



December Board Cycle

Milwaukee County Parks

9480 Watertown Plank Rd.

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

(414) 257-PARK

Date: November 12, 2019
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: **Agricultural Lease Agreements - ACTION**

Issue

The Executive Director of Parks is requesting authorizing to enter into Agricultural Lease Agreements with individual farmers for the benefit of Milwaukee County land.

Background

Milwaukee County Parks manages 760 acres of agricultural land for the purpose of growing and harvesting agricultural row-crops, vegetable crops, and hay. The agricultural lands held by the county 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." 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.

Milwaukee County Parks leases this land to both individual farmers and non-profit community-based organizations. Each lessee is responsible for working with Milwaukee County 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. Milwaukee County Parks' 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. Leases are subject to Milwaukee



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County's Agricultural Land Lease Policy as adopted by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on September 29, 1994, revised January 2010, and updated in December 2019.

The following leases are under consideration:

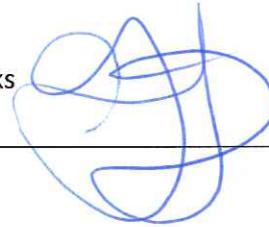
<u>Lessee</u>	<u>Annual Rent</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Lease Term</u>
Jerome Schaefer	\$2,010	15.7	5 Years
James Lange	\$497	4.4	3 Years
James Crayton	\$19,214	162.4	3 Years
Shorty Acres, LLC	\$1,768	14.9	5 Years

Recommendation

Authorize Milwaukee County Parks to execute Agricultural Lease Agreements with Jerome Schaefer, James Lange, James Crayton, and Shorty Acres, LLC.

Prepared By: Erica Hayden, Contracts Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director



Attachments

- Resolution
- Fiscal Note
- Crayton, James Ag Lease
- Lange, James Ag Lease
- Schaefer, Jerome Ag Lease
- Shorty Acres, LLC Ag Lease



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Copy

- Chris Abele, County Executive
- Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Jason Haas, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 14
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Marcelia Nicholson, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 5
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 8
- James Luigi Schmitt, Supervisor District 6
- Patti Logsdon, Supervisor District 9
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS



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