



DATE: January 31, 2022

MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

FROM: Mike Tully
Chief Operations Officer

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for the District-Wide Invasive Plant Management Program for (i) the Eastern Forest Preserves to Liberty Prairie Restorations in the Contract Price of \$88,650.00 and (ii) Western Forest Preserves to Red Buffalo Nursery in the Contract Price of \$86,187.50.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Conservation

FINANCIAL DATA: Funding for these Projects comes from the approved FY 2022 Farm Management Fund (28644000), as listed in the table below.

| PROJECT | ACTUAL LOW BID AMOUNT | ACCOUNT | ESTIMATE |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| East Invasive Plant Management Crew | \$88,650.00 | 28644000-705100-62806 | \$87,370.00 |
| West Invasive Plant Management Crew | \$86,187.50 | 28644000-705100-62806 | \$87,370.00 |

BACKGROUND: The District-Wide Invasive Plant Management Program includes the removal of invasive plants from District lands to improve and conserve habitat quality. It is the most time-consuming task undertaken by District natural restoration crews, and is a significant challenge to habitat conservation. Management of invasive plants is necessary to improve and conserve habitat quality and species diversity on District properties throughout Lake County. To more efficiently accomplish this work, each year, the District hires contractors on an hourly basis to complete several projects to manage herbaceous invasive plants.

The District advertised for bids for season-long control of invasive plants at (i) its “Eastern Forest Preserves” (Ryerson Conservation Area and Nature Preserve, Grainger Woods, MacArthur Woods, Captain Daniel Wright Woods & Stevenson Home, Greenbelt, Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve, Lake Carina, Pine Dunes, Oriole Grove, Lyons Woods, Old School, Fort Sheridan, Prairie Wolf Slough, Independence Grove, Almond Marsh, Van Patten Woods, and Waukegan Savanna) and (ii) its “Western Forest Preserves” (Lakewood, Rollins Savanna, Gander Mountain, Ray Lake, Raven Glen, Nippersink, Singing Hills, Heron Creek, Kettle Grove, Cuba Marsh, Grassy Lake, Tanager Kames, and Bluebird Meadow) (collectively, the “Projects”).

A solicitation for bids for the Projects was advertised on December 3, 2021 and bids were received from three bidders. Work is anticipated to begin April 1, 2022 and to be completed by October 25, 2022. A summary of the bids received is listed below, with each low bid highlighted:

| VENDOR | EASTERN PRESERVES | WESTERN PRESERVES |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tallgrass Restoration | \$110,320.00 | \$110,320.00 |
| Red Buffalo Nursery | No Bid | \$86,187.50 |
| Liberty Prairie Restorations | \$88,650.00 | No Bid |

Staff recommends that Red Buffalo Nursery and Liberty Prairie Restoration each be awarded a contract as the lowest responsible bidder for the Projects for which it was the low bidder.

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

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

**A RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACTS FOR
THE DISTRICT-WIDE INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AT
VARIOUS FOREST PRESERVES**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has advertised in The Lake County News Sun for sealed bids for its District-Wide Invasive Plant Management Program at Various Forest Preserves (the “Work”) pursuant to the bidding documents for such work (the “Bid Documents”); and

WHEREAS, all sealed bids were received and opened by the District at its General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois on December 22, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. local time and such bids are summarized on Exhibit A; 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 finds (a) Liberty Prairie Restorations, LLC with its bid of \$88,650.00 (the “Liberty Prairie Restorations Eastern Forest Preserves Bid), to be the lowest responsible bidder for the Work identified in the Bid Documents as “East Invasive Plant Management Crew” (the “Eastern Forest Preserves Work”); and (b) Red Buffalo Nursery with its bid of \$86,187.50 (the “Red Buffalo Nursery Western Forest Preserves Bid”), to be the lowest responsible bidder for the Work identified in the Bid Documents as “West Invasive Plant Management Crew” (the “Western Forest Preserves Work”) (the Liberty Prairie Restorations Eastern Forest Preserves Bid and the Red Buffalo Nursery Western Forest Preserves Bid are, collectively, the “Low Bids”) and awards contracts for (i) the Western Forest Preserves Work to Red Buffalo Nursery and (ii) the Eastern Forest Preserves Work to Liberty Prairie Restorations LLC (the “Contracts”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that Red Buffalo Nursery and Liberty Prairie Restorations, LLC (collectively, the “Low Bidders”) are the lowest responsible bidders for the Western Forest Preserve Work and the Eastern Forest Preserve Work, respectively;

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: Acceptance of Bids. The Low Bids in the amounts highlighted on Exhibit A are hereby accepted and a Contract for the Work is hereby awarded to each Low Bidder in the amount of the Low Bidder’s Low Bid (for each Low Bidder, a “Contract Price”).

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

Section 4: Payments. The Treasurer shall make payments under the Contracts only pursuant to and in accordance with the Contracts’ 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 _____, 2022

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2022

Angelo D. Kyle, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____

EXHIBIT A

| | | | Tallgrass Restoration LLC | | Liberty Prairie Restorations LLC | | Red Buffalo Nursery | |
|---------------------|----------|-------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Projects | | | Unit Price | Extension Price | Unit Price | Extension Price | Unit Price | Extension Price |
| Location | Quantity | UOM | | | | | | |
| East Invasive Plant | 1,970 | Hours | \$56.00 | \$110,320.00 | \$45.00 | \$88,650.00 | | \$0.00 |
| West Invasive Plant | 1,970 | Hours | \$56.00 | \$110,320.00 | | \$0.00 | \$43.75 | \$86,187.50 |