



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

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DATE: March 2, 2015

MEMO TO: Carol Calabresa, Chair
Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee

Bonnie Thomson Carter, Chair
Planning and Restoration Committee

S. Michael Rummel, Chair
Finance and Administrative Committee

FROM: James L. Anderson, Director
Natural Resource Department

Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

SUBJECT: Restoration and Enhancement of Lake Michigan Coastal Habitats at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution approving a Project Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the restoration of Lake Michigan coastal habitats at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve through the Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Project.

BACKGROUND: Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) is a program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for implementing projects that, as authorized under Section 506 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, are planned and designed to restore ecosystems across the large landscape of the Great Lakes watershed. A wide range of projects are being planned and implemented under this program, including restoration of coastal wetland and aquatic habitat on public lands, parks, and preserves, dam removals to re-establish free flowing rivers, fish passages over existing structures, and restoration of coastal habitat including dunes, bluffs, ravines and shoreline habitat within the Great Lakes watershed.

The proposed project at Fort Sheridan currently involves three partners, including the District, City of Lake Forest, and Openlands. The portion of the project on District property includes the restoration and enhancement of Janes and Hutchinson Ravines and the lake bluff, and the placement of in-lake structures for the enhancement of dune habitat and fish habitat. Other restoration efforts include the repair of ravine and bluff erosion areas, planting of native local ecotype plants, shrubs and trees, enhancement of the ravine bottoms, removal of old piers and concrete rubble, control of invasive species and the placement of a detention facility to decrease flows into Hutchinson Ravine.

The GLFER program is a financial and technical assistance program whereby the District, partners, and the USACE agree to a project concept that is developed, engineered, and implemented by the USACE with review and oversight by the District and the partners. It is not a grant program. To participate in the GLFER program, the District must enter into a Project Partnership Agreement with USACE and provide the required match funding (currently estimated to be \$2,614,887.31) at the time the agreement is signed with the USACE this spring and before the end of Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

On February 3, 2014 the Land Preservation and Acquisition, Planning and Restoration, and Finance Administration Committees authorized the District to investigate the GLFER program and the requirements of the Project Partnership Agreement.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: Committee recommendation and Board approval are required in accordance with District policy.

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

FINANCIAL DATA: The GLFER program will provide the District with 65% of total project costs, which are estimated at \$7,470,000.00. The District's cost share will be 35%, or \$2,615,000.00. Because the District's lands at Fort Sheridan were transferred from the federal government, no credit for the value of the District's lands is allowable for this project. This project was approved as part of the FY2014/15 CIP budget (35634100-803200-60406) at \$2,600,000.00. The additional \$15,000.00 will be added to the FY2015\16 CIP budget.

PRESENTER: James L. Anderson

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
 COUNTY OF LAKE)

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
 REGULAR MARCH MEETING
 March 10, 2015**

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Your **LAND PRESERVATION AND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE, PLANNING AND RESTORATION COMMITTEE, and FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE** present herewith "A Resolution approving a Project Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the restoration of Lake Michigan coastal habitats at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve through the Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Project," and request its adoption.

LAND PRESERVATION AND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE

YEA NAY

PLANNING AND RESTORATION COMMITTEE

YEA NAY

Carol Calabresa
 Carol Calabresa, Chair

Bonnie Thomson Carter
 Bonnie Thomson Carter, Chair

Steve W. Mandel
 Steve W. Mandel, Vice-Chair

Nick Sauer
 Nick Sauer, Vice-Chair

Bonnie Thomson Carter

Carol Calabresa
 Carol Calabresa

Linda Pedersen
 Linda Pedersen

Bill Durkin
 Bill Durkin

Tom Weber
 Tom Weber

Sandra Hart
 Sandra Hart

Jeff Werfel
 Jeff Werfel

Diane Hewitt
 Diane Hewitt

Terry Wilke
 Terry Wilke

Sid Mathias
 Sid Mathias

Craig Taylor
 Craig Taylor

Tom Weber
 Tom Weber

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMITTEE:**

YEA NAY

S. Michael Rummel, Chair

Linda Pedersen, Vice-Chair

Steve Carlson

Bill Durkin

Sandra Hart

Aaron Lawlor

Audrey Nixon

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

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROJECT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR THE RESTORATION OF LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL HABITATS AT FORT SHERIDAN FOREST PRESERVE THROUGH THE GREAT LAKES FISHERY AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the "District") owns property known as Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve that contains ravines, lake bluff, and Lake Michigan shoreline (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee, the Planning and Restoration Committee, and the Finance and Administration Committee have determined that it is in the best interest of the District to restore the Property to improve ecological communities and coastal processes along the coast of Lake Michigan and to improve habitat for coastal species, including plants, birds, and fish (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes Fish and Ecosystem Restoration Program (the "Program") provides funds to protect and improve wildlife fish and ecosystem habitat throughout the Great Lakes watershed, under which Program local partners must provide local match funding of at least 35 percent of project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the District to enter into a Project Partnership Agreement (the "Agreement") with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the completion of the Project through the Program, under which Agreement the District will be required to provide local match funding for the Project of 35 percent of the Project cost, which local share is currently estimated to be \$2,614,887.31;

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. Authorization of the Project Partnership Agreement. The Executive Director and Secretary of the District are hereby authorized to execute and attest to, respectively, the Agreement, in substantially the form attached hereto, on behalf of the District.

Section 3. 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 _____, 2015

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2015

Ann B. Maine, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie A. Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit _____