

**Resolution Supporting an Increase in Compensation Paid to Drainage Board Members**

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF DODGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN,

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 88 of the Wisconsin Statutes, *Drainage of Lands*, provides procedures for the creation, operation, and dissolution of districts for the drainage of lands for agricultural and other purposes; and,

**WHEREAS**, drainage districts exist throughout the State of Wisconsin; and,

**WHEREAS**, proper drainage of lands protect the environment and promote economic development (surface water filtration, groundwater quality, suitable soils for building, erosion control, and storm water management); and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 88.17, Wis. Stats., describes the appointment process and organization of drainage boards to administer districts within the jurisdiction of board; and,

**WHEREAS**, administered by a three member drainage board, Dodge County has 25 active drainage districts and 10 inactive drainage districts, together being the most districts in any county in the state of Wisconsin;

**WHEREAS**, drainage board members are appointed by the court and, in addition to receiving reimbursement for actual and reasonable expenses, “. . . receive as compensation for actual and necessary services a per diem in an amount determined by the drainage board, not to exceed \$40”; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 88.17, Wis. Stats., establishes eligibility criteria for board members; and,

**WHEREAS**, drainage boards that administer several drainage districts require its members to make a significant time commitment by serving on a board for a relatively minimal per diem; and,

**WHEREAS**, the court in Dodge County has had difficulty recruiting and retaining eligible members due to the time commitment necessary to serve on the board and the low compensation rate; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Committee has been advised of the difficulty in recruiting and retaining board members and has determined that a change in the method for establishing compensation may alleviate the problem; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Dodge County Executive Committee recommends that the Dodge County Board of Supervisors support increasing the compensation for drainage board members by changing the method for establishing compensation whereby, at an annual meeting of


1 drainage districts, the compensation shall be, by a majority vote of members present, established  
2 as either a salary, per diem or the other reasonable form of compensation, with a minimum  
3 statutory compensation established based on a per diem or a monthly salary, plus reasonable  
4 mileage and expenses;


5  
6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dodge County Board of  
7 Supervisors supports changing the method for establishing compensation for drainage board  
8 members as recommended herein and urges the state legislature to amend Section 88.17(7), Wis.  
9 Stats., to incorporate the recommended method; and,

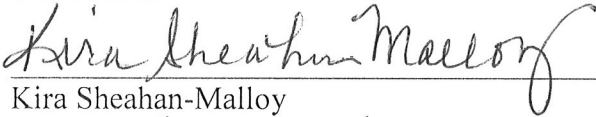
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11 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the County Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of  
12 this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, all Wisconsin State Legislators with a  
13 constituency within Dodge County, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the State Department of  
14 Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the Wisconsin Association of Drainage  
15 Districts.

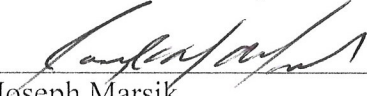
All of which is respectfully submitted this 22nd day of September, 2020.


**Dodge County Executive Committee:**


  
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Russell Kottke

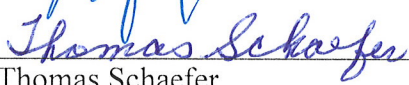
  
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Dan Hilbert

  
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Kira Sheahan-Malloy

  
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Joseph Marsik

  
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David Frohling

  
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Jeffrey Schmitt

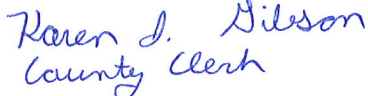
  
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Thomas Schaefer

**Vote Required:** Majority of members present  
**Resolution Summary:** Resolution Supporting an Increase in Compensation Paid to Drainage Board Members.

**ADOPTED  
BY DODGE COUNTY BOARD**

SEP 22 2020

AYES 32 NOES 0  
ABSENT 0  
ABSTAIN 0

  
County Clerk