



Resolution

No. 2020-52

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE BILLS TO IMPROVE WISCONSIN'S GROUND AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY

WHEREAS, all life is dependent on clean water, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's residents and visitors require and deserve access to clean water, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's economy is dependent on water, and

WHEREAS, clean water is required to maintain and grow Wisconsin's economy,

WHEREAS, County Conservation Departments are charged with implementing statewide performance standards, including ATP 50 and NR 151, runoff reduction efforts like Total Maximum Daily Loads, farmland preservation programs, producer-led watershed and citizen watershed groups, stormwater permits and much more, and

WHEREAS, County Conservation Departments are being asked to implement an ever-increasing set of programs without increased funding and with less staff, and

WHEREAS, County Conservation Departments have 40% fewer state-funded staff than there were 20 years ago, and

WHEREAS, at almost every public hearing held by the 2019 Speakers Task Force on Water Quality found overwhelming support to fully fund county conservation staff, and

WHEREAS, proposal LRB-4717 provides assistance to Farmers for Conservation by allocating \$64,800 in GPR in FY 2019-20 and \$86,400 in FY 2020-21, to fund a managed grazing initiatives coordinator, and grants for agricultural water stewardship certifications, and \$5 / Acre for cover crops, and

WHEREAS, proposal LRB-4761; Groundwater Testing, Mapping, and Educational Outreach creates a hydrogeologist position and creates a grant program to support well testing and educational outreach across Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, AB-637/SB-252 Appropriates \$150,000 in GPR for Ashland County to implement a Flood Risk Pilot Project for on-the-ground flood mitigation demonstration practices,

WHEREAS, the Speakers Task Force on Water Quality recommended that the State fully fund its cost-share commitment for County Conservation staff, and

WHEREAS, Bills AB790 and SB723 in the 2019-2020 Legislative session provided for increased funding for County Conservation staff to meet Wisconsin Statutes 92.14 to support an average of three staff per county at cost share rates of 100/70/50%. This proposal increases state funding for county land and water conservation staff by \$2,960,000 in FY 2020-21,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 26th Day of May 2020, supports these proposed bills directed to improve Wisconsin's surface and ground water quality in Bayfield County, Wisconsin, and state-wide.

By Action of the:
Bayfield County Board of Supervisors

Dennis M. Pocernich, *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 day of May 2020.

Scott S. Fibert, *Bayfield County Clerk*