

Resolution No. 05-04/17

**Supporting the Return of \$9.3 million in the 2017-2019 Biennial Budget to Provide Adequate Resources to County Land Conservation Programs and Cost-Sharing for Farmers**

1 Moved/Sponsored by: Land Conservation Committee

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3 **WHEREAS**, the County Land Conservation Department is the necessary local delivery  
4 mechanism for a wide range of natural resource management programs including non-point  
5 pollution control, reclamation of non-metallic mines, invasive species control, woodland  
6 management, and lakes protection; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, State grants supporting County Land Conservation staff have decreased since the  
9 program began; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, the Governor's budget reduced the staff funding allocations that were included in  
12 the 2015-2017 biennial budget, to \$8 million annually, this amount is down from the 2001 to  
13 2011 average of \$9.3 million; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, the 2017-2019 Governor's budget proposed a further reduction of \$675,000 ,equal  
16 to a 7.6% reduction of the overall budget for staff funding allocations that were included in the  
17 2015-2017 biennial budget, and

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19 **WHEREAS** this reduction brings the annual allocation below the \$8 million allocated in the  
20 2015-17 budget and further down from the 2001 to 2011 average of \$9.3 million; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, the 2017-2019 Governor's budget includes an increase in cost share for nutrient  
23 management programs in the amount of \$825,000 which will not directly benefit Walworth  
24 County producers; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, the inability to adequately fund local, voluntarily accepted farm conservation  
27 practices has led to environmental problems and court decisions against farmers;

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29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors  
30 does hereby urge the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and all elected representatives in the  
31 Wisconsin State Legislature to return to the \$9.3 million appropriation for state aid to counties,  
32 recognizing the invaluable service that county conservation employees provide in helping  
33 Wisconsin farmers grow our state's agriculture while preserving the state's land and water  
34 resources for future generations.


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36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors directs the  
37 County Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Walker, State Legislators  
38 representing Walworth County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

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Nancy Russell  
County Board Chair



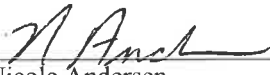
Kimberly S. Bushey  
County Clerk

County Board Meeting Date: April 18, 2017

Action Required: Majority Vote  X  Two-thirds Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.  
Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

 3/31/17  
Date  
David A. Bretl  
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

 3/31/17  
Date  
Nicole Andersen  
Deputy County Administrator - Finance

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

This resolution/Ordinance was:  
Adopted: Roll Call/U.C./Voice  
Rejected/Referred/Laid Over  
Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ Noes: \_\_\_\_\_ Absent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date April 18, 2017

**Policy and Fiscal Note**  
**Resolution No. 05-04/17**

- I. Title:** Supporting the Return of \$9.3 million in the 2017-2019 Biennial Budget to Provide Adequate Resources to County Land Conservation Programs and Cost-Sharing for Farmers
- II. Purpose and Policy Impact Statement:** The purpose of this resolution is to encourage and support providing adequate resources to support County Land Conservation departments and cost-sharing for farmers and other land users.
- III. Budget and Fiscal Impact:** Passage of this Resolution will have no fiscal impact on the county budget.
- IV. Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:**


Committee: Land Conservation Committee


Meeting Date: March 20, 2017

Vote: 4-0

County Board Meeting Date: April 18, 2017

Policy and fiscal note has been reviewed and approved as an accurate statement of the probable policy and fiscal impacts associated with passage of the attached resolution.

 3/31/17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
David A. Bretl  
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
Nicole Andersen  
Deputy County Administrator – Finance

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