

RESOLUTION # 17 - 16

TO: The Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

RE: Resolution Opposing the UW-Extension Reorganization Plan

WHEREAS, the process used to develop the UW-Extension Reorganization Plan was flawed, providing inadequate opportunity for meaningful input and consideration of County concerns; and

WHEREAS, the plan, as proposed, jeopardizes the partnership between UW-System and Wisconsin Counties, a partnership built on communication, collaboration and engagement; and

WHEREAS, the current Cooperative Extension system has a proven track record of success for more than 100 years as a single County based model for governance, locally set levy contribution and County determined educational programming priorities under the oversight of a County Extension Education Committee designated by the elected County Board; and

WHEREAS, the reorganization plan imposes a drastic change on rural county extension programs, shifts a greater portion of Extension resources to urban areas, reduces educator positions in rural counties, and adds a new layer of administrative overhead not accountable to county boards; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Counties are unlikely to continue the current level of county tax levy support in future years if direct educational services are significantly decreased, thereby making the proposed reorganization plan reckless and financially unsustainable.

WHEREAS, Oconto County is not willing to continue providing local tax levy funding at the current level if direct county educator services are decreased as described in the plan while eliminating accountability to the County Extension Education Committee and County Board.

WHEREAS, Oconto County welcomes the opportunity to be engaged in a meaningful process of developing a more workable reorganization plan.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Oconto County Board of Supervisors hereby opposes the UW-Cooperative-Extension-reorganization-plan-approved-by-Chancellor-Sandeen-on-February-10, 2016, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to all 72 Wisconsin County Boards; the Wisconsin Counties Association; Governor Walker; University President Ray Cross and the Board of Regents; and the legislators of Oconto County.

Submitted this 24th day of March, 2016

BY: UW-Extension Education Committee

Guy Gooding, Chairperson
Bill Grady
Buzz Kamke
Karl Ballestad
Chris Augustine

STATE OF WISCONSIN } I, Kim Pytleski
County Oconto } do hereby certify
that the above is a true and correct copy of the
original now on file in the office of the County Clerk and
that it was adopted by the Oconto County Board of
Supervisors on this date.
Date: 3/24/16 Kim Pytleski
(Seal) County Clerk

Reviewed by Corporation Counsel:

Adopted by Vote:

Ayes: 28 Nays: 1 Absent: 2

Initials of Date
Corp. Counsel Reviewed