



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: January 7, 2019

TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

Terry Wilke, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Nan Buckardt
Director of Education

Agenda Item# 9.4

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution approving an agreement with Lake Forest Open Lands Association (LFOLA) to jointly develop and offer the Conservation Explorers Program (Program) for Lake County youth entering high school.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Communication, Education and Outreach

FINANCIAL DATA: The cost of the program, estimated at \$16,000.00, will be equally shared between the District and LFOLA. The Preservation Foundation of Lake County Forest Preserves authorized a \$7,600.00 grant, in November 2018, to support and fully cover the District's share of the cost of the Program.

BACKGROUND: The District has been offering its Science Explorers in Nature (SEN) program, for middle school students from under-resourced school districts, since 2005. This four-week summer program uses the environment to help students gain a deep understanding of the scientific method and scientific inquiry. Each summer more than 30 students, entering 7th, 8th or 9th grade, explore forest preserves and conduct a scientific research project. Students are eligible to attend multiple summers; the theme of the program follows a three-year rotation.

Currently, the District has no program that extends this in-depth learning for students who age out of this program. Recently, the District was approached by Lake Forest Open Lands Association to partner in the creation of a new program that will build a bridge between the District's SEN program and LFOLA's Center for Conservation Leadership (CCL) program. The mission of CCL is to nurture and engage the next generation of conservation leaders; CCL develops and empowers high school students from diverse backgrounds who have a keen interest in the environment and a passion for the outdoors.

In the new Conservation Explorers Program (the name draws from elements of the two existing programs), students will spend eight days exploring the biodiversity of the Lake Michigan watershed and learn the importance of stewardship through active participation in resource improvement projects. One additional week will be spent in Michigan, exploring the water resources along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan and engaging in stewardship activities.

Conservation Explorers will be available to any student entering 9th grade in a Lake County high school. Special consideration would be given to any student who has participated in the District's SEN program; these students would receive a complete tuition scholarship.

Students completing Conservation Explorers will have the opportunity to extend their conservation leadership journey by joining the CCL program the next summer.

Participating in this partnership will allow the District to reach more children in under-resourced areas of the county, teaching about conservation and stewardship. SEN will continue with a full complement of 30 students and Conservation Explorers will be available, in 2019, to 13 more students. Learning will focus on Lake Michigan and water resources, currently an area of lesser concentration in District educational programming. Working with partners widens the District's reach and leverages its resources.

Key elements in the agreement include:

- Costs and revenue will be equally split between the two organizations. Any overtime hours for the District educator will be included in the cost of the program.
- The District will provide one staff educator, LFOLA will provide two staff educators.
- The District will coordinate the Lake County portion of the program.
- LFOLA will coordinate the Michigan portion of the program.
- Students will learn and conduct stewardship on property owned by both organizations.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Environmental Education Manager, Corporate Counsel.

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

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH LAKE FOREST OPEN
LANDS ASSOCIATION FOR THE CONSERVATION EXPLORERS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the "District") is "To preserve a dynamic and unique system of natural and cultural resources, and to develop innovative educational, recreational and cultural opportunities of regional value, while exercising environmental and fiscal responsibility"; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of its educational goals, the District desires to establish an educational program for rising ninth-grade students called "Conservation Explorers," that would explore the biodiversity of the Lake Michigan watershed in Lake County, explore water resources along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, and teach the importance of stewardship through active participation in resource improvement projects (the "Program"); and

WHEREAS, Lake Forest Open Lands Association (the "Association") desires to establish, design, and operate the Program jointly with the District; and

WHEREAS, it is in the District's best interests to enter into an agreement with the Association to identify the parties' respective rights and obligations concerning the Program, including as they relate to the design of the Program, selection of students, staffing, insurance and indemnification, promotion, revenue sharing, and other matters (the "Agreement");

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 part of this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2: Negotiation of Agreement. The Executive Director (or his designee) is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate the Agreement with the Association, provided that the Contract shall be consistent with (i) this Resolution and (ii) the criteria attached to this Resolution (the "Agreement Criteria").

Section 3: Execution of Agreement. After completion of such negotiations, the Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the District.

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 _____, 2019.

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Angelo D. Kyle, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District
Exhibit No. _____

Agreement Criteria

1. Costs and revenues of the Program will be equally split between the District and the Association. Any overtime hours for District educators, and other out of pocket expenses, will be included in the cost of the Program.
2. The Program will occur between May and August during a total of three weeks. Two weeks of the Program will be conducted at locations within Lake County. The District shall be primarily responsible for coordinating those two weeks. One week of the Program will be conducted in and near Sutton's Bay, Michigan. The Association will be primarily responsible for coordinating that week and will be fully responsible for providing transportation of students to and from Michigan.
3. The Program will include up to 13 students who, at the time of their participation in the Program, are entering 9th grade.
4. The District and the Association will jointly design the curriculum. During the Program week in Michigan, the Program will be designed and conducted primarily by Inland Seas Education Association, or such other third-party educator approved by the parties.
5. The Agreement will have a two-year term that the parties (through the District's Executive Director and the Association's President and CEO) may mutually extend for successive two-year periods.
6. The Agreement will provide a process for selection of students, identify staffing responsibilities, include insurance and indemnification requirements, and identify the parties' rights and obligations regarding the promotion of the Program.