Resolution No. 2017-23

PROVIDE ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AND COST-SHARING FOR FARMERS AND OTHER LAND USERS

TO THE DOOR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, The County Soil and Water Conservation Department is the necessary local delivery mechanism for a wide range of natural resource management programs including non-point pollution control, reclamation of non-metallic mines, invasive species control, beach health improvement, lakes protection; and

WHEREAS, Protection of the County’s 300 miles of shoreline, diverse natural resources, and highly sensitive groundwater that provides drinking water for residents is a County priority; and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation:
   • supports the concept of credit trading and adaptive management between municipalities and the agriculture community to reduce phosphorus discharge
   • urges the state to stop the spread of invasive species into Wisconsin
   • supports adequate funding to local units of government to implement the nonpoint program, provided that local regulations do not exceed state standards

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection acknowledges the counties’ statutory role in coordinating and implementing farm conservation standards at the local level, and supports efforts to ensure that adequate resources are available for counties to do their job; and

WHEREAS, State grants for County Land Conservation staff have decreased since the program began, and,

WHEREAS, The Governor’s budget has not requested maintenance of the annual average staff funding of $9.3 million that were included in the pre-recession budgets from 2001 to 2011, thus reducing the funding to $8 million annually in the 2017-18 budget; and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) 2017 statewide policy recognizes the value of the work County Land Conservation Departments provide to farmers and Wisconsin citizens by supporting adequate resources to implement maintaining this base level of funding; and

WHEREAS, The inability to adequately fund local, voluntarily accepted farm conservation practices has led to environmental problems and increasing citizen suits and court decisions against farmers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Door County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 28th day of March, 2017, does hereby urge the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and all elected representatives in the Wisconsin State Legislature to return to the $9.3 million appropriation for state aid to counties, recognizing the invaluable service that county conservation employees provide in helping Wisconsin farmers grow our state’s agriculture while preserving the state’s land and water resources for future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the County Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, to legislators representing Door County constituents, and to the Wisconsin Counties Association

SUBMITTED BY: LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Susan Kohout, Chairman
Helen Bacon
Roy Englebert

Certification:

I, Jill M. Lux, Clerk of Door County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 28th day of March, 2017 by the Door County Board of Supervisors.