



RESOLUTION NO. 53-04-2017

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

TO THE HONORABLE KEWAUNEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1 **WHEREAS**, the County Land Conservation Department is the necessary local delivery
2 mechanism for a wide range of natural resource management programs including non-point
3 pollution control, reclamation of non-metallic mines, invasive species control, woodland
4 management, lakes protection; and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation:

- 7 • supports the concept of credit trading and adaptive management between municipalities
8 and the agriculture community to reduce phosphorus discharge
- 9 • urges the state to stop the spread of invasive species into Wisconsin
- 10 • supports adequate funding to local units of government to implement the nonpoint
11 program, provided that local regulations do not exceed state standards
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection acknowledges
14 the counties' statutory role in coordinating and implementing farm conservation standards at the
15 local level, and supports efforts to ensure that adequate resources are available for counties to
16 do their job; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, state grants for County Land Conservation staff have decreased since the program
19 began; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the Governor's budget has not requested maintenance of the annual average staff
22 funding of \$9.3 million that were included in the pre-recession budgets from 2001 to 2011, thus
23 reducing the funding to \$8 million annually in the 2017-19 budget; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) 2017 statewide policy recognizes the
26 value of the work County Land Conservation Departments provide to farmers and Wisconsin
27 citizens by supporting adequate resources to implement maintaining this base level of funding;
28 and
29

30 **WHEREAS**, the inability to adequately fund local, voluntarily accepted farm conservation
31 practices has led to environmental problems and increasing citizen suits and court decisions
32 against farmers.
33


1 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Kewaunee County Board of Supervisors duly
 2 assembled this 18th day of April 2017, that the Board urges the Governor of the State of
 3 Wisconsin and all elected representatives in the Wisconsin State Legislature to return to the
 4 \$9.3 million appropriation for state aid to counties, recognizing the invaluable service that county
 5 conservation employees provide in helping Wisconsin farmers grow our state's agriculture while
 6 preserving the state's land and water resources for future generations.

7
 8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Clerk forward a copy of this Resolution to the Wisconsin
 9 Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Gov. Scott Walker, Sen. Frank
 10 Lasee, and Rep. Joel Kitchens and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Respectfully Submitted,

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE


 John T. Pagel, Chair


 Charles Wagner, Vice Chair


 Lee Luft, Secretary


 Ron Paider

 Clark Reimer

APPROVED AS TO FORM
 Jeffrey R. Wisnicky
 Corporation Counsel

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

	Y E S	N O	A B S E N T	A B S T A I N
Benes, P	✓			
Cravillion, D.	✓			
Dobbins, M.	✓			
Doell, D.	✓			
Haske, V.	✓			
Jahnke, S.			✓	
Kirchman, L.	✓			
Luft, L.	✓			
Mastalir, J.	✓			
Paape, G.	✓			
Pagel, J.	✓			
Paider, R.	✓			
Rasmussen, C.	✓			
Romdenne, T.	✓			
Shillin, K.	✓			
Sinkula, L.	✓			
Teske, L.	✓			
Thomas, D.	✓			
Wagner, C.	✓			
Weidner, R.	✓			
TOTALS	19	-	1	-