



Resolution

No. 2020-47

Enacting a Two-Year Moratorium on the New Construction or Expansion of Existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and the Establishment of a Large-Scale Livestock Study Committee

Whereas, clean water is essential to the health and wellbeing of all Wisconsin residents, their families and visitors, and

Whereas, clean water is the foundation of a healthy economy and tourism, and

Whereas, The State of Wisconsin abides by the Public Trust Doctrine which asserts that all navigable waters in the state shall be held in the public trust, and

Whereas, the number of Concentrated Livestock Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in Wisconsin has increased dramatically between 2005 and 2020, and the number of CAFOs has more than doubled - from 146 to 318); and

Whereas, Wisconsin has diverse geologic features from central sands and karst, to red clay, which are all prone to water and air contamination causing decreased property values from the siting of CAFOs with dense animal populations [over 1000 animal units] and great volumes of waste products, and

Whereas, per state statute 93.90(2)(a) which requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to appoint a Technical Committee to review ATCP 51 and make recommendations at least every four years; and convened in 2010, 2014 and 2016 but made no changes to ATCP 51, and

Whereas, 25 percent of all CAFOs in Wisconsin are operating under expired WPDES [Wisconsin Pollutant elimination systems] general and/or individual permits and the DNR is charged with administering the WPDES permitting process but has according to the State of Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau in 2016 not administered this program consistent with the Clean Water Act and Chapter 283 Wis. State Statute, and

Whereas, the state of Wisconsin is losing traditional smaller farms, including small dairy farms at an alarming rate which is not sustainable for our rural communities, rural character and economies and seriously impacts the health of our farm families, and

Whereas, the siting and operation of industrial agricultural entities may contribute large volumes of fertilizer, manure, phosphorous, nitrates and bacteria to both surface and ground water that degrades the water resources even when practicing Best Management Practices, and degrades human health, property values and local revenues through the externalization of the actual costs of the siting, infrastructure investment and operation of CAFOs.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 26th day of May 2020 recommends that the Wisconsin Counties Association urge the State Legislature to enact a two year Statewide Moratorium on the permitting of new construction of and expansion of existing Industrial Agricultural entities known as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations of 1000 animal units or more, and

Be it further resolved, that during this two-year moratorium a Large-Scale Livestock Study group be authorized and established composed of scientists, farm groups of all sizes, DATCP and the DNR and members of citizen groups living near CAFOs. The study committee shall research and analyze all scientific data regarding the impacts of Large Scale Livestock operations on air quality, ground and surface water quality, human health and local economies, and who shall also analyze staffing at DATCP and the DNR to determine if it is adequate to promptly and thoroughly process expired WPDES permits and keep up with renewals in a timely manner and,

Be it further resolved, that the Large-Scale Livestock Study Committee shall report their findings to the Legislature and Governor within a year of their establishment but before the two-year Moratorium timeline has expired.

By Action of the
Bayfield County Board of Supervisors

Dennis M. Pocerlich, *Chair*

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF BAYFIELD)

I, Scott S. Fibert, *Bayfield County Clerk*, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Volume 27, adopted by the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on the 26th of May 2020.

Scott S. Fibert, *Bayfield County Clerk*