



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2025

TO: Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee

FROM: Patrick Chess, Director of Natural Resources
Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of a Bid for Wetland Plug Planting at Hoscheit Woods Forest Preserve

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of a bid for wetland plug planting at Hoscheit Woods Forest Preserve.

BACKGROUND:

Native plants are the basis of all native ecosystems, and therefore are the basis of our work in the Natural Resource Management department. Our native insects coevolved with these plants, and cannot survive on imported plants. In turn, all of our fauna that prey upon our native insects cannot do so if those insects are not present due, to non-native or low-diversity plants occupying the space of our native plants.

The District typically conducts large scale restoration efforts through the heavy use of native seed planting. Seed can be broadcast during the dormant season and cover most types of terrain. One notable exception to this is with wetland communities. Areas that experience constant or seasonal flooding present a difficult challenge to the use of seed in restoration, as the seed is often washed away before reaching the soil or germinating. To combat this issue, wetlands are frequently restored through the planting of native plugs.

In 2022, the District restored 77 acres of tallgrass prairie at Hoscheit Woods Forest Preserve. Within that area is a 1.6 acre prairie pothole. As a seasonally wet pocket, this pothole is inundated in the spring but dries throughout the summer. Now that the prairie is well established surrounding this wetland, the District is seeking to complete the vegetative restoration of this pothole by planting wetland plugs appropriate for the changing hydrologic conditions present on site.

Bids were sought for a base project of 7,500 plugs, spread across 53 species, to be planted, watered and guaranteed for a full year of survival of 80% of the plugs planted within the 1.6 acre pothole at Hoscheit Woods. An option was also presented to plant an additional 2,500 plugs within that same area.

The bid was publicly advertised with eight (8) vendors responding. The lowest qualified bid for the base bid was received from McGinty Brothers, Inc. of Long Grove, Illinois in the amount of \$28,907.50. The bid for the option from McGinty Brothers, Inc. was \$10,235.00 for a combined total cost of \$39,142.50.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$140,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 24/25 in the General Fund Native Seed and Plants Account (#01-31-31-6035). Sufficient funds totaling \$55,369.42 are available in this account for the total expense of this project at \$39,142.50.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the bid from McGinty Brothers, Inc. of Long Grove, Illinois for the base project plus the option at a total expense of \$39,142.50.

ATTACHMENTS: *County Locator Map*
 Hoscheit Woods F.P. Project Area Map
 Bid Abstract