OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
MAY 24, 2016

RESOLUTION NO. 11—2016-17
Supervisor Patience moved, seconded by Supervisor Thyssen, for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 11—2016-17 IS ADOPTED.

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Item 8  Passed (35 Y - 0 N - 0 A - 1 Absent)  Majority Vote >
RESOLUTION NO.: 11—2016-17

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The process used to develop the UW-Cooperative Extension Multi-County Reorganization plan was flawed and provided little opportunity for meaningful consideration of county concerns. The proposed plan reduces flexibility, decreases local relevance, and removes accountability to local elected officials, partners, and participants. The proposed plan jeopardizes the partnership between the UW-System and Wisconsin counties, a partnership built on communication, collaboration, and engagement.

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 each County Extension Education Committee designated by the elected county board.

The reorganization plan imposes drastic changes to the current UW Extension System. The reduction target allocated by the plan to Cooperative Extension of $1.2 million annually does not justify the complete dismantling of the current County-Based Cooperative Extension system when there are multiple options to address the budget shortfall.

The reorganization plan eliminates 80 local faculty education positions, a reduction of nearly 50% in direct education staff, while adding an unnecessary bureaucratic layer of at least 18 “area-leader-director” positions who will not be accountable to local elected officials, community partners, program priorities, community needs, volunteers, funders or participants. 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 financially unstable.

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Agriculture, Extension Education, Zoning & Land Conservation Committee and the Legislative/Audit & Human Resources Committee recommend adoption of the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors hereby oppose the UW-Cooperative Extension Multi-County Reorganization Plan approved by Chancellor Sandeen, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors calls upon University System President Ray Cross and the UW-Board of Regents to direct the Chancellor of the
Resolution No. 11--2016-17

1. UW Colleges and UW Cooperative Extension to retract all portions of the plan imposing a multi-county system on county/tribal extension offices and engage counties/tribes as equal partners to consider individual county options to address their share of the $1.2 million reduction target, while maintaining the current single county extension system, and

   BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, Outagamie County is not willing to continue providing local tax levy funding at the current level if direct educational faculty services are decreased as described in the plan while eliminating accountability to the County Extension Education Committee and the County Board, and

   BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Outagamie County UW Extension Director, the Outagamie County Executive, all 72 Wisconsin counties, Wisconsin Counties Association, President Ray Cross and the Board of Regents, and the Outagamie County Lobbyist for distribution to the Legislature and Governor.

   Dated this 24th day of May 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

AGRICULTURE, EXTENSION EDUCATION, ZONING & LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE AND LEGISLATIVE/AUDIT & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Daniel Rettler
Debbie Vander Heiden
B.J./O’Conner-Schevers

Keith Surpise
Daniel Melchert
Travis Thyssen
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Cathy Spears
Matthew Stretn

Justin Krueger
Shane Griesbach

Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: May 24, 2016

Signed: Board Chairperson

Approved: 5-25-16

Signed: County Executive

County Clerk

Vetoed: _______