



RESOLUTION# 21-2-7

Conservation, Education & Economic Development and Judicial & Legislative Committees

Introduced by Page 1 of 1

Motion: Adopted: [X]
1st Clendenning Lost: []
2nd LaFontaine Tabled: []
No: 3 Yes: 16 Absent: 0
Number of votes required: [X] Majority [] Two-thirds
Reviewed by: PAK, Corp Counsel
Reviewed by: , Finance Dir.

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INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To support efforts of four statewide organizations to introduce "clean water" measures legislatively this term.

FISCAL NOTE: None. The legislative efforts, if successful, would lead to long-term economic and quality of life benefits to the residents of the county.

WHEREAS, four long-established and well-respected statewide groups (Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Clean Wisconsin, the Dairy Business Association, and The Nature Conservancy) have joined forces to implore legislative action outlined below and more specifically delineated in the attached press release and news article, and

WHEREAS, these four organizations have outlined four principles that will guide and inform their joint efforts to obtain comprehensive policy changes, including: increasing well testing and well replacement funding; updating the state CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feed Operations) program; and bolstering current conservation efforts, and

WHEREAS, conservatively it is estimated that 10% of rural wells and some municipal wells in Wisconsin are polluted with nitrates, and

WHEREAS, excess nitrates in groundwater and phosphorus in surface water have led to algae blooms on inland lakes and streams, which have the effect of reducing tourism and recreational pursuits, and

WHEREAS, excess nitrates are a known and well-documented direct threat to human health, and

WHEREAS, specific actions need to be instituted, like: managing unintended agricultural runoff; supporting farms that meet water quality standards; only permitting those agri-businesses that do meet water quality standards; helping farms to grow foods with fewer negative environmental impacts; encouraging innovative farming practices and recognizing that on sensitive soils, farming practices will have to change more dramatically in order to protect our water resources, and

WHEREAS, remediation of polluted waterways and groundwater will take years to accomplish, and

WHEREAS, growers like the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association in Central Wisconsin realize the magnitude of the problem, are conducting research, and encouraging farmer-led initiatives directed toward "best practices" independent of legislative action, and

WHEREAS, recommendations of the Speakers Task Force on Water Quality have, as yet, not been implemented.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY RESOLVES that it is time for the state legislature to codify specific, needed, water-protection measures as outlined in the attached December 27, 2020, commentary by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Clean Wisconsin, the Dairy Business Association, and The Nature Conservancy and to put timelines in place to accomplish these goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to all other Wisconsin counties, to state lawmakers in the Senate and Assembly, to Governor Evers, and to the WCA and WTA.

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KEN CURRY (Chair) [Signature]
BILL LEICHTNAM [Signature]
ROBERT ASHBECK [Signature]
JAKE HAHN
DAVE LAFONTAINE [Signature]
Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this 16th day of February 2021

BILL CLENDENNING (Chair) [Signature]
ED WAGNER [Signature]
JOSEPH ZURFLUH
[Signature]
County Board Chairman

County Clerk

County Board Chairman