Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant, awarded August 6, 2017, and will be charged to Grant account 69642400-803200-56050.

**BACKGROUND:** The Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain (Lake Plain), located from the Kenosha Dunes in Wisconsin south to Waukegan Harbor in Illinois, makes a significant contribution to the notable biodiversity of the Lake Michigan watershed and our Great Lakes ecosystem. The majority of this unique Lake Plain is under the protective ownership of six organizations: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Wisconsin Dunes); the Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and UW-Parkside (Chiwaukee Prairie); Village of Pleasant Prairie (Village park land); Lake County Forest Preserve District (Spring Bluff Forest Preserve); and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Illinois Beach State Park). Recognized for its biological, geological and ecological significance, the 4,300 acres of publicly-protected Lake Plain connect 14 different natural community types, and provide habitat for over 500 plant and 300 animal species, including 63 state-threatened or endangered species and four federally-listed species. Equally important, the Lake Plain ecosystem provides critical stop-over habitat for 160 migratory bird species, and serves as important breeding habitat for many wetland-dependent bird species. This area also provides one of the few areas in northeastern Illinois with significant public access to Lake Michigan via trails, camping, boating, and beach access.

The District has received a grant from the Sustain Our Great Lakes Stewardship Grant program to achieve the following goals within the Lake Plain, in conjunction with the above entities:

1) hydrologic restoration (removal of obstructions to in-stream flow); and 2) broader geographic assessment of the impacts of implemented restoration activities.

A portion of the grant is intended to fund the restoration of a portion of the Wisconsin Dunes (Dunes) as part of the Lake Plain. Pursuant to the attached agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the District will administer grant funds being provided to WDNR for the work at the Dunes. The District will maintain oversight of the solicitation of bids and expenditure of grant funds for work completed at the Dunes, while requiring WDNR to provide oversight and project management of the work.

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



**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE CHIWAUKEE ILLINOIS  
BEACH LAKE PLAIN HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the "District") owns certain property known as Spring Bluff Forest Preserve in Lake County, Illinois, that is adjacent to other natural areas owned by other entities, including the Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area and Wisconsin Dunes owned by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Kenosha County, Wisconsin, and the Illinois Beach State Park (the "IBSP") owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in Lake County, Illinois (collectively, the "Lake Plain"); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the District was awarded a Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 (the "Grant") for the restoration of critical Lake Michigan natural communities within the Lake Plain, which includes invasive species removal and hydrologic restoration (the "Work") ; and

**WHEREAS**, the agreement in the form attached hereto between the District and WDNR (the "Agreement") provides for the District to administer Grant funds and reimburse WDNR for portions of the Work performed by WDNR at the Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area and Wisconsin Dunes in Kenosha County, Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 10 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, units of local government, such as the District, may contract or otherwise associate with other states to obtain or share services and to exercise, combine, or transfer any power or function, in any manner not prohibited by law or ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 5 ILCS 220/1 et seq., any power, privilege, function or authority exercised by a public agency of this state, including the District, may be exercised, combined, transferred and enjoyed jointly with any other public agency of another state, to the extent not prohibited by law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois THAT:

Section 1. Recitals. The recitals set forth above are incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Approval of the Agreement. The Agreement is hereby approved in substantially the form attached hereto.

Section 3. Execution of the Agreement. The Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement with WDNR.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann B. Maine, President  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Gragnani, Secretary  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_\_