



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** November 4, 2019

**MEMO TO:** Jessica Vealitzek, Chair  
Operations Committee

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the award of five (5) farm licenses at Brae Loch, Lake Marie, Oak-Hickory, Pine Dunes, and Ray Lake Forest Preserves to the highest qualified bidders, and approve one (1) farm license for one parcel that did not receive any bids.

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

**FINANCIAL DATA:** Awarding the licenses will generate \$129,155.76 annually and will be credited to the Farmland Management Fund (28642500-403000). Revenue generated from this land in 2019 was \$113,911.28.

**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 current license agreements will expire on December 31, 2019. The farm licenses were advertised in the News-Sun and bid packages were available on the District's website. Six licenses were advertised for a 4-year term starting January 1, 2020 and one license was advertised for a 1-year term starting January 1, 2020. Eight potential licensees submitted bids. The highest qualified bidders for the parcels are noted below:

SITE	TERM	ACREAGE	HIGHEST BIDDER	PRICE PER ACRE
Brae Loch	4 Years	39.81	Mike Horcher	\$ 50.00
Lake Marie	4 Years	157.32	Terry Brothers Grain Farm	\$ 157.50
Oak-Hickory	4 Years	117.95	Terry Brothers Grain Farm	\$ 132.00
Oak Hickory (Hay)	4 Years	9.35	NO BID	\$ 0.00
Pine Dunes - Southeast	4 Years	97.08	Elfering Farms	\$ 137.00
Ray Lake	4 Years	367.59	David Geils	\$ 200.00
Grant Woods	1 Year	115.41	NO BID	\$ 0.00

All of the highest bidders listed above have previous experience farming with the District. To date, all have complied with District requirements/procedures.

Two parcels did not receive any bids: Oak-Hickory (Hay) and Grant Woods. District staff have been in contact with the previous licensees for these parcels to inquire about their desire to continue farming these parcels. Mr. Mike Kelly has made an offer to continue farming the Oak-Hickory parcel for 4 years at \$54.00/acre for a total of \$504.90 annually. The District is reaching out to previous licensees on their interest in farming the Grant Woods parcel for one year and will present the result at the December Operations Committee meeting.

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

**APPROVAL:**

Motion to (i) approve a license agreement with Mike Horcher for a 4-year farming license at Brae Loch Golf Club; (ii) approve a license agreement with Terry Brothers Grain Farm for a 4-year farming license at Lake Marie Forest Preserve; (iii) approve a license agreement with Terry Brothers Grain Farm for a 4-year farming license at Oak-Hickory Forest Preserve; (iv) approve a license agreement with Elfering Farms for a 4-year farming license at Pine Dunes Forest Preserve; and (v) approve a license agreement with David Geils for a 4-year farming license at Ray Lake Forest Preserve.

Motion to approve a license agreement with Mike Kelly for a 4-year farming license at Oak-Hickory Forest Preserve.

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

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