



DATE: May 3, 2021

MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

FROM: James L. Anderson
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Lake Plain Invasive Plant Strike Team Project along the Chiwaukee Prairie-Illinois Beach Lake Plain to Native Restoration Services, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$ 372,640.00.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Conservation; Leadership

FINANCIAL DATA: Continued management of the Chiwaukee Prairie-Illinois Beach Lake Plain is being funded by grants received from (i) a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Sustain Our Great Lakes Stewardship Grant Program (\$250,000), (ii) an anonymous donation from a private foundation matching the NFWF grant (\$250,000), and (iii) grant funds from the US EPA Great Lake Restoration Initiative, via an agreement with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (\$110,000). The cost of this work was estimated at \$380,000.00. The actual cost of \$372,640.00 will be charged to the Natural Resource Grant fund, (69644100-803200-56046, 69644100-803200-56065) and Land Development Levy (27644000-709000-56056).

BACKGROUND: The Chiwaukee Prairie-Illinois Beach Lake Plain (Lake Plain), situated along the Lake Michigan coast in Northeast Illinois and Southeast Wisconsin, contains high-quality coastal dune and swale habitat across over 4,500 protected acres. These ecologically significant natural areas are protected and managed through the cooperation of 10 land stewardship agencies/groups, including: the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Village of Pleasant Prairie, the Village of Winthrop Harbor, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, Zion Park District, Waukegan Park District and the Lake County Forest Preserve District (District). Lake Plain wetlands and associated prairie/savanna complexes provides habitat for over 930 native plant species, 300 animal species, and 3 federally-protected species and 63 state-protected species, including one of the largest known populations of the Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) within the Great Lake drainage basin (a candidate species for federal listing) and the largest viable population of eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) in the Lake Michigan Lake Plain Prairie physiographic region.

The Lake Plain is also the largest, near contiguous tract of natural area along this portion of Lake Michigan, providing critical stopover and breeding grounds for migratory birds, including federally protected piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*). In addition, the biological significance and quality of wetland habitat recently lead to the recognition of the Lake Plain as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar 2015; <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2243>).

With District leadership and support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and others, over \$4.1 M has been invested towards habitat restoration throughout the Lake Plain. The District and partners, through carefully cooperation, coordination and cost sharing, have been able to expand the reach of individual restoration activities to achieve shared conservation

goals across the entire 4,500-acre Lake Plain landscape. However, despite this work, the ecological integrity of the Lake Plain continues to be threatened by the continued influx of invasive plant species.

The attached resolution would approve a contract with Native Restoration Services, Inc., to effectively and efficiently control and treat a suite of 18 priority invasive plant species across approximately 350 populations within 4,000 acres of high quality coastal natural areas in Kenosha County, Wisconsin and Lake County, Illinois complementing on-going habitat restoration work and expanding the reach of a regional Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) strategy in northeast Illinois and southeast Wisconsin. Working on an hourly basis, the contractor would provide invasive plant management control for two to three years, with the majority of the work occurring during the growing season.

The project was advertised on February 2, 2021 and 6 bids were received. A summary of the bids received is listed below:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>TOTAL BID</u>
Native Restoration Services, Inc., Lake Bluff, IL	\$ 372,640.00
V3 Companies, Ltd., Woodridge, IL	\$ 378,250.00
Red Buffalo Nursery, Richmond, IL	\$ 398,650.00
Cardno, Inc., Brookfield, WI	\$ 433,500.00
Tallgrass Restoration, LLC, Schaumburg, IL	\$ 467,500.00
Integrated Lakes Management, Waukegan, IL	\$ 595,000.00

Staff recommends that Native Restoration Services, Inc. be awarded the contract as the lowest responsible bidder. Work is anticipated to begin mid-May 2021 and be completed by March 1, 2023.

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF LAKE)

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
REGULAR MAY MEETING
MAY 11, 2021**

MISTER PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** presents herewith "A Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Lake Plain Invasive Plant Strike Team Project to Native Restoration Services, Inc." and requests its approval.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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

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

**A RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR
THE LAKE PLAIN INVASIVE PLANT STRIKE TEAM PROJECT
TO NATIVE RESTORATION SERVICES, INC.**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has advertised in The Lake County News Sun for sealed bids for the work necessary to complete the Invasive Plant Strike Team Project along the Chiwaukee Prairie-Illinois Beach Lake Plain (the “Work”); and

WHEREAS, all sealed bids were received and opened by the District at its General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois on February 16, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, bids were received in the following amounts from the following bidders:

	<u>TOTAL BID</u>
Native Restoration Services, Inc., Lake Bluff, IL	\$ 372,640.00
V3 Companies, Ltd., Woodridge, IL	\$ 378,250.00
Red Buffalo Nursery, Richmond, IL	\$ 398,650.00
Cardno, Inc., Brookfield, WI	\$ 433,500.00
Tallgrass Restoration, LLC, Schaumburg, IL	\$ 467,500.00
Integrated Lakes Management, Waukegan, IL	\$ 595,000.00

and;

WHEREAS, the District’s staff, the Purchasing Manager, the Director of Natural Resources, and the Operations Committee have reviewed the bids and recommend that the Board of Commissioners find that Native Restoration Services, Inc. is the lowest responsible bidder and award a contract for the Work to Native Restoration Services, Inc. (the “Contract”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that Native Restoration Services, Inc., is the lowest responsible bidder for the Work;

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 a part of this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2: Award of Contract. The bid submitted by Native Restoration Services, Inc. in the amount of \$372,640.00 (the “Contract Price”) is hereby accepted and a Contract for the Work is hereby awarded to Native Restoration Services, Inc.

Section 3: Execution of Contract. The Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contract for the Work in the amount of the Contract Price.

Section 4: Payments. The Treasurer shall make payments under the Contract only pursuant to and in accordance with the Contract terms.

Section 5: 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 _____, 2021

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2021

Angelo D. Kyle, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____