



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Date: October 2, 2017  
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. Chairman, County Board of Supervisors  
From: John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director, Milwaukee County Parks  
Subject: **Agricultural Lease Agreements (ACTION)**

**POLICY**

Authorization for Milwaukee County Parks (Parks) to enter Agricultural Lease Agreements (Agreements) with individual farmers and community-based organizations.

**BACKGROUND**

Parks manages 881 acres of agricultural land for growing and harvesting agricultural row-crops, vegetable crops and hay. The agricultural lands held by Parks are located within designated primary environmental corridors as defined by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). A primary environmental corridor is defined as “concentrations of significant natural resources at least 400 acres in area, at least two miles in length, and at least 200 feet in width.” Most of these sites are located along the Oak Creek, Ryan Creek, and Root River and are prone to high water tables or seasonal flooding. In addition, keeping these lands in production deters invasive plant species from overtaking the land.

Parks leases this land to both individual farmers and non-profit community-based organizations. Each lessee is responsible for working with Parks on the development of a Conservation Plan specific to their parcel(s) to reduce soil loss, achieve water quality goals and protect the natural resource base. Parks’ Natural Areas section in combination with Parks’ Contract Manager manages all agricultural leases for the department.

This leasing of agriculture land aligns with the Parks 2015-2020 Strategic Plan in support of preserving and protecting our natural resources and parklands in a healthy condition and strengthening partnerships to optimize and broaden programs and services.

The term of each lease is selected based on factors such as the conservation method, the crop rotation cycle, and the likelihood that the parcel may cease to be available for



farming. Rent payments vary due to the size of the parcel and were developed based on United States Department of Agriculture and State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection fair market value rates for southeastern Wisconsin.

The following leases are under consideration beginning January 1, 2018:

<u>Lessee</u>	<u>Annual Rent</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Lease Term</u>
Joseph Holterman	\$2,835.00	37.8	3 Years
Kevin Holterman	\$630.00	8.4	2 Years
Will Allen	\$1,720.00	17.2	1 Year
Robert Petzold	\$2,739.50	33.9	1 Year
Vincent Schmit	\$1,530.00	17.0	1 Year

### RECOMMENDATION

Authorize Parks to execute Agricultural Lease Agreements with Joseph Holterman, Kevin Holterman, Will Allen, Robert Petzold, and Vincent Schmit.

Prepared by: Megan Haeger, MSL, Contract and Project Manager

### **Approved by:**



John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director

### Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Fiscal Note
- Attachment 2 – Resolution
- Attachment 3 – Joseph Holterman Ag Lease
- Attachment 4 – Kevin Holterman Ag Lease
- Attachment 5 – Will Allen Ag Lease
- Attachment 6 – Robert Petzold Ag Lease
- Attachment 7 – Vincent Schmit Ag Lease

### Copy:

- Chris Abele, County Executive
- Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Jason Haas, Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee
- Marcelia Nicholson, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
- James Luigi Schmitt, Supervisor District 6
- Steve Taylor, Supervisor District 9
- Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS