INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To encourage the Wood County Board of Supervisors to support the proposed revisions to Ch. NR 151, Wis. Adm. Code, which will set newer Targeted Performance Standards and Prohibitions to abate pollution of groundwater by nitrates in areas of the state with highly permeable soils that are susceptible to groundwater contamination.

FISCAL NOTE: There are no fiscal obligations for the County associated with this resolution.

WHEREAS, good quality groundwater in sufficient quantity is a basic resource that all citizens and businesses in the State of Wisconsin, as well as Wood County, rely upon. The citizens and businesses of our great state and county expect state government to monitor and protect the groundwater in our state in such a way that we may all prosper; and

WHEREAS, nitrate is the most widespread groundwater contaminant in Wisconsin and is especially prevalent in areas with highly permeable soils. Evidence suggests that the statewide standards are insufficient to achieve surface water quality and groundwater standards in areas with highly permeable soils; and

WHEREAS, the NR 151 revision process will allow for local input and give local stakeholders the opportunity to be part of the rule making and develop a rule that is designed to protect both surface and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, for some time now in an effort to work together and share resources across county lines the County Land and Water Conservation Departments (being the lead agency), Public Health Departments, UW Madison-Extension Departments, and County Board Supervisors in the central sands area of Adams, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Waushara, Wood and Sauk County have joined together to form the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGCC); and

WHEREAS, because of the unique geographic features found throughout the State of Wisconsin this six county collaborative feels it is necessary to assess the environmental impacts and draft water quality standards that are based on a county-by-county or a regional basis, recognizing the vulnerability of some geographic features which are highly susceptible to contamination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wood County Board of Supervisors supports performance standards that must include modifications to nutrient management plans; application rates of manure and or commercial fertilizers; timing of nutrient management application; no spreading on already saturated soils; crop rotations, and implementation of growing crops year round as cover crops which store unused nitrogen in the soil.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be directed to the attention of the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, State Legislators, and to each Wisconsin County.