



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: February 3, 2020

MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

Terry Wilke, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: James L. Anderson
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the award of a farm license at the Oak-Hickory property to the second-highest qualified bidder.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Conservation; Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: Awarding the license will generate \$13,682.20 annually and will be credited to the Farmland Management Fund (28642500-403000). Revenue generated from this land in 2019 was \$21,997.68.

BACKGROUND: Under the District’s farming program, the District licenses farmland that it acquires to qualified farmers to provide cost-effective, interim land use management until the District is ready to convert the farmland to other forest preserve purposes. The license for this property agreement expired on December 31, 2019. The farm license was advertised in the News-Sun and the bid package was available on the District’s website. The license was advertised for a 4-year term starting January 1, 2020. Two potential licensees submitted bids.

The highest bidder was Terry Brothers Grain Farm. At the November 4, 2019 Operations Committee meeting, the Committee awarded the farm license to Terry Brothers. On January 15, 2020, Mr. Michael Terry informed the District, in writing, that he erroneously submitted the bid and is not interested in farming the parcel.

To mitigate the District’s damages, staff recommends that the Oak-Hickory farm license be awarded to the second-highest bidder, Mike Richards as noted below:

SITE	TERM	ACREAGE	SECOND-HIGHEST BIDDER	PRICE PER ACRE
Oak-Hickory	4 Years	117.95	Mike Richards	\$ 116.00

Mr. Richards has previous experience farming with the District and is interested in farming the parcel. To date, he has complied with District requirements/procedures. If the Committee is interested in discussing further the District’s legal options regarding Terry Brothers Grain Farms potential breach of the farm license agreement, staff and Corporate Counsel will be prepared to discuss that issue at the Committee meeting.

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

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

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes: ____ Nays: _____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes: ____ Nays: _____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____