



January Board Cycle

Milwaukee County Parks
9480 Watertown Plank Rd.
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(414) 257-PARK

Date: December 30, 2020
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: **Amended and Restated Agricultural Lease Agreement (ACTION)**

Issue

Authorizing Milwaukee County Parks to enter into an Amended and Restated Agricultural Lease Agreement with James Crayton for the benefit of Milwaukee County land.

Background

Milwaukee County Parks manages 708 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." 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.

Milwaukee County Parks leases this land to both 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



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

Mr. Crayton's current lease was approved by the County Board in the December 2019 cycle under File No. 19-888. During the 2020 planting season, Mr. Crayton discussed planting options for field 73 and eventually asked to have the field removed from his lease. Mr. Crayton also asked approval to plant marsh hay in field 62, which was approved by the Natural Areas Manager based on the appropriateness of the field for marsh hay. Due to these changes in the leased fields an amended and restated lease is necessary.

The following amended and restated lease is under consideration:

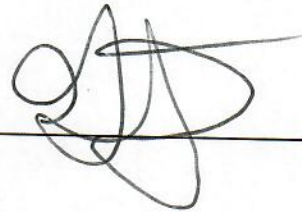
<u>Lessee</u>	<u>Annual Rent</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Lease Term</u>
James Crayton	\$17,797.10	154.4	3 years

Recommendation

Authorize Milwaukee County Parks to execute the Amended and Restated Agricultural Lease Agreement with James Crayton.

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

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks



Attachments

- Resolution
- Fiscal Note
- Amended and Restated Lease Agreement - Crayton

Copy

- David Crowley, County Executive
- Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 8
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12
- Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
- Julie Landry, Director, Department of Administrative Services



- Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
- Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
- Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
- Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Lindsey Peterson, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB

