



DATE: November 3, 2025

MEMO TO: Sara Knizhnik, Chair
Operations Committee

Gina Roberts, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Pati Vitt
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for Deer Processing Services 2025-2029 to Freedom Sausage, LLC.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Conservation

FINANCIAL DATA: Under the proposed contract, deer processing services (“Work”) will begin in the current Fiscal Year and continue each winter season through March 2029. The Work will be provided consistent with the adopted budget for each Fiscal Year during the contract term. The actual cost for Work during contract year one (the 2025/26 winter season) will not exceed \$46,222.80 and will be charged to the Land Development Levy Fund Budget (27644000-701500). The cost for future contract years will vary depending on the size of the deer population from the annual deer surveys.

BACKGROUND: The District's Deer Management Program began in 1989 and is an essential part of achieving the District's mission. As a result of the program, and other natural resource management programs, the overall quality of plant communities at many preserves has improved. The District recognizes that native wildlife resources, including white-tailed deer, contribute significantly to the value of the environment and that deer are an important component on the landscape. However, overabundant white-tailed deer are a significant threat to local biodiversity and ecosystem health in Lake County. Without any natural limiting factors on the deer population in Lake County, the deer management program is vital in maintaining ecosystem balance. Also, to comply with Illinois Nature Preserve Commission requirements applicable to District lands that have been dedicated as State nature preserves, the District is required to conduct deer management within those lands that have been negatively impacted by browsing.

The Board first approved using USDA wildlife biologists to conduct deer removals on District property in 2002. The deer removal portion of the deer management program is conducted annually November through March. The proposed four-year contract will begin on November 17, 2025 and continue through March 31, 2029, with Work typically occurring between November 1 and March 31 of each contract year. The District is mandated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Deer Population Control Permit to donate all processed meat from the removal program to charitable organizations. Typically, between 100 and 450 deer are made available each season. This resolution is required for the District to enter into an agreement to process deer taken from the removal portion of the Deer Management program for distribution to local food pantries.

The Work was advertised for bid on October 9, 2025, and one bid was received, as listed below:

Vendor	Bid Amount - Unit Price per Deer Carcass			
Freedom Sausage, LLC	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
	\$88.89	\$88.89	\$90.00	\$90.00

Staff recommends that Freedom Sausage, LLC be awarded the contract as the lowest responsible bidder. Work is anticipated to begin November 17, 2025, and be completed by March 31, 2029.

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
REGULAR NOVEMBER MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2025**

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** and **FINANCE COMMITTEE** present herewith “A Resolution Awarding a Contract for Deer Processing Services 2025-2029 to Freedom Sausage, LLC” and requests its approval.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes: ____ Nays: _____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes: ____ Nays: _____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____

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

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR
DEER PROCESSING SERVICES 2025-2029 TO FREEDOM SAUSAGE, LLC**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has advertised in The Lake County News Sun for sealed bids for deer processing services to be performed between November 17, 2025 and March 31, 2029 (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 October 22, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, one bid was received in the following amount from the following bidder:

Vendor	Bid Amount - Unit Price per Deer Carcass			
Freedom Sausage, LLC	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
	\$88.89	\$88.89	\$90.00	\$90.00

and;

WHEREAS, the District’s staff, the Purchasing Manager, the Director of Natural Resources, the Operations Committee and the Finance Committee have reviewed the bid and recommend that the Board of Commissioners finds Freedom Sausage, LLC is the lowest responsible bidder and awards a contract for the Work to Freedom Sausage, LLC (the Contract”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that Freedom Sausage, LLC is the lowest responsible bidder for the Work;

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 bid submitted by Freedom Sausage, LLC in the amount of the unit prices set forth above, (the “Contract Price”) is hereby accepted, and a Contract for the Work is hereby awarded to Freedom Sausage, LLC.

Section 3: Execution of Contract. The Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contract for the Work in the amount of the Contract Price.

Section 4: Payments. The Treasurer shall make payments under the Contract only pursuant to and in accordance with the Contract 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 _____, 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. _____