

DATE: August 4, 2025

MEMO TO: Sara Knizhnik, Chair
Operations Committee

FROM: Pati Vitt
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Approval of a Resolution to amend the current Cooperative Service Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to relocate the office space and other amenities used by USDA personnel from the District's Operations and Public Safety Facility to the District's Wildlife Conservation Facility located at Pine Dunes Forest Preserve.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Leadership; Conservation; Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no financial impact at this time.

BACKGROUND: The District has been managing populations of whitetail deer and other wildlife for 35 years to reduce ecological and other property damage and to ensure public safety. These activities have been conducted with the cooperation of the USDA with Board approval since 2002. Under a Cooperative Service Agreement already in place (Current Agreement), in exchange for financial consideration (approximately \$25,000 per year), USDA acts as the District's contractor assisting District personnel in performing the District's wildlife management programs, including (i) the urban deer management program, (ii) sensitive species recovery efforts, including, for the Blanding's turtle program, helping to reduce nest predation and monitoring individual turtles, and (iii) mitigating the impacts of beaver damage, including flooding of trails, roadways and neighboring properties.

The Current Agreement allows the USDA to office an Assistant District Supervisor (ADS) and other personnel within the Operations and Public Safety facility (Operations Facility) in Lindenhurst, IL. Specifically, the Agreement accommodates (i) a private space for the ADS and other USDA employees who would periodically visit the Operations Facility for employee consultations, evaluations, and onboarding, (ii) space for a desk, printer, and filing cabinet, (iii) internet access, (iv) space to secure a safe for the storage of firearms used by USDA in the course of their duties, (v) outdoor parking for a truck, trailer, and UTV, and (vi) storage space for equipment.

Providing office space in support of the collaborative efforts with the USDA provides benefits to the District, including reduced travel time for USDA (which saves the District money) and other associated expenses relating to ADS conducting District-related wildlife management activities.

Specifically, the reduction of ADS expenditures for transportation from the USDA base of operations at O'Hare Airport allows a greater proportion of District contract and grant (e.g. Great

Lake Research Initiative) funding to be directed to Blanding's turtle recovery. In addition to increased opportunities for collaboration, other benefits include greater capacity for the evaluation and monitoring of wildlife damage management and expediting USDA assistance when emergency assistance is required.

The Natural Resources Department and USDA have determined that it is desirable to amend the Current Agreement to relocate the office space and other amenities from the Operations Facility to the District's wildlife conservation facility, located at Pine Dunes Forest Preserve. The primary benefit for USDA is that the facility at Pine Dunes provides better storage and secure access to the USDA vehicles and other equipment. In addition, the Wi-Fi provides continuous access to the internet at the Pine Dunes facility, while the public Wi-Fi service is intermittent at the Operations facility because of security concerns. The amendment attached to the attached resolution would approve this relocation. Therefore, staff recommends that the Committee and Board approve the proposed amendment to the Current Agreement.

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF LAKE)

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
REGULAR AUGUST MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2025**

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** presents herewith “A Resolution Approving an Amendment to a Cooperative Service Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture,” 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 APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO A COOPERATIVE
SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

WHEREAS, the District has entered into a Cooperative Service Agreement (the "Agreement") with the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services (the "USDA") to provide deer management and removal services and wildlife damage management services (the "Services"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VII, Section 10 of the Illinois Constitution, the District may contract with U.S. government agencies to obtain or share services; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests and serves the purposes of the District to approve an amendment to the Agreement in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Amendment");

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. Approval of Amendment. The Amendment is hereby approved in substantially the form attached hereto. The Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Amndment.

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 _____, 2025

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025

Jessica Vealitzek, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____

AMENDMENT No. 1
To
COOPERATIVE SERVICE AGREEMENT
Between
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT (LCFPD)
And
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS)
WILDLIFE SERVICES (WS)

Under the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 3 and Article 12 of the Cooperative Service Agreement (25-7217-3294-RA as amended) between LCFPD and the APHIS WS program for providing operational assistance in implementing an integrated wildlife damage management program within Lake County, Illinois, the LCFPD and APHIS WS mutually agree amend Article 4 to edit sub-article 10 as reflected below:

- 10. To provide office space for the APHIS WS Assistant District Supervisor at the LCFPD Wildlife Conservation Building (17907 W. Edwards Road, Antioch, IL 60002), while conducting activities in accordance with this Agreement at no cost to APHIS WS or APHIS WS staff.

It is further understood by and between the parties that, in all other respects, the terms, conditions, and provisions of said Cooperative Service Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

BY: _____
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(847) 367-6649 (fax)

Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
WILDLIFE SERVICES

BY: _____
Johnathan Walls, State Director
USDA, APHIS, WS
3430 Constitution Drive; Suite 121
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 241-5726 (office)
(217) 241-6702 (fax)

Date

BY: _____
Keith Wehner, Director
Eastern Region
USDA, APHIS, WS
920 Main Campus Drive; Suite 200
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Date