



DATE: May 24, 2021

MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

Julie Simpson, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: John E. Nelson
Director of Operations and Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for Installation of a Photovoltaic (PV) System at the Edward L. Ryerson Welcome Center to GRNE Solar in the contract amount of \$127,800.00.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability; Communication, Education & Outreach.

FINANCIAL DATA: This expenditure is included in the adopted FY2021 budget in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as Project #61411 – Ryerson Welcome Center Photovoltaic, with a project budget of \$100,000.00, contingent upon grants and donations. The District was awarded a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) for PV for Nature/Welcome Centers potentially worth up to a total of \$76,000.00 (up to \$75,000.00 for construction and up to \$1,000.00 for public interpretative displays). The District has also received a private donation of \$50,000.00 in support of this specific project. The actual system cost of \$127,800.00 and will be charged to account 20104100-803200-61411.

Any project cost that exceeds the value of the grant and donation will be charged to the District's CIP Project #60022 for Facility and Infrastructure Improvements.

The PV system is estimated to reduce utility costs by approximately \$5,000 annually.

BACKGROUND: The Edward L. Ryerson Welcome Center was originally constructed with a south-facing, sloped roof that was intended to accommodate a future solar PV system. A PV system generates electricity from sunlight. In October 2020, the District was awarded a grant from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for PV for Nature/Welcome Centers. That grant, with additional funding through a private donation, enabled the District to move forward to design the system and solicit bids for installation. One bid for the work was received and opened on April 20, 2021 from GRNE Solar, which is a firm that has installed numerous PV systems.

The proposed PV system at the Ryerson Welcome Center is estimated to generate approximately 60,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually, enabling the facility to operate close to or at “net-zero” on an annual basis under normal circumstances.

By being installed at the Welcome Center, the PV system will be highly visible to the numerous visitors to the preserve. Informational displays about the system will be provided for the general public, and Education staff will also be able to incorporate details about the PV system into educational programs that are already presented on the environmentally friendly and efficient building systems incorporated into the LEED-Platinum facility.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Director of Education, Chief Development Officer, Purchasing Manager and Corporate Counsel.

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

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO GRNE SOLAR FOR THE INSTALLATION OF
A PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM AT THE EDWARD L. RYERSON WELCOME CENTER**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has advertised in The Lake County News Sun for sealed bids for the installation of a Photovoltaic System at the Edward L. Ryerson Welcome Center (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 April 20, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, one bid was received from GRNE Solar for \$127,800.00; and

WHEREAS, the District’s staff; the Purchasing Manager; the Director of Operations and Infrastructure; and the Operations and Finance Committees have reviewed the bid and recommend that the Board of Commissioners find GRNE Solar to be the lowest responsible bidder for the Work; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds GRNE Solar 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 GRNE Solar in the amount of \$127,800.00 (the “Contract Price”) is hereby accepted and a Contract for the Work is hereby awarded to GRNE Solar.

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. _____