

RESOLUTION NO. 115-2018-2020 AMENDED

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RE: REQUEST FOR THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES AT UW-MADISON AND UW-EXTENSION TO DEVELOP NITROGEN APPLICATION RATE GUIDELINES FOR GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

WHEREAS, all of Portage County residents obtain drinking water from groundwater and 24% have concentrations of nitrate-nitrogen that exceed the Environmental Protection Agency health and enforcement limit of 10 parts per million; and

WHEREAS, Local, State and Federal programs require use of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service 590 Nutrient Management Standard, which dictates use of the UW-Extension Publication A2809 "Nutrient Application Guidelines for Field, Vegetable, and Fruit Crops in Wisconsin"; and

WHEREAS, the UW-Madison nitrogen recommendations contained in A2809 were developed to maximize economic profitability, not to protect groundwater and drinking water quality; and

WHEREAS, the most recent revision of A2809 contains increased nitrogen application rate recommendations by UW-Madison on corn; and

WHEREAS, farmers striving to voluntarily reduce nitrogen applications to rates that will allow for drinking water nitrate levels below the 10 parts per million enforcement limit have no guidance to do so; and

WHEREAS, fertilized public and private lawns, golf courses, and fertilized public and private green spaces contribute to nitrates in groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the Portage County Citizens Groundwater Advisory Committee passed a unanimous motion at their January 17, 2019 meeting to request this resolution be developed.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the County of Portage hereby requests the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at UW-Madison and UW-Extension develop nitrogen application rate guidelines for groundwater protection, including fertilized lawns, golf courses, green spaces, and agricultural crops.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Wisconsin provide funding and other necessary resources to aid in this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be directed to the attention of the State Legislators representing constituents in Portage County, the Governor and the President of the University of Wisconsin System.

DATED THIS 19th DAY OF MARCH, 2019

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

PORTAGE COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Date: March 5, 2019

Aye  
Barry Jacowski, Chair

Aye  
Dale O'Brien, Vice-Chair

Aye  
Julie Morrow, Secretary

Excused  
John Ruzicka

Aye  
Gerry Zastrow

Aye  
Bob Gifford