

**Resolution No. 17-21**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ACHIEVING BASE FUNDING GOAL FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFFING**

ROLL CALL Board Members	Aye	Nay	Excu.
Olson			
Route			
Warndahl			
Nelson (Chairperson)			
LaBlanc			
Ruck			
Prichard			
Kelly			
O'Connell			
Middleton			
Luke (2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair)			
Duncanson			
Arcand			
Bonneprise (Vice Chair)			
Demulling			

**BOARD ACTION**

Vote Required: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by unanimously under Consent Agenda

Motion to Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Adopted  Defeated

1st Route \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Olson \_\_\_\_\_

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Excu: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by:

*Melissa Malone*, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by:

*James Neithard*, Administrator

Reviewed by:

*[Signature]*, Finance

**FISCAL & LEGAL IMPACT:**

**Certification:**

I, Lisa Ross, Clerk of Polk County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 20th day of April, 2021 by the Polk County Board of Supervisors.

*Lisa R. Ross*

Lisa Ross  
County Clerk, Polk County

**Committee Environmental Services**

Recommended

Not Recommended

Neutral

1 **TO THE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

2

3 **WHEREAS**, Wis. Stats. § 92.06 and § 92.07 create and define the powers of Land

4 Conservation Committees (LCCs), and Wis. Stat. § 92.09 empowers Land

5 Conservation Departments (LCDs) to administer county soil and water

6 conservation programs and may exercise the powers granted to the land

7 conservation committee; and

8

9 **WHEREAS**, County LCDs are the local delivery mechanism for a wide range of

10 Wisconsin's natural soil and water and other resource management programs

11 including non-point pollution control, farmland preservation, reclamation of non-

12 metallic mines, invasive species control, woodland management, lakes protection,

13 and more; and

14

15 **WHEREAS**, LCD professionals work as trusted, technical advisors to support

16 producer-led watershed groups, assist waterfront property owners, help farmers

17 develop and implement nutrient management plans, respond to natural disasters

18 like floods, and spend years building the trust to be able to successfully do so; and

19

20 **WHEREAS**, the conservation practices that LCD professionals help landowners

21 apply to farm fields, forests, and shorelines have numerous water quality benefits,

22 including: preventing soil erosion and promoting soil health, increasing infiltration

23 into groundwater aquifers, protecting drinking water supply, reducing surface

24 runoff and flood severity, and more; and

25

26 **WHEREAS** the State of Wisconsin establishes in Wis. Stat. §92.14(6)(b) a base

27 funding goal for county conservation staffing at an average of three positions at

28 100, 70, and 50 percent support, respectively, for each LCD; and

29

30 **WHEREAS**, the return on investment in county LCDs is high— leveraging federal

31 and private grant dollars into more conservation on the land and more dollars into

32 local economies, and multiplying several times over the state's existing

33 investment; and

34

35 **WHEREAS**, support of county LCD funding is a bipartisan issue, supported by

36 farm, conservation, environmental and local government groups alike, and was a

37 top priority voiced by Wisconsinites at statewide Water Quality Task Force

38 hearings in 2019; and

39

40 **WHEREAS**, an increase of base state funding for county conservation staffing will

41 result in more conservation on the landscape, and better protection of water

42 quality; and

43

44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Polk County Board of

45 Supervisors assembled this 20th of April, 2021 does hereby urge the Wisconsin

46 Legislature and the Joint Committee on Finance to provide \$13.0 million in base

47 funding for county conservation staffing, in fulfillment of the state's base funding

48 goal and in recognition that county LCD professionals are the among the best and

49 most cost-effective solutions we have to improving water quality, achieving clean

50 and safe drinking water, and supporting a viable agricultural industry at the same

51 time.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

*[Signature]*