



**DATE:** April 1, 2024

**Agenda Item #** 9.6

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend Approval of a Resolution Awarding Contracts for Native Seed Purchases for Multiple Preserves to Prairie Moon Nursery in the Contract Price of \$107,059.27 and Shooting Star Native Seeds, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$31,897.15.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED:** Conservation

**FINANCIAL DATA:** The purchase and delivery of native seed for the projects described in the Background section below were approved as part of the adopted FY24 budget. The estimated cost for seed was \$200,000.00. The actual cost for the purchase and delivery of native seed for the various projects under the contracts that would be approved by the attached resolution is \$138,956.42. The bids under \$30,000.00 that do not require Committee recommendation and Board approval total \$60,901.45, and combined with the contracts that would be approved by the attached resolution, total \$199,857.87.

The following accounts and funds will be charged for the various projects:

AMOUNT	FUND OR PROJECT ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NUMBER
\$ 68,081.10	Habitat Restoration	11104100-803200-60004
\$ 6,526.19	Farmland Management – Cover Crop	28644000-705100-62804
\$ 122,257.78	Grant Woods Restoration	20104100-803200-60604
\$ 998.40	Grounds Maintenance	15523800-641100
\$ 1,994.40	ILCE Stewardship Challenge Grant	20104100-803200-60004

**BACKGROUND:** The District will install native seed purchased through the proposed contracts in the fall of 2024 at MacArthur Woods, Oriole Grove, Heron Creek, Van Patten Woods, Greenbelt, and Grant Woods Forest Preserves as part of ongoing ecological restoration efforts. Additionally, a small amount of seed will be purchased to support in-house natural resource management projects and volunteer efforts following various habitat restoration efforts. Seed installation will occur across more than 504 acres.

The project was advertised on January 12, 2024, and bids from seven bidders were received. Materials were bid on a unit price per species. A summary of the lowest bidders and totals of their low bids is listed below:

<b><u>BIDDERS WITH LOW BIDS TOTALING MORE THAN \$30,000</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL LOW BIDS</u></b>
Prairie Moon Nursery	\$ 107,059.27
Shooting Star Native Seeds, Inc	\$ 31,897.15

<b><u>BIDDERS WITH LOW BIDS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO \$30,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL LOW BIDS</u></b>
Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc., dba MNL	\$ 2,880.00
RES Great Lakes	\$ 27,390.24
Millborn Seeds, Inc.	\$ 1,492.50
Genesis Nursery, Inc.	\$ 29,138.71

For this project, staff has already awarded contracts to Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc. dba MNL, RES Great Lakes, Millborn Seeds, Inc., and Genesis Nursery, Inc. For each bidder, the contract price is the total of its low bids and, in each case, the contract price is less than the Purchasing Policy threshold that requires Committee recommendation and Board approval (over \$30,000.00).

Prairie Moon Nursery and Shooting Star Native Seeds, Inc. each submitted total low bids greater than \$30,000.00, thus requiring Committee recommendation and Board approval of the resolution accepting those bids and approving their contracts. Staff recommends that Prairie Moon Nursery and Shooting Star Native Seeds, Inc. each be awarded a contract as the lowest responsible bidder for the species for which it was the low bidder.

Delivery is anticipated to begin after November 1, 2024 and to be completed by December 15, 2024.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Purchasing Manager, Manager of Board Operations, Corporate Counsel.

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT**  
*SPECIAL* ~~REGULAR~~ APRIL MEETING  
APRIL ~~18~~, 2024  
9

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

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** presents herewith "A Resolution Awarding Contracts for Native Seed Purchases for Multiple Preserves" and requests its approval.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Date: 04/01/2024  Roll Call Vote: Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: 0

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

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACTS FOR  
NATIVE SEED PURCHASES FOR MULTIPLE PRESERVES**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the "District") has advertised in The Lake County News Sun for sealed bids to purchase the native seed species identified on Exhibit A for installation at multiple Forest Preserves (the "Products"); and

**WHEREAS**, all sealed bids were received and opened by the District at its General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois, on January 29, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's staff, the Purchasing Manager, the Director of Natural Resources, and the Operations Committee have reviewed the bids identified in Exhibit A and recommend that the Board of Commissioners finds (i) Prairie Moon Nursery to be the lowest responsible bidder with respect to the bids that it submitted that are listed on Exhibit A in the table titled "Vendor: Prairie Moon Nursery" (the "Prairie Moon Bids"), and (ii) Shooting Star Native Seeds, Inc. to be the lowest responsible bidder with respect to the bids that it submitted that are listed on Exhibit A in the table titled "Vendor: Shooting Star Native Seeds, Inc." (the "Shooting Star Bids"), and award contracts for the Products to these bidders consistent therewith; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that Prairie Moon Nursery and Shooting Star Native Seeds, Inc. are the lowest responsible bidders for the Products as stated 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: Award of Contract.** The Prairie Moon Bids in the total amount of \$107,059.27 (the "Prairie Moon Contract Price") are hereby accepted, and a contract in the amount of the Prairie Moon Contract Price is hereby awarded to Prairie Moon Nursery (the "Prairie Moon Contract") for purchase of the associated Products listed on Exhibit A. The Shooting Star Bids in the total amount of \$31,897.15 (the "Shooting Star Contract Price") are hereby accepted, and a contract in the amount of the Shooting Star Contract Price is hereby awarded to Shooting Star Native Seeds, Inc. (the "Shooting Star Contract") for purchase of the associated Products listed on Exhibit A (collectively, the Prairie Moon Contract and Shooting Star Contract are the "Contracts.")

**Section 3: Execution of Contracts.** The Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contracts for the Products in the amounts of the Prairie Moon Contract Price and Shooting Star Contract Price.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

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Angelo D. Kyle, President  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

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Julie Gragnani, Secretary  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

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

**EXHIBIT A**

**Native Seed Purchase 2024  
Bid 24003**

<b>VENDOR: PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY</b>				
<b>SPECIES (GRAMINOIDS)</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>	<b>QUANTITY (PLS LBS)</b>	<b>UNIT PRICE (\$/PLS LB)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Calamagrostis canadensis	BLUE JOINT GRASS	0.83	\$ 1,388.00	\$ 1,152.04
Carex annectens xanthocarpa	SMALL YELLOW FOX SEDGE	12.49	\$ 239.00	\$ 2,985.11
Carex davisii	AWNED GRACEFUL SEDGE	8.57	\$ 844.00	\$ 7,233.08
Carex gravida	LONG-AWNED BRACTED SEDGE	1.56	\$ 740.00	\$ 1,154.40
Carex hirsutella	HAIRY GREEN SEDGE	0.75	\$ 620.00	\$ 465.00
Carex normalis	SPREADING OVAL SEDGE	2.53	\$ 297.00	\$ 751.41
Carex pellita	BROAD-LEAVED WOOLLY SEDGE	1.00	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 1,640.00
Carex stipata	COMMON FOX SEDGE	1.81	\$ 265.00	\$ 479.65
Cinna arundinacea	COMMON WOOD REED	2.00	\$ 629.00	\$ 1,258.00
Danthonia spicata	POVERTY OAT GRASS	2.53	\$ 880.00	\$ 2,226.40
Glyceria striata	FOWL MANNA GRASS	5.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 1,200.00
Glyceria striata	FOWL MANNA GRASS	11.28	\$ 139.00	\$ 1,567.92
Sporobolus heterolepis	PRAIRIE DROPSEED	10.00	\$ 320.00	\$ 3,200.00
	<b>COMMON NAME</b>			
Agastache scrophulariaefolia	PURPLE GIANT HYSSOP	0.50	\$ 298.00	\$ 149.00
Allium cernuum	NODDING WILD ONION	6.00	\$ 274.00	\$ 1,644.00
Anemone canadensis	MEADOW ANEMONE	3.00	\$ 770.00	\$ 2,310.00
Arnoglossum atriplicifolium	PALE INDIAN PLANTAIN	13.00	\$ 148.00	\$ 1,924.00
Asarum canadense	WILD GINGER	1.26	\$ 1,220.00	\$ 1,537.20
Asclepias incarnata	SWAMP MILKWEED	20.00	\$ 118.00	\$ 2,360.00
Baptisia leucantha	WHITE WILD INDIGO	12.00	\$ 158.00	\$ 1,896.00
Camassia scilloides	WILD HYACINTH	4.00	\$ 660.00	\$ 2,640.00
Campanula americana	TALL BELLFLOWER	0.55	\$ 490.00	\$ 269.50
Cirsium discolor	PASTURE THISTLE	2.00	\$ 570.00	\$ 1,140.00
Coreopsis palmata	PRAIRIE COREOPSIS	5.00	\$ 980.00	\$ 4,900.00
Desmodium canadense	SHOWY TICK TREFOIL	14.00	\$ 170.00	\$ 2,380.00
Dryocallis arguta	PRAIRIE CINQUEFOIL	1.00	\$ 73.00	\$ 73.00
Eryngium yuccifolium	RATTLESNAKE MASTER	15.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 1,245.00
Gentiana quinquefolia occidentalis	STIFF GENTIAN	0.25	\$ 1,340.00	\$ 335.00
Hypericum punctatum	SPOTTED ST. JOHN'S WORT	0.15	\$ 840.00	\$ 126.00
Iris virginica shrevei	BLUE FLAG	2.25	\$ 340.00	\$ 765.00
Lobelia spicata	PALE SPIKED LOBELIA	0.15	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 480.00
Lythrum alatum	WINGED LOOSESTRIFE	0.01	\$ 990.00	\$ 9.90
Parthenium integrifolium	WILD QUININE	5.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 1,700.00
Pedicularis canadensis	WOOD BETONY	12.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 13,200.00
Penstemon digitalis	FOXGLOVE BEARD TONGUE	2.50	\$ 70.00	\$ 175.00
Phryma leptostachya	LOPSEED	1.13	\$ 1,580.00	\$ 1,785.40
Physostegia virginiana	OBEDIENT PLANT	3.00	\$ 373.00	\$ 1,119.00
Prenanthes alba	LION'S FOOT	0.32	\$ 530.00	\$ 169.60
Pycnanthemum virginianum	COMMON MOUNTAIN MINT	1.12	\$ 273.00	\$ 305.76
Rudbeckia subtomentosa	SWEET BLACK-EYED SUSAN	5.08	\$ 180.00	\$ 914.40
Rumex orbiculatus	GREAT WATER DOCK	2.00	\$ 274.00	\$ 548.00
Scrophularia marilandica	LATE FIGWORT	3.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 1,575.00
Silene stellata	STARRY CAMPION	1.00	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 1,140.00
Silphium integrifolium	ROSWAY WEED	30.00	\$ 290.00	\$ 8,700.00
Silphium laciniatum	COMPASS PLANT	20.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 2,200.00
Silphium perfoliatum	CUP PLANT	40.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 9,800.00
Silphium terebinthinaceum	PRAIRIE DOCK	20.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 7,200.00
Taenidia integerrima	YELLOW PIMPERNEL	7.00	\$ 519.00	\$ 3,633.00
Verbena hastata	BLUE VERVAIN	1.15	\$ 74.00	\$ 85.10
Verbena urticifolia	HAIRY WHITE VERVAIN	0.31	\$ 140.00	\$ 43.40
Vernonia missurica	MISSOURI IRONWEED	3.00	\$ 423.00	\$ 1,269.00
<b>PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 107,059.27</b>

<b>VENDOR: SHOOTING STAR NATIVE SEEDS, INC.</b>				
<b>SPECIES (GRAMINOIDS)</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>	<b>QUANTITY (PLS LBS)</b>	<b>UNIT PRICE (\$/PLS LB)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Andropogon gerardii	BIG BLUESTEM GRASS	94.48	\$ 6.94	\$ 655.69
Bouteloua curtipendula	SIDE-OATS GRAMA	740.00	\$ 10.90	\$ 8,066.00
Carex brevior	BEBB'S OVAL SEDGE	1.50	\$ 64.00	\$ 96.00
Carex cristatella	CRESTED OVAL SEDGE	5.22	\$ 374.00	\$ 1,952.28
Hystrix patula	BOTTLEBRUSH GRASS	56.54	\$ 54.00	\$ 3,053.16
Panicum virgatum	SWITCH GRASS	369.62	\$ 9.00	\$ 3,326.58
Sorghastrum nutans	INDIAN GRASS	28.00	\$ 6.80	\$ 190.40
	<b>COMMON NAME</b>			
Anemone virginiana	TALL ANEMONE	2.00	\$ 588.00	\$ 1,176.00
Desmodium canadense	SHOWY TICK TREFOIL	6.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 288.00
Dodecatheon meadia	SHOOTING STAR	2.00	\$ 1,988.00	\$ 3,976.00
Liatris spicata	MARSH BLAZING STAR	15.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 1,200.00
Silphium terebinthinaceum	PRAIRIE DOCK	7.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,100.00
Symphotrichum novae-angliae	NEW ENGLAND ASTER	2.80	\$ 262.00	\$ 733.60
Tradescantia ohiensis	COMMON SPIDERWORT	21.00	\$ 218.00	\$ 4,578.00
Zizia aurea	GOLDEN ALEXANDERS	10.53	\$ 48.00	\$ 505.44
<b>SHOOTING STAR NATIVE SEEDS, INC. TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 31,897.15</b>