

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

RE: IN SUPPORT OF GROUNDWATER PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, good quality groundwater in sufficient quantity is a basic resource that all citizens and businesses in the State of Wisconsin and Portage County rely upon; and

WHEREAS, the citizens and businesses of our great State and County expect state government to monitor and protect the groundwater in our state in such a way that we may all prosper; and

WHEREAS, implications to the citizens and businesses of the State from not having comprehensive groundwater programming and management in place will be detrimental; and

WHEREAS, there exists limited protection and permitting measures that are based on scientific research and prospective modeling on a statewide basis; and

WHEREAS, there exists limited funding sources to plan and implement statewide groundwater programming to protect groundwater resources to ensure sufficient quantity and quality of the groundwater resource that provides protection to those citizens, businesses, and municipalities that rely upon that resource; and

WHEREAS, the potential for groundwater withdrawals continue to grow statewide, becoming an ever increasing threat to groundwater quantity, and there are few additional resources available to study and attempt to mitigate this threat; and

WHEREAS, Portage County concurs with the Wisconsin Counties Association on two legislative priorities as stated below:

1. Enact comprehensive groundwater quantity legislation that balances the need to protect groundwater from contamination and overuse while respecting the needs of the agricultural economy.
2. Ensure that counties have input with the DNR in establishing groundwater quantity criteria that are appropriate in each County and reflect decisions made at the local level; and

WHEREAS, Portage County has a Groundwater Management Plan that recognizes these needs and supports these ideas.

FISCAL NOTE: There are no fiscal obligations for the county associated with this resolution

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portage County Board of Supervisors respectfully encourages the State legislature to support the utilization of scientific research that leads to sound groundwater management plans for all areas of the State, but especially those areas that are currently experiencing quantity and quality issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portage County Board of Supervisors respectfully encourages the State legislature to prioritize establishment of a committee to develop a groundwater management plan in the uncontained aquifer known as the "Central Sands" that considers the adverse impacts and potential benefits to all users of groundwater resources, including municipalities, industry, and agriculture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Portage County Board of Supervisors supports making available additional resources to plan and implement statewide groundwater programming that will lead to better understanding, protection, and utilization of our groundwater resources, as well as protect the citizens businesses, and natural features that rely on clean groundwater in sufficient quantity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be directed to the attention of the State legislators, the Governor, and the directors of the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

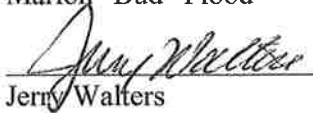
DATED THIS 19TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2017.

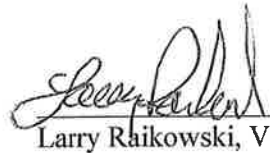
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

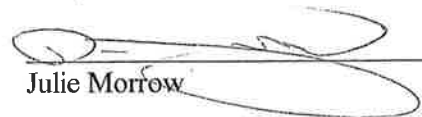
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE


Barry Jacowski, Chair

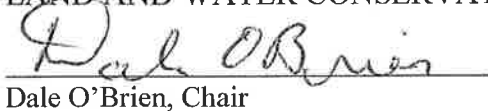

Marion "Bud" Flood


Jerry Walters


Larry Raikowski, Vice Chair

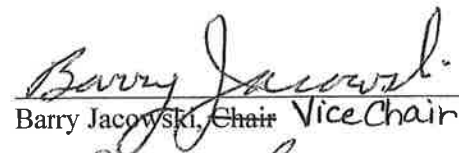

Julie Morrow

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Julie Morrow, Secretary


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