

DATE: October 31, 2022

MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

FROM: Pati Vitt
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the award of seven farm licenses at Duck Farm, Mill Creek, Pine Dunes, Prairie Stream, Raven Glen and Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserves to the highest qualified bidders.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Conservation; Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: Awarding the licenses will generate \$140,580.57 annually and will be credited to the Farmland Management Fund (28642500-403000). Revenue generated from this land in 2022 was \$130,444.74.

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. The current license agreements for the sites listed below expire on December 31, 2022. Bids for the farm licenses were solicited by advertisement in the Lake County News-Sun and bid packages were available on the District's website. The licenses were advertised for a 4-year term with all terms starting January 1, 2023. Seven potential licensees submitted bids. The highest bidders for the parcels are noted below and staff recommends that the Operations Committee award farm licenses to them as the highest qualified bidders:

SITE	TERM	ACREAGE	HIGHEST BIDDER	PRICE PER ACRE
Duck Farm	4 Years	77.90	Jeff Bohman	\$ 157.25
Mill Creek	4 Years	125.46	Jeff Bohman	\$ 157.25
Pine Dunes	4 Years	57.48	Jeff Bohman	\$ 157.25
Prairie Stream	4 Years	203.99	Crane Grain Farms	\$ 292.00
Prairie Stream – Hay	4 Years	52.32	Steve Olson	\$ 125.00
Raven Glen	4 Years	57.80	Crane Grain Farms	\$ 292.00
Waukegan Savanna	4 Years	183.35	Mike Richards	\$ 92.00

All of the above bidders have farmed District land in the past and staff has had positive experiences with them.

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

MOTION: Motion to approve license agreements for 4-year farming licenses in forms approved by the Executive Director or his designee with (1) Jeff Bohman at Duck Farm, Mill Creek, and Pine Dunes Forest Preserves; (2) Crane Grain Farms at Prairie Stream and Raven Glen Forest Preserves; (3) Steve Olson at Prairie Stream (Hay); and (4) Mike Richards at Waukegan Savanna.

APPROVAL:

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

Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____