



# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

100 East Erie Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 18-0392, **Version:** 1

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### **TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2018**

#### **COMMITTEE ON MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS**

Mr. David St. Pierre, Executive Director

Authority to issue specific leases to tenant farmers under the farm management program administrated by the District's consultant, Heartland Bank and Trust Company, for land parcels of various acreages located at the Prairie Plan Operations in Fulton County, Illinois, for a one year period, pursuant to 17-RFP-31, Farm Management Support Services. Consideration shall be a sum total initial annual rent for all leases of \$669,677.38

Dear Sir:

The District owns property in Fulton County, Illinois, known as the Prairie Plan Site. This property consists of approximately 5,200 acres of agricultural land on which the District previously applied biosolids originating from District water reclamation plants in the greater Chicago area.

On February 15, 2018, the Board of Commissioners authorized the Director of Procurement and Materials Management to issue a purchase order and enter into an agreement for Contract 17-RFP-31, Farm Management Support Services, to Heartland Bank & Trust Company ("Heartland"), for farm management support services for the District's farmland in Fulton County, Illinois for a 3-year period. The purpose of the farm management services is to effectively manage and maximize the agricultural income of the District's farmland in Fulton County, Illinois. The agreement will expire on December 31, 2020, but can be extended by two, one-year terms to December 31, 2022.

The District leasing statute does not require competitive bidding for any lease involving land located in a County, like Fulton County, with a population of 100,000 or less and which is leased solely for agricultural use. Accordingly, Heartland surveyed and negotiated with interested area farmers to lease various available parcels for crop acreage, and secured individuals who expressed a willingness to rent the outstanding parcels. The agricultural use, acreages, lease rates and total rent for each group of parcels are provided in the attachment to this letter.

It is requested that the Executive Director recommend to the Board of Commissioners that it authorize and approve the issuance of specific leases to the above cited tenant farmers under the farm management program administrated by the District's consultant, Heartland Bank and Trust Company, for land parcels of various acreages located at the Prairie Plan Operations in Fulton County, Illinois, for a one year period, pursuant to 17-RFP-31, Farm Management Support Services. Consideration shall be a sum total initial annual rent for all leases of \$669,677.38.

It is further requested that the Executive Director recommend to the Board of Commissioners that it authorize the Chairman of the Committee on Finance and the Clerk of the District to execute the lease agreements after same is approved by the General Counsel as to form and legality.

Requested, John P. Murray, Director of Maintenance and Operations, JPM:BAP/SOC/MAG

Respectfully Submitted, Frank Avila, Chairman Committee on Maintenance and Operations  
Disposition of this agenda item will be documented in the official Regular Board Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for April 19, 2018

Attachment