

DATE: March 6, 2025

MEMO TO: Sara Knizhnik, Chair
Operations Committee

FROM: Pati Vitt
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Approval of a Resolution Awarding Contracts for Native Seed Purchases at Multiple Preserves to Genesis Nursery, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$62,229.43 and Prairie Moon Nursery in the Contract Price of \$48,594.93.

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 FY25 budget. The estimated cost for seed was \$252,161.72. The actual cost for the purchase and delivery of native seed under the contracts approved by the attached resolution (the “Bid Contracts”) is \$110,824.36. The low bids under \$30,000.00 that do not require Committee recommendation and Board approval total \$109,151.79. As discussed below, staff has awarded separate contracts accepting those low bids (the “Non-Bid Contracts”). The total cost of the Bid Contracts and the Non-Bid Contracts (collectively, the “Contracts”) is \$219,976.15.

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

AMOUNT	FUND OR PROJECT ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NUMBER
\$ 138,600.18	Habitat Restoration	11104100-803200-60004
\$ 10,000.00	Farmland Management – Cover Crop	28644000-705100-62804
\$ 38,005.13	SMC Wetland Restoration	69644100-803200-65106
\$ 998.00	Grounds Maintenance	15523800-641100
\$ 5,540.00	Kettle Grove Restoration	20104100-803200-61504
\$ 26,832.85	Ray Lake Trail Connection	11104100-803200-62001

BACKGROUND: The District will install native seed, purchased through the Contracts, in the fall of 2025 at MacArthur Woods, Grainger Woods, Kettle Grove, Ray Lake, and Greenbelt 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 376 acres.

The project was advertised on December 19, 2024, and bids from nine (9) 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:

<u>BIDDERS WITH LOW BIDS TOTALING MORE THAN \$30,000</u>	<u>TOTAL LOW BIDS</u>
Genesis Nursery, Inc.	\$ 62,229.43
Prairie Moon Nursery	\$ 48,594.93
<u>BIDDERS WITH LOW BIDS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO \$30,000.00</u>	<u>TOTAL LOW BIDS</u>
RES Great Lakes	\$ 29,902.25
Spence Restoration Nursery	\$ 26,475.36
Shooting Star Native Seeds, Inc.	\$ 25,060.78
Stantec Native Plant Nursery	\$ 14,374.40
Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc., dba MNL	\$ 7,256.25
Millborn Seeds Inc.	\$ 6,082.75

For this project, staff has already awarded contracts to RES Great Lakes, Spence Restoration Nursery, Shooting Star Native Seeds, Inc, Stantec Native Plant Nursery, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc, and Millborn Seeds, 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).

Genesis Nursery Inc. and Prairie Moon Nursery 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 the Bid Contracts. Staff recommends that Genesis Nursery Inc. and Prairie Moon Nursery 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, 2025 and to be completed by December 13, 2025.

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 MARCH MEETING
MARCH 12, 2025**

MADAM 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: _____ ☐ Roll Call Vote: Ayes: ____ Nays: ____
☐ Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: ____

**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 8, 2025 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 Exhibits A-1 and A-2 and recommend that the Board of Commissioners finds (i) Genesis Nursery, Inc. to be the lowest responsible bidder with respect to the bids that it submitted that are listed on Exhibit A-1 (the “Genesis Bids”); (ii) Prairie Moon Nursery to be the lowest responsible bidder with respect to the bids that it submitted that are listed on Exhibit A-2 (the “Prairie Moon Bids”); and (iii) award contracts for the Products to Genesis Nursery, Inc. and Prairie Moon Nursery consistent therewith; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that Genesis Nursery, Inc. and Prairie Moon Nursery are the lowest responsible bidders for the Products 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: Award of Contracts. The Genesis Bids in the total amount of \$62,229.43 (the “Genesis Contract Price”) are hereby accepted, and a contract in the amount of the Genesis Contract Price is hereby awarded to Genesis Nursery, Inc. (the “Genesis Contract”) for the purchase of the associated Products listed on Exhibit A-1. The Prairie Moon Bids in the total amount of \$48,594.93 (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 the purchase of the associated Products listed on Exhibit A-2 (collectively, the Genesis Contract and the Prairie Moon Contract are the “Contracts”).

Section 3: Execution of Contracts. The Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contracts in the amounts of the Genesis Contract Price and the Prairie Moon Contract Price, respectively.

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 _____, 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. _____

EXHIBIT A - 1

GENESIS NURSERY, INC.				
Species (Graminoids)	Common Name	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Bouteloua curtipendula	SIDE-OATS GRAMA	1057.32	\$ 20.00	\$ 21,146.40
Bromus kalmii	PRAIRIE BROME	97.91	\$ 165.00	\$ 16,155.15
Carex molesta	FIELD OVAL SEDGE	9.61	\$ 165.00	\$ 1,585.65
Elymus canadensis	CANADA WILD RYE	729.01	\$ 8.00	\$ 5,832.08
Elymus villosus	SILKY WILD RYE	5.8	\$ 65.00	\$ 377.00
Elymus virginicus	VIRGINIA WILD RYE	597.99	\$ 5.00	\$ 2,989.95
Asclepias incarnata	SWAMP MILKWEED	2.5	\$ 100.00	\$ 250.00
Campanulastrum americanum	TALL BELLFLOWER	0.51	\$ 425.00	\$ 216.75
Chamaecrista fasciculata	COMMON PARTRIDGE PEA	44	\$ 10.00	\$ 440.00
Desmodium canadense	SHOWY TICK TREFOIL	19.23	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,153.80
Desmodium illinoense	ILLINOIS TICK TREFOIL	3	\$ 72.00	\$ 216.00
Echinacea pallida	PURPLE CONEFLOWER	12.19	\$ 85.00	\$ 1,036.15
Helenium autumnale	SNEEZEWEED	2.84	\$ 75.00	\$ 213.00
Heliopsis helianthoides	FALSE SUNFLOWER	48.19	\$ 20.00	\$ 963.80
Liatris pycnostachya	PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR	5	\$ 280.00	\$ 1,400.00
Monarda fistulosa	WILD BERGAMOT	12.57	\$ 80.00	\$ 1,005.60
Oligoneuron rigidum	STIFF GOLDENROD	13.13	\$ 75.00	\$ 984.75
Osmorhiza claytonii	HAIRY SWEET CICELY	6.76	\$ 350.00	\$ 2,366.00
Pycnanthemum virginianum	COMMON MOUNTAIN MINT	10.34	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,102.00
Rudbeckia hirta	BLACK-EYED SUSAN	4.35	\$ 15.00	\$ 65.25
Rudbeckia triloba	BROWN-EYED SUSAN	7.19	\$ 40.00	\$ 287.60
Verbena hastata	BLUE VERVAIN	2.9	\$ 75.00	\$ 217.50
Verbena stricta	HOARY VERVAIN	2.5	\$ 90.00	\$ 225.00
				\$ 62,229.43

PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY				
Species (Graminoids)	Common Name	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	BLUE JOINT GRASS	3.02	\$ 744.00	\$ 2,246.88
<i>Carex annectens</i>	LARGE YELLOW FOX SEDGE	1.36	\$ 198.00	\$ 269.28
<i>Carex bebbii</i>	BEBB'S OVAL SEDGE	0.60	\$ 300.00	\$ 180.00
<i>Carex crus-corvi</i>	CROW FOOT FOX SEDGE	0.63	\$ 185.00	\$ 116.55
<i>Carex gravida</i>	LONG-AWNED BRACTED SEDGE	1.25	\$ 590.00	\$ 737.50
<i>Carex hirsutella</i>	HAIRY GREEN SEDGE	1.25	\$ 590.00	\$ 737.50
<i>Carex lupulina</i>	COMMON HOP SEDGE	8.57	\$ 188.00	\$ 1,611.16
<i>Carex normalis</i>	SPREADING OVAL SEDGE	2.85	\$ 174.00	\$ 495.90
<i>Carex scoparia</i>	LANCE-FRUITED OVAL SEDGE	1.48	\$ 320.00	\$ 473.60
<i>Carex stipata</i>	COMMON FOX SEDGE	3.46	\$ 287.00	\$ 993.02
<i>Carex tribuloides</i>	AWL-FRUITED OVAL SEDGE	1.04	\$ 98.00	\$ 101.92
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	NEEDLE SPIKE RUSH	0.91	\$ 129.00	\$ 117.39
<i>Eleocharis obtusa</i>	BLUNT SPIKE RUSH	0.60	\$ 181.00	\$ 108.60
<i>Juncus torreyi</i>	TORREY'S RUSH	0.17	\$ 290.00	\$ 49.30
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	RICE CUT GRASS	0.09	\$ 150.00	\$ 13.50
<i>Scirpus pendulus</i>	RED BULRUSH	0.25	\$ 117.00	\$ 29.25
<i>Agastache scrophulariaefolia</i>	PURPLE GIANT HYSSOP	0.25	\$ 240.00	\$ 60.00
<i>Allium canadense</i>	WILD ONION	9.72	\$ 130.00	\$ 1,263.60
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	TURTLEHEAD	0.63	\$ 880.00	\$ 554.40
<i>Cryptotaenia canadensis</i>	HONEWORT	6.28	\$ 490.00	\$ 3,077.20
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	COMMON BONESET	5.19	\$ 550.00	\$ 2,854.50
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	FLOWERING SPURGE	1.25	\$ 1,220.00	\$ 1,525.00
<i>Gaura biennis</i>	BIENNIAL GAURA	10.50	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,150.00
<i>Helianthus pauciflorus</i>	PRAIRIE SUNFLOWER	3.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 1,320.00
<i>Iris virginica shrevei</i>	BLUE FLAG	4.19	\$ 520.00	\$ 2,178.80
<i>Lobelia inflata</i>	INDIAN TOBACCO	0.22	\$ 1,620.00	\$ 356.40
<i>Lythrum alatum</i>	WINGED LOOSESTRIFE	0.13	\$ 340.00	\$ 44.20
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	MONKEY FLOWER	0.13	\$ 190.00	\$ 24.70
<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i>	WOOD BETONY	3.00	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 3,780.00
<i>Pedicularis lanceolata</i>	FEN BETONY	11.77	\$ 520.00	\$ 6,120.40
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	FOXGLOVE BEARD TONGUE	8.42	\$ 78.00	\$ 656.76
<i>Phlox pilosa fulgida</i>	PRAIRIE PHLOX	0.13	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 494.00
<i>Phryma leptostachya</i>	LOPSEED	1.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
<i>Prenanthes alba</i>	LION'S FOOT	1.55	\$ 888.00	\$ 1,376.40
<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	GERMANDER	1.25	\$ 480.00	\$ 600.00
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	PURPLE MEADOW RUE	6.75	\$ 220.00	\$ 1,485.00
<i>Triosteum aurantiacum</i>	EARLY HORSE GENTIAN	6.04	\$ 724.00	\$ 4,372.96
<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>	HAIRY WHITE VERVAIN	0.38	\$ 142.00	\$ 53.96
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	CULVER'S ROOT	4.89	\$ 770.00	\$ 3,765.30
				\$ 48,594.93