

**DATE:** April 3, 2023

**MEMO TO:** Jessica Vealitzek, Chair  
Operations Committee

**FROM:** Pati Vitt  
Director of Natural Resources

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts to (a) Native Restoration Services, Inc., for invasive plant control at Middlefork Savanna and Fort Sheridan Forest Preserves, in the Contract Price of \$71,128.00; and (b) Tallgrass Restoration, LLC, for (i) invasive plant control at Grant Woods and Cuba Marsh Forest Preserves and (ii) Teasel Control at several Forest Preserves, in the Contract Price of \$150,400.00.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED:** Conservation

**FINANCIAL DATA:** The District’s adopted FY2023 Budget provides funding for the projects identified in the table below (the “Projects”). Funding for the Projects come from the Farm Management Fund (2800), Land Development Fund (2000), Habitat Restoration Fund (60004), and the Illinois Clean Energy (ICE) grant for Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve listed in the table below. The total amount budgeted for these Projects was \$240,000.00, including funds in the amount of \$40,000.00 per year for three years that were budgeted for Teasel Control Only. The table identifies the estimate and the “Actual Low Bid Amount”, for each Project, which is the recommended lowest responsible bid received for the corresponding Project listed in the table. These contracts are bid on a “per hour” basis, which the Natural Resources Department originally budgeted at 4,300 hours at \$48 per hour for an estimated \$206,400.00. Due to inflation in both labor and materials costs, the bids for these items are significantly higher than expected. The bid for Cuba Marsh came in at \$82 per hour, and the bids for Grant Woods and Teasel Control Only both came in at \$84 per hour. In order to bring these contracts to the Board under budget, staff is recommending reducing the maximum number of hours to be worked under these contracts from 4,300 hours to 3,500 hours. The low bids for the adjusted hours total \$221,528.00.

PROJECT	ACTUAL LOW BID AMOUNT	ESTIMATED BID AMOUNT	ACCOUNT
Cuba Marsh	\$32,800.00	\$33,600	28644000-705100-62803
Middlefork Savanna	\$37,656.00	\$52,800	28644000-705100-62803
Grant Woods	\$58,800.00	\$33,600	20104100-803200-60604
Fort Sheridan	\$33,472.00	\$38,400	11104100-803200-60004
Teasel Control Only	\$58,800.00	\$48,000	27644000-704800

**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.

In order to undertake the critical work of follow-up invasive species control at sites where significant investments have been made in site restoration, the District advertised for bids for season-long control of invasive plants at Cuba Marsh, Middlefork Savanna, Grant Woods, and Fort Sheridan and for control of teasel (an invasive flowering plant) at several other preserves (the “Projects”). A portion of the Grant Woods Invasive Control includes installing wetland plugs in invasive-free areas.

The Projects were advertised on January 20, 2023 and bids were received from four bidders. Work is anticipated to begin in May and to be completed by December 2023. A summary of the bids received is listed below, with each low bid highlighted:

VENDOR	Cuba Marsh	Middlefork Savanna	Grant Woods	Fort Sheridan	Teasel Control Only
Bluestem Ecological Services	\$50,000.00				
Native Restoration Services, Inc.		\$37,656.00		\$33,472.00	
Tallgrass Restoration, LLC	\$32,800.00	\$75,600.00	\$58,800.00	\$67,200.00	\$58,800.00

Staff recommends that the Board finds that the bidders submitting the highlighted bids above are the lowest responsible bidders for the associated Projects and awards contracts to such bidders accordingly.

**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  
REGULAR APRIL MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2023**

**MISTER PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** presents herewith “A Resolution Awarding Contracts for Invasive Plant Control at Multiple 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  
INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL AT MULTIPLE 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 Control at Multiple 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 February 3, 2023 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 (i) finds that each yellow-highlighted bid on Exhibit A (collectively, the “Low Bids”) is the lowest responsible bid for each corresponding “Site” identified in Exhibit A and (ii) awards a contract for the Work at each of the Sites 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) Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve, Grant Woods Forest Preserve, and the Teasel Control Project, a contract to Tallgrass Restoration, LLC in the Contract Price of \$150,400.00; and (b) Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve and Ft. Sheridan Forest Preserve, a contract to Native Restoration Services, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$71,128.00; (collectively, the “Contracts”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that Tallgrass Restoration, LLC and Native Restoration Services, Inc 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 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 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

Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBIT A**

Bid# 23004

Invasive Plant Management - Multiple Preserves

Sites	Qty	Bluestem Ecological		Native Restoration		Tallgrass Restoration	
		Unit Price	Extension Price	Unit Price	Extension Price	Unit Price	Extension Price
Cuba Marsh	400	\$ 125.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 82.00	\$ 32,800.00
Middlefork	900	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 41.84	\$ 37,656.00	\$ 84.00	\$ 75,600.00
Grant Woods	700	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 84.00	\$ 58,800.00
Ft. Sheridan	800	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 41.84	\$ 33,472.00	\$ 84.00	\$ 67,200.00
Teasel Control	700	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 84.00	\$ 58,800.00
			50,000.00		\$ 71,128.00		\$ 293,200.00

<b>\$ 221,528.00</b>	<b>Low bid total</b>
----------------------	----------------------