



DATE: February 6, 2023
MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee
FROM: Pati Vitt
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for District-Wide Invasive Plant Management at (a) Eastern Preserves to Tallgrass Restoration in the Contract Price of \$113,600.00; and (b) Western Forest Preserves to Red Buffalo Nursery in the Contract Price of \$90,331.20.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Conservation

FINANCIAL DATA: The Projects (defined below) were approved as part of the adopted FY 2023 Budget. The total cost of the Projects was estimated at \$230,000.00. The actual cost of the contracts that would be awarded by the attached Resolution is \$203,931.20. The low bids under \$30,000.00 that do not require Committee recommendation and Board approval will be accepted by staff and total \$25,920.00. The total cost of the Projects is \$229,851.20. Funding for the Projects comes from the Farm Management Fund (28644000-705100-62806).

BACKGROUND: Invasive plant management includes the removal of invasive plants from District lands to improve and conserve habitat quality. It is the most time-consuming task faced 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 (i) teasel at Sun Lake and Buffalo Creek Forest Preserves; (ii) multiple invasive species in Forest Preserves in the eastern part of the County (the “Eastern Preserves”) (Ryerson Conservation Area and Nature Preserve, Cahokia Flatwoods, Grainger Woods, MacArthur Woods, Captain Daniel Wright Woods & Stevenson Home, Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve, Lake Carina, Pine Dunes, Oriole Grove, Lyons Woods, Old School, Prairie Wolf, Independence Grove, Almond Marsh, Van Patten Woods, and Waukegan Savanna); and (iii) multiple invasive species in Forest Preserves in the western part of the County (the “Western Preserves”) (Lakewood, Rollins Savanna, Gander Mountain, Ray Lake, Nippersink, Singing Hills, Heron Creek, Kettle Grove, Cuba Marsh, Grassy Lake, Tanager Kames, and Bluebird Meadow) (collectively, the “Projects”).

The Projects were advertised on December 7, 2022 and bids were received from four (4) bidders. A summary of the lowest bids received and recommended for approval is listed below:

<u>LOWEST BIDDERS – BIDS GREATER THAN \$30,000.00</u>	<u>TOTAL BID</u>
Tallgrass Restoration, LLC	\$ 113,600.00
Red Buffalo Nursery	\$ 90,331.20

LOWEST BIDDERS – BIDS EQUAL TO OR UNDER \$30,000.00

Integrated Lakes Management, Inc.

\$ 25,920.00

Staff recommends that (a) Tallgrass Restoration, LLC be awarded a contract as the lowest responsible bidder for invasive plant management at the Eastern Preserves and (b) Red Buffalo Nursery be awarded a contract as the lowest responsible bidder for invasive plant management at the Western Preserves.

Staff will award a contract to Integrated Lakes Management, Inc., for the project areas for which it was the lowest bidder (Sun Lake Teasel Management and Buffalo Creek Teasel Management).

Work is anticipated to begin April 1, 2023 and to be completed by October 27, 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
RESCHEDULED REGULAR FEBRUARY MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

MISTER PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** presents herewith “A Resolution Awarding Contracts for District-Wide Invasive Plant Management at Various Forest Preserves”, 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 AWARDING CONTRACTS FOR DISTRICT-WIDE INVASIVE
PLANT MANAGEMENT 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 Invasive Plant Management at various Forest Preserves (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 December 21, 2022 at 1:30 p.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 (i) finds that each yellow-highlighted bid listed on Exhibit A (collectively, the “Low Bids”) is the lowest responsible bid for each corresponding Work Location identified in Exhibit A and (ii) awards a contract for the portion of the Work at each of the Work Locations to the bidder who submitted the Low Bid for such Work (collectively the “Bidders”) in the amount of the Bidder’s Low Bid (collectively, the “Contract Prices”), as follows: for (a) the East Invasive Plant Management Work, a contract to Tallgrass Restoration, LLC, in the Contract Price of \$113,600.00 and (b) the West Invasive Plant Management Work, a contract to Red Buffalo Nursery, in the Contract Price of \$90,331.20 (collectively, the “Contracts”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that Tallgrass Restoration, LLC and Red Buffalo Nursery are the lowest responsible bidders for the Work, as set forth in the previous clause;

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 listed on Exhibit A are hereby accepted and a Contract for a portion of the Work is hereby awarded to each Bidder in the amount of the Bidder’s Low Bid.

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 District 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 _____, 2023

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2023

Angelo D. Kyle, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____

EXHIBIT A

Invasive Plant Management 2023 Districtwide Forest Preserves Bid 22052

WORK LOCATION	INTEGRATED LAKES MANAGEMENT	NATIVE RESTORATION SERVICES	RED BUFFALO NURSERY	TALLGRASS RESTORATION
Sun Lake Teasel Management	\$12,960.00	\$13,473.00	No Bid	\$22,680.00
Buffalo Creek Teasel Management	\$12,960.00	\$13,473.00	No Bid	\$22,680.00
East Invasive Plant Management	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	\$113,600.00
West Invasive Plant Management	No Bid	No Bid	\$90,331.20	\$154,980.00