



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 27, 2024

TO: Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee

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

VIA: David Petschke, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of Bids for Control of Common Reed at Various Preserves

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of bids for the control of Common Reed at portions of five Kane County forest preserves.

BACKGROUND:

The non-native, invasive plant Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) is a tall (up to 15') perennial grass that infests many District wetlands. It produces some viable seed on the highly visible plumes it produces in late summer, but primarily propagates through lateral shoots called rhizomes. This vigorously growing plant quickly forms monotypic stands of itself, at the exclusion of native fauna. Its dense growth habit minimizes its utility to native wetland fauna; ducks cannot swim through mature stands, and its stalks fail to support the nests of native wetland songbirds.

Contractors were sought to bid on summer/fall 2024 control projects of multiple, separate infestations of Common Reed, across five different preserves.

The qualified, lowest bidder for each option is as follows:

Project	Preserve Name	Acres	Bid Amount	Bidder Name	Address
Project 1	Freeman Kame F.P.	39.9	\$10,794	RES Great Lakes	Chicago, IL
Project 2	Braeburn Marsh F.P.	35.1	\$8,032	Integrated Lakes Management	Waukegan, IL
Project 3	Great Western Trail, Campton Hills	2.1	\$3,756	Integrated Lakes Management	Waukegan, IL
Project 4	Great Western Trail, Elburn	33.6	\$9,934	Integrated Lakes Management	Waukegan, IL
Project 5	Binnie F.P.	51.7	\$14,908	Integrated Lakes Management	Waukegan, IL

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$140,000 were budgeted in this fiscal year for weed management. Sufficient funds totaling \$140,000 are available in Natural Resources Weed Management Account 01-31-31-7064 for all five projects totaling \$47,424.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the Common Reed-control bids by Integrated Lakes Management of Waukegan, Illinois for projects 2, 3, 4, and 5 at a total cost of \$36,630. Additionally, staff recommends the Committee approve the Common Reed-control bid by RES Great Lakes of Chicago, Illinois for project 1 at a cost of \$10,794.

The total project cost for all projects is \$47,424.

ATTACHMENTS: *Abstract of Bid*
 Project Area Maps
 Project Locator Map