

May 19, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ladies and Gentlemen:

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

**WHEREAS**, Wis. Stats. § 92.06 and § 92.07 create and define the powers of Land Conservation Committees (LCCs), and Wis. Stat. § 92.09 empowers Land Conservation Departments (LCDs) to administer county soil and water conservation programs; and

**WHEREAS**, county LCDs are the local delivery mechanism for a wide range of Wisconsin's natural soil, water and other resource management programs including non-point pollution control, farmland preservation, reclamation of non-metallic mines, invasive species control, woodland management, lakes protection and programs; and

**WHEREAS**, LCD professionals work as trusted, technical advisors to support producer-led watershed groups, assist waterfront property owners, help farmers develop and implement nutrient management plans and respond to natural disasters like floods, and LCD professionals spend years building the trust to be able to successfully do so; and

**WHEREAS**, the conservation practices that LCD professionals help landowners apply to farm fields, forests and shorelines have numerous water quality benefits, including preventing soil erosion and promoting soil health, increasing infiltration into groundwater aquifers, protecting drinking water supply, reducing surface runoff and flood severity and other benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin establishes, in Wis. Stat. § 92.14(6)(b), a base funding goal for county conservation staffing at an average of three positions at 100, 70, and 50 percent support, respectively, for each LCD; and

14d

**WHEREAS**, the return on investment in county LCDs is high—leveraging federal and private grant dollars into more conservation on the land and more dollars into local economies, and multiplying several times over the state’s existing investment; and

**WHEREAS**, support of county LCD funding is a bipartisan issue, supported by farm, conservation, environmental and local government groups alike, and was a top priority voiced by Wisconsinites at statewide Water Quality Task Force hearings in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, an increase of base state funding for county conservation staffing will result in more conservation on the landscape and better protection of water quality.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Brown County Board of Supervisors hereby urges the Wisconsin Legislature and the Joint Committee on Finance to provide \$13.0 million in base funding for county conservation staffing, in fulfillment of the state’s base funding goal and in recognition that county LCD professionals are among the best and most cost-effective solutions we have to improving water quality, achieving clean and safe drinking water and supporting a viable agricultural industry; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Brown County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association for consideration; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution is a sense of the County Board, and as such does not support or oppose their lawful right to take positions.

*Fiscal Note: This Sense of the Board resolution does not require an appropriation from the General Fund.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Land Conservation Subcommittee  
Administration Committee

Approved By:

  
TROY STRECKENBACH,  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date Signed: 5/20/21

21-026R  
Authored by Land and Water Conservation  
Approved by Corporation Counsel's Office

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ROLL CALL # 14d  
Voice Vote Taken

Motion made by Supervisor <sup>VC</sup> Sieber

Seconded by Supervisor Borchardt

SUPERVISORS	DIST. #	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	EXCUSED
SIEBER	1	X			
DE WANE	2	X			
CHU	3	X			
DORFF	4	X			
JACOBSON	5	X			
LEFEBVRE	6	X			
FRIBERG	7	X			
BORCHARDT	8	X			
EVANS	9	X			
VANDER LEEST	10	X			
BUCKLEY	11	X			
LANDWEHR	12	X			
DANTINNE, JR	13				X

SUPERVISORS	DIST. #	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	EXCUSED
BRUSKY	14	X			
MURPHY	15	X			
KASTER	16	X			
VAN DYCK	17	X			
HOPKINS	18	X			
ERICKSON	19	X			
COENEN	20	X			
SCHULTZ.	21	X			
PETERS	22	X			
SUENNEN	23	X			
SCHADEWALD	24	X			
LUND	25	X			
DENEYS	26	X			

Total Votes Cast 25  
Motion: Adopted X Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_