

The Executive Director of Parks is requesting authorizing to enter into Agricultural Lease Agreements with individual farmers for the benefit of Milwaukee County land, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) manages 725 acres of agricultural land for the purpose of growing and harvesting agricultural row-crops, vegetable crops, and hay; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural lands held by DPRC are located within designated primary environmental corridors, as defined by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, keeping these agricultural lands in production deters invasive plant species from overtaking the land; and

WHEREAS, each lessee is responsible for working with DPRC on the development of a conservation plan, specific to their parcels, to reduce soil loss, achieve water quality goals, and protect the natural resource base; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, all agricultural lands are subject to Milwaukee 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the following Agricultural Lease Agreements are under consideration:

<b>Lessee</b>	<b>Annual Rent</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Lease Term</b>
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

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WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of December 10, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-888 (vote 3-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) to execute Agricultural Lease Agreements, in accordance with Milwaukee County’s Agricultural Land Lease Policy, with the following individuals:

<b>Lessee</b>	<b>Annual Rent</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Lease Term</b>
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

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DPRC is authorized to prepare, execute, record all documents, and take all actions necessary, as required to execute and implement the 2020 Agricultural Lease Program.

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