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Room B311 – City Administration Building
10 E. Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
Telephone 610-865-7090 | 610-865-2009
www.bethlehemauthority.org

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Date: August 12, 2021

To: Bethlehem Authority Board

From: Stephen Repasch
John Tallarico

Subject: Consulting Forester

As a result of our current consulting forester, Woodland Management Services (WMS) phasing out his company, the Authority requested proposals for a replacement forester and received four written proposals from the following firms:

Highland Forest Management
Ridge and Valley Forest Management
Forecon
Schultz Forest Management.

A summary of the proposals is attached to this memorandum.

Following our review of the proposals it was decided to conduct interviews with the first three listed firms above. The interviews were conducted on July 21 at our Wild Creek Office.

Following the interviews and further review of the proposals, we believe that any of the three interviewed firms could do the job for the Authority. We met on August 10 to integrate our respective thoughts of each firm and which one would best serve the Authority's interests. It was agreed that we would recommend to the full Board the appointment

of Highland Forest Management (HFM) as our Forestry Consultant and at the same time retain the services of WMS in an advisory role to assist HFM during a transition period, especially for the carbon aspects of the Authority's forest management activity.

HFM is owned by Mr. Rankin Smith and is a one person consulting firm. He offers the lowest rates of the proposers which would allow us to retain WMS for some as yet undefined time period. Mr. Smith has worked with and for WMS on several projects on Authority property over the last year and is a very hard worker and knowledgeable forester as described by Robin Wildermuth and also witnessed by myself and Eric Yeakel. We believe that with some additional mentoring by Robin, Mr. Smith will provide the Authority with the necessary tools and knowledge to serve us well into the future.

SUMMARY OF FORESTER PROPOSALS 2021

FIRM	LEAD FORESTER	LOCATION	SERVICE FEES				ADDITIONAL FEES
			FIELD WORK	ADMIN. WORK	TRAVEL TIME	MILEAGE FEE	
Highland Forest Management	Rankin Smith	Boyetown, PA	\$35-\$40/Hr.	\$30/Hr.	\$25/Hr.	Current IRS Rate	N/A
Ridge and Valley Forest Management	Dylan Borger	Newtown, NJ	\$55/Hr.	\$95/Hr.	\$55/Hr.	Current IRS Rate	\$750 for harvest plans + \$95/Acre
Forecon	Jason Wenrich	Bellefonte, PA	\$55-\$75/Hr.	\$42/Hr.	\$35/Hr.	Current IRS Rate	\$70-\$90/Hr. for Mapping/GIS
Schultz Forest Management	Jacob Schultz	Bethel, PA	\$55-\$75/Hr.	\$55-\$60/Hr.	\$45/Hr.	Current IRS Rate	N/A
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS							
Highland Forest Management -	Owner/Forester : Has worked for Robin over the past year with harvest marking and tree planting. Limited experience in carbon projects.						
Ridge and Valley Forest Management -	Four person firm. Firm partner, Dylan Borger has worked for Robin in past with tree marking on BA projects. Limited experience in carbon projects.						
Forecon	Large multi-disciplined firm (40 employees) serving much of the eastern U.S. Active in carbon projects and markets.						
Schultz Forest Management	Three person firm. Provided herbicide work for BA several years ago. No or limited experience in carbon projects.						