

**RESOLUTION NO. 06-04-17**  
**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO**  
**SUPPORT COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION STAFF AND COST-SHARING FOR**  
**FARMERS AND OTHER LAND USERS**

**WHEREAS**, county land conservation departments around the state are the local delivery mechanism for a wide range of natural resource management programs including nonpoint pollution control, reclamation of non-metallic mines, invasive species control, woodland management, and lakes protection; 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 in Wisconsin; and supports adequate funding to local units of government to implement the nonpoint program, provided that local regulations do not exceed state standards; and

**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 was included in the pre-recession budgets from 2001 to 2011, thus reducing the funding to \$8 million annually in the 2017-19 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 Waushara County Board of Supervisors 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 land conservation employees provide in helping Wisconsin farmers grow our state's agriculture, and preserving natural landscapes through citizen-led best management practices, while preserving the state's land and water resources for future generations.

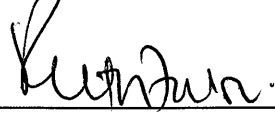
**Resolution No. 06-04-17**

Ayes \_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_  Voice Vote

Approved and adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.

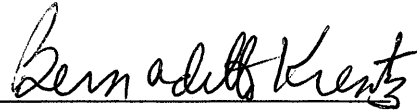
Denied this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.

Approved as to Form:



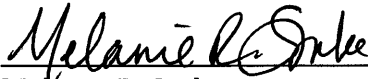
Ruth Zouski  
Corporation Counsel

Submitted by:



Bernadette Krentz, Chair  
Land, Water and Education Committee

Attest:



Melanie R. Stake  
Waushara County Clerk

Signed by:



Donna R. Kalata, Chair  
Waushara County Board of Supervisors

cc: Wisconsin Legislature Joint Committee on Finance  
Senator Patrick Testin  
Senator Luther Olsen  
Representative Scott Krug  
Representative Kevin Petersen  
Wisconsin Land and Water Association  
Wisconsin Farm Bureau  
Wisconsin Counties Association