

DATE: October 5, 2020

MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

FROM: James L. Anderson
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the award of five farm licenses at Ray Lake, Dutch Gap, Kestrel Ridge and Pine Dunes Forest Preserves to the highest qualified bidders.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Conservation; Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: Awarding the licenses will generate \$109,166.02 annually and will be credited to the Farmland Management Fund (28642500-403000). Revenue generated from this land in 2020 was \$114,749.44.

BACKGROUND: The farming program is conducted with 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 agreement for the Ray Lake parcel expires on October 26, 2020; all other agreements expire on December 31, 2020. The farm licenses were advertised in the News-Sun and bid packages were available on the District's website. The Ray Lake license was advertised for a 3-year term and all other parcels were advertised for a 4-year term, with all terms starting January 1, 2021. Four potential licensees submitted bids. The highest qualified bidders for the parcels are noted below:

SITE	TERM	ACREAGE	HIGHEST BIDDER	PRICE PER ACRE
Ray Lake - Hay	3 Years	31.65	Steve Olson	\$ 52.00
Dutch Gap - Hay	4 Years	60.91	Terry Brothers Grain Farm	\$ 82.00
Dutch Gap	4 Years	461.1	Terry Brothers Grain Farm	\$ 217.53
Kestrel Ridge (Grazing)	4 Years	38.12	Daniel Light	\$ 51.00
Pine Dunes - Hay	4 Years	4.8	Steve Olson	\$ 58.00

All of the highest qualified bidders have farmed District land in the past and staff has had positive experiences with them.

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

MOTION: Motion to approve license agreements in forms approved by the Executive Director or his designee with (1) Steve Olson for a 3-year farming license at Ray Lake Forest Preserve; (2) Terry Brothers Grain Farm for a 4-year farming license at Dutch Gap Forest Preserve (Hay); (3) Terry Brothers Grain Farm for a 4-year farming license at Dutch Gap Forest Preserve; (4) Daniel Light for a 4-year farming license at Kestrel Ridge Forest Preserve (Grazing); and (5) Steve Olson for a 4-year farming license at Pine Dunes at Forest Preserve (Hay).

APPROVAL:

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

Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____