



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

Date: October 3, 2016  
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors  
From: John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture (DPRC)  
Subject: **Agricultural Lease Agreements – ACTION**

**POLICY**

Authorization to enter into Agricultural Lease Agreements (Agreements) with individual farmers and community-based organizations in accordance with the Agricultural Land Lease Policy as adopted by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on September 29, 1994, and revised January 2010.

**BACKGROUND**

The DPRC manages 881 acres of agricultural land for the purpose of growing and harvesting agricultural row-crops, vegetable crops and hay. The agricultural lands held by DPRC are located within designated primary environmental corridors as defined by 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." The majority 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.

The DRPC leases this land to both individual farmers and non-profit community-based organizations. Each lessee is responsible for working with the DPRC 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. The DPRC's Natural Areas section manages all agricultural leases for the department.

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:

<u>Lessee</u>	<u>Annual Rent</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Lease Term</u>
James Crayton	\$11,114.00	149.8	3 Years
James Lange	\$655.00	8.6	3 Years
Growing Power	\$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**

DPRC recommends authority to execute the Agricultural Lease Agreements with James Crayton, James Lange, Growing Power, Robert Petzold, and Vincent Schmit.

Prepared by: Megan Haeger, MSEL, Contracts and Projects Manager

**Approved by:**



John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director

**Attachments:**

- 2010 Agricultural Land Lease Policy
- 2017 Lease: James Crayton
- 2017 Lease: Growing Power
- 2017 Lease: James Lange
- 2017 Lease: Robert Petzold
- 2017 Lease: Vincent Schmit

Copy: County Executive Chris Abele

Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors

Jason Haas, Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

Marcelia Nicholson, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS

Scott Manske, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller

Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research and Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller

Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk

Brian Russart, Natural Areas Coordinator, DPRC