



# AGENDA MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** May 30, 2024

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee

**FROM:** Patrick Chess, Director of Natural Resources  
Ben Haberthur, Executive Director

**VIA:** David Petschke, Chief Financial Officer

**SUBJECT:** Presentation and Approval of Bid for the Installation of Two Water Control Structures at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve

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## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of a bid for the installation of two water control structures at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Burlington Prairie FP is a 950 acre complex of tallgrass prairie mixed with various wetlands, including a sedge meadow/wet prairie complex comprising an Illinois State Nature Preserve. This large complex of community types currently supports populations of a variety of wildlife including state endangered reptiles and rare grassland birds like bobolinks. While some of these species are supported by the small remnant wetland present on site, the majority of the biodiversity present is located in the large restored prairies. Almost the entirety of the site was farmed historically and the process of restoration is ongoing. To enable farming, settlers installed drain tiles throughout the preserve. These buried tile lines collected sub-surface water and intentionally drained small wetlands. These tiles are still present today, where they continue to drain areas that would otherwise be wetlands.

The District has partnered with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to evaluate two of these drained wetlands and develop a plan to restore the original hydrology. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff have surveyed two wetlands and engineered plans that would create a combined 23 acres of surface water through the installation of new tile lines in concert with in-line water control structures. Construction on one of those potholes was completed in 2023 for \$32,690.

Bids were sought presently to restore the hydrology of the second pothole. Two in-line water control structures are required to rehydrate the area and will result in the creation of approximately 8 acres of surface water within a restored prairie.

The District advertised and sent bids to 23 vendors, with 1 responding. The lowest qualified bid was received from Hartstrand Water Solutions, LLC., of Rock Falls, Illinois in the amount of \$14,410. Staff recommends a contingency of \$2,500 to cover any unforeseen additional costs that may arise during this project.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Funds totaling \$80,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023/24 for the Burlington Prairie FP Pothole Creation project. Following construction of the first wetland, \$47,310 remain available in Account #03-31-31-7060 Project #21002, which is sufficient to cover the expense of \$16,910 (\$14,410 bid plus \$2,500 contingency).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Committee approve the bid for the installation of two water control structures at Burlington Prairie FP provided by Hartstrand Water Solutions, LLC., of Rock Falls, Illinois for a total not to exceed \$16,910.

**ATTACHMENTS:**    *Bid Abstract*  
                          *County Locator Map*  
                          *Project Area Map*