



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** January 8, 2018  
**MEMO TO:** Craig Taylor, Chair  
Operations Committee  
**FROM:** James L. Anderson  
Director of Natural Resources

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

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

**FINANCIAL DATA:** Awarding the license will generate \$32,722.56 annually, and will be credited to the Farmland Management Fund (28642500-403000). Revenue generated from this land in 2017 was \$35,632.98.

**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 previous farm license at Lake Marie was terminated pursuant to direction received at the November Operations Committee meeting. 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, starting January 1, 2018. Four potential Licensees submitted bids. The highest qualified bidder for the parcel is noted below:

Site	Term	Acreage	Highest Bidder	Price per Acre
Lake Marie	2 Years	157.32	Bradley Cockrum	\$208.00

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

**APPROVAL:**

Motion to approve a license agreement with Bradley Cockrum for a two-year farming license at Lake Marie Forest Preserve

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Roll Call Vote: Ayes: \_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: \_\_\_\_\_