



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 Row Crop Farm License Agreement at Black Crown Forest Preserve.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Conservation; Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: The existing Black Crown – Row Crop Farm License Agreement with Gerald Henningfeld generates annual revenue of \$ 11,100.54 (53.24 acres at \$208.50/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, the District staff was notified by the Black Crown – Hay Licensee that her licensed field was damaged by plowing. District staff contacted Mr. Henningfeld, the Black Crown – Row Crop Licensee to inquire if the plowing was performed by him in error (i.e. plowed the wrong field). Mr. Henningfeld explained that he plowed the hay field, which he does not license, under the authority of the State of Illinois, Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Henningfeld was apparently told by a representative from Moraine Hills State Park (to which the Black Crown Preserve will be added upon transfer to the State), that Mr. Henningfeld would be the sole farmer of the Black Crown site (including the Black Crown – Hay Field) after the State receives total ownership. Since this ownership transfer had not yet occurred, Mr. Henningfeld did not have the authority to farm (or even enter) any areas not included in his Black Crown – Row Crop Farm License. Section 12 of the Farm License Agreement allows for termination of the Agreement for cause, including non-compliance with the terms of the agreement. Performing unauthorized work on a parcel outside of his licensed property (and causing damage to that field) clearly demonstrates Mr. Henningfeld’s non-compliance with the terms of the Agreement.

The District has sent Mr. Henningfeld a letter formally notifying him of his defaults, but he has not yet cured the defaults.

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

Motion to approve termination of the existing Farm License Agreement at Black Crown Forest Preserve.

APPROVED:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes: _____ Nays: _____

Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____



Lake County Forest Preserves; Farm Program
 Black Crown Forest Preserve; Black Crown
 Acreage: 53.24
 Farm: 3485
 Tract: 11008
 Field: 1,7

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.

