

Juneau County Board of Supervisors

Courthouse, 220 East State Street
Mauston, Wisconsin 53948



RESOLUTION No. 20 – 14

DATE: March 17, 2020

INTRODUCED BY: Land & Water Conservation Committee

SYNOPSIS: Supporting Senate Bill 723, Regarding Increased Funding For Local Conservation Efforts

WHEREAS, the County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) is the local delivery mechanism for a wide range of Wisconsin's natural resource management programs including non-point pollution control, farmland preservation, reclamation of non-metallic mines, invasive species control, woodland management, lakes protection, and more; and

WHEREAS, LWCD professionals work as trusted, technical advisors to support producer-led watershed groups, assist waterfront property owners, help farmers develop and implement nutrient management plans, and respond to natural disasters like floods, and spend years building the trust to be able to successfully do so; and

WHEREAS, the conservation practices that LWCD professionals help landowners apply to farm fields, forests, and shorelines have numerous water quality benefits, including: preventing soil erosion and promoting soil health, increasing infiltration into groundwater aquifers, protecting drinking water supply, reducing surface runoff and flood severity, and more; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin codifies the counties' role in coordinating and implementing local conservation standards in Wis. Stats Chap. 92, and defines a state-supported staffing goal for every LWCD of an average of three positions at 100, 70, and 50 percent support; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has not ensured baseline support of counties by meeting this funding goal since its inception, and current state-funded LWCD staff number 40% fewer than they did 20 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the return on investment in county LWCDs is high—on top of the valuable, cost-effective services they provide to local communities, they also multiply several times over the impact of state funding by leveraging federal and private grant dollars into more conservation on the land, and more dollars into local economies; and

WHEREAS, supporting county LWCDs was the top priority voiced by Wisconsinites at statewide Water Quality Task Force hearings and elsewhere over the past year by farm, conservation, environmental and local government groups alike, including Wisconsin Counties Association, Dairy Business Association, Wisconsin Corn Growers, Wisconsin Farm Bureau, and Wisconsin Farmers Union; and


WHEREAS, Senate Bill 723 seeks to provide an increase of \$2,960,900 in baseline support to county LWCDs, resulting in more conservation on the landscape, and better protection of water quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Juneau County Board of Supervisors shall and hereby does urge the Wisconsin State Senate to schedule Senate Bill 723 to be heard on the floor of the Senate prior to the closure of the 2019-20 legislative session, and to vote to support the bill, providing necessary state support to counties, recognizing that if we are to improve water quality and achieve clean and safe drinking water and support a viable agricultural industry at the same time, county LWCD professionals are the best and most cost-effective solution we have; and

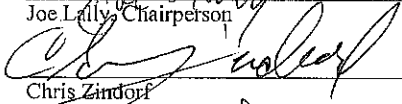
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the resolution be sent to WI Land + Water Conservation Association, all State Legislators, the Governor, DATCP Secretary, DNR Secretary, Wisconsin Counties Association, and Wisconsin Towns Association.

INTRODUCED AND RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION ON MARCH 17, 2020.

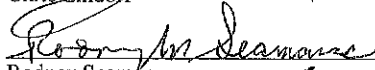
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:



Joe Lilly, Chairperson



Chris Zindorf

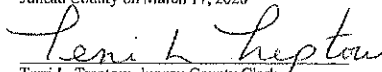


Rodney Seamans



Scott Wilhorn

Adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of
Juneau County on March 17, 2020



Terri L. Treptow, Juneau County Clerk