



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** April 30, 2018

**MEMO TO:** Craig Taylor, Chair  
Operations Committee

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve termination of the existing Hay Farm License Agreement at Black Crown Forest Preserve.

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

**FINANCIAL DATA:** The existing Black Crown - Hay Farm License Agreement with April Mumma is intended to generate annual revenue of \$ 3,078.00 (18.00 acres at \$171.00/acre). If the Agreement remained in place, it would be assigned to the State of Illinois in 2018 as part of the Black Crown – Prairie Wolf/Oriole Grove land exchange. Therefore, any revenue generated from this License in 2018 (and beyond) would be paid to the State.

**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.

There are two Farm Licenses at Black Crown, one for hay and one for row crops. The licensed parcels lie adjacent to each other. In early April, 2018, Ms. Mumma, the Black Crown – Hay Licensee, notified the District that her licensed field was damaged by plowing.

Upon further investigation, District staff learned that the plowing was performed by Mr. Henningfield, the Black Crown – Row Crop Licensee. This plowing was not authorized by the District. Apparently, an IDNR employee, in anticipation of IDNR’s upcoming ownership of that farm field, told Mr. Henningfield that he could work the field. The resulting damage to the hay field has rendered it unusable for hay production in 2018.

Additionally, Ms. Mumma has unpaid obligations to the District for her licensed property. License fees for 2016 and 2017 remain outstanding as does reimbursement for taxes assessed to the Licensed Property. In total, Ms. Mumma has outstanding debts under the license of \$6,541.25. Section 12 of the Farm License Agreement allows for termination of the Agreement for failure to pay Annual License Fees and any other amounts owed to the District.

The District has sent Ms. Mumma a letter formally notifying her of her defaults, but she has not cured the defaults.

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


Motion to approve termination of the existing Black Crown - Hay Farm License Agreement with April Mumma.

**APPROVED:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Roll Call Vote: Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: \_\_\_\_\_




**Lake County Forest Preserves; Farm Program**  
 Black Crown Forest Preserve; Black Crown - Hay  
 Acreage: 18.0  
 Farm: 3484  
 Tract: 11007  
 Field: 6

Only those fields identified on this map shall be included in the farm license. All other fields shown are incidental and will NOT be included in the farm license.

0 950 1,900 Feet

