



DATE: April 5, 2021

MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

FROM: James L. Anderson
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Approve an amendment to the existing Farm License Agreement at Ray Lake Forest Preserve.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Conservation

FINANCIAL DATA: Removal of 58.63 acres from the farm program will reduce annual revenue generated by the Ray Lake Farm License from \$73,518.00 (367.59 acres at \$200.00/acre) to \$61,792.00 (308.96 acres at \$200.00/acre); a loss of \$11,726.00 annually.

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.

David Geils has been farming portions of Ray Lake Farm since 2016. For several years during this time, portions of the site have not been farmable, due to consistently wet conditions. Additionally, in 2020, road construction on Fremont Center Road has restricted access to a portion of the licensed area. Mr. Geils has requested that the wet and restricted areas, depicted on the attached exhibit as the “Proposed Retirement Areas,” be removed from the licensed area. Staff recommend reducing the Farm License Agreement at Ray Lake to remove these areas, which cannot be farmed.

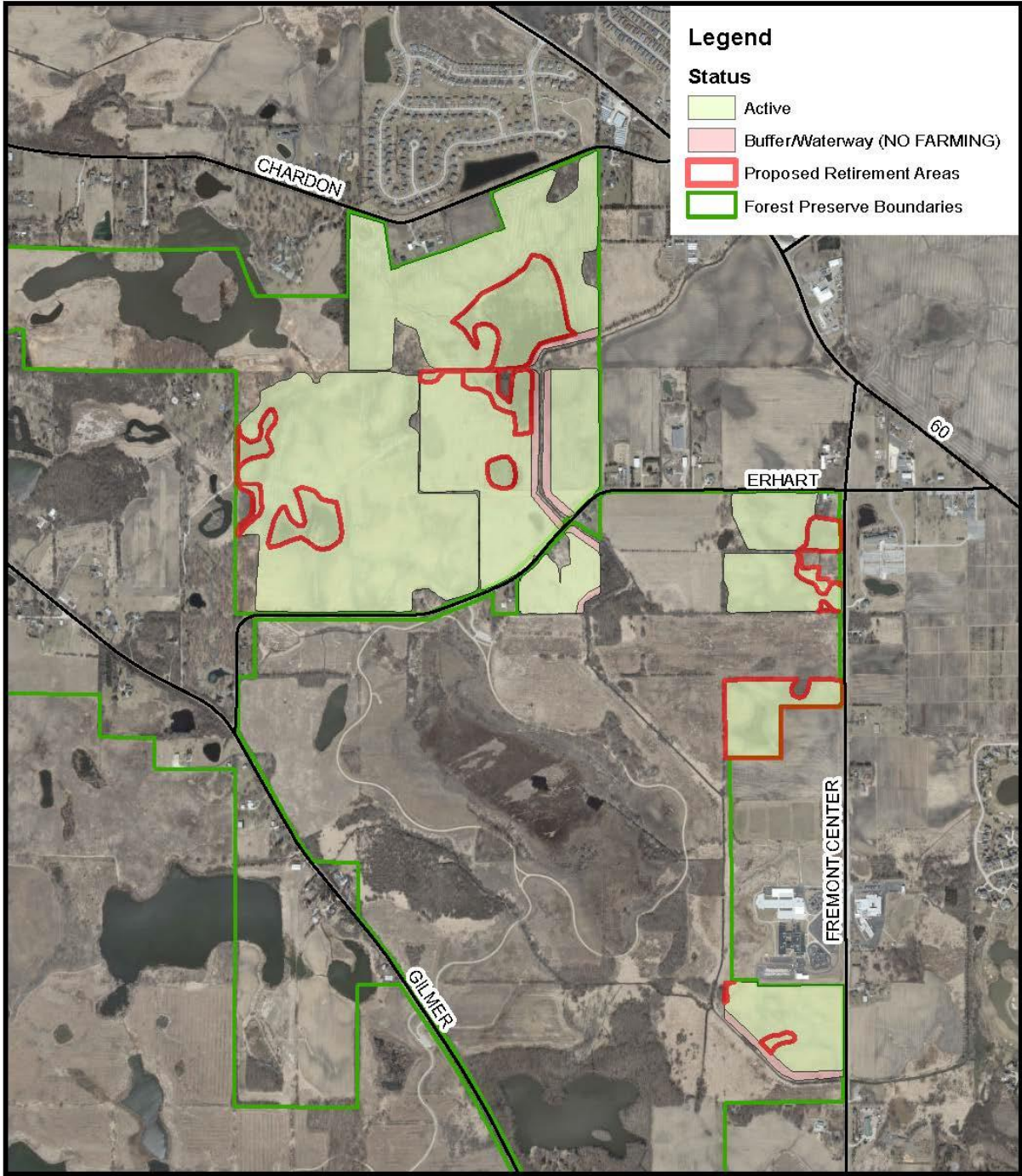
REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Corporate Counsel

MOTION: Motion to authorize staff and Corporate Counsel to amend the current Farm License Agreement for the farmland at Ray Lake Forest Preserve to remove non-farmable land.

APPROVED:

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

Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____



Lake County Forest Preserves; Farm Program
 Ray Lake Farm License
 Proposed License Reduction Areas

