



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 a Contract for the Lake Plain Invasive Plant Strike Team Project 2025 along the Chiwaukee Prairie-Illinois Beach Lake Plain to Native Restoration Services, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$145,636.48.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Conservation; Leadership

FINANCIAL DATA: Continued management of the Chiwaukee Prairie-Illinois Beach Lake Plain is being funded by grants received from (i) the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Energy Transition Community Grant Program (\$79,489.10), and (ii) the Fund for Lake Michigan (\$70,000). This project was approved as part of the adopted FY 2025 Budget in the amount of \$149,489.10. The actual cost of \$145,636.48 will be charged to the Natural Resources Grant fund, accounts 6964100-803200-68200 (\$75,636.48) and 69644000-709000-68006 (\$70,000.00).

BACKGROUND: The Chiwaukee Prairie-Illinois Beach Lake Plain, situated along the Lake Michigan coast in Northeast Illinois and Southeast Wisconsin, contains high-quality coastal dune and swale habitat across over 4,500 protected acres. These ecologically significant natural areas are protected and managed through the cooperation of multiple land stewardships agencies and groups.

The attached resolution would approve a contract with Native Restoration Services, Inc. to effectively and efficiently control a suite of 18 priority invasive plant species across approximately 350 populations within over 4,000 acres of high-quality, coastal natural areas within the Chiwaukee Prairie-Illinois Beach Lake Plain owned by multiple agencies and entities. This contract would complement on-going habitat restoration work and expand the reach of a regional Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) strategy at Spring Bluff Forest Preserve and adjacent natural areas. Working on an hourly basis, the contractor would provide invasive plant management control for approximately one year, with the majority of the work occurring during the growing season.

The project was advertised on January 17, 2025 and two bids were received. A summary of the bids received is listed below:

VENDOR

Native Restoration Services, Inc.

Pizzo and Associates, Ltd.

TOTAL BID

\$ 145,636.48

\$ 403,589.78

Staff recommends that Native Restoration Services, Inc. be awarded the contract as the lowest responsible bidder. Work is anticipated to begin on April 15, 2025 and to be completed by March 31, 2026.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Manager of Board Operations, and 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 a Contract for the Lake Plain Invasive Plant Strike Team Project 2025 to Native Restoration Services, Inc.,” 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 A CONTRACT FOR THE
LAKE PLAIN INVASIVE PLANT STRIKE TEAM PROJECT 2025
TO NATIVE RESTORATIONS SERVICES, INC.**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has advertised in The Lake County News Sun for sealed bids for the work necessary to complete Lake Plain Invasive Plant Strike Team Project 2025 along the Chiwaukee Prairie-Illinois Beach Lake Plain (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, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, bids were received in the following amounts from the following bidders:

	<u>TOTAL BID</u>
Native Restoration Services, Inc.	\$145,636.48
Pizzo & Associates, Ltd.	\$403,589.78

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 finds that Native Restoration Services, Inc. is the lowest responsible bidder and awards a contract for the Work to Native Restoration Services, Inc. (the “Contract”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that Native Restoration Services, Inc. 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 Native Restoration Services, Inc. in the amount of \$145,636.48 (the “Contract Price”) is hereby accepted, and a Contract for the Work is hereby awarded to Native Restoration Services, Inc.

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. _____