

LANGLADE COUNTY



****FAILED****

RESOLUTION #40-2022

INTRODUCED BY: FORESTRY & RECREATION COMMITTEE

VOTE
3 AYES
14 NAYS
3 ABSENT
1 VACANCY

INTENT: OPPOSE USE OF FEDERAL AND STATE MONEY FOR PURCHASE OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON 56,259 ACRES OF LAND IN LANGLADE, ONEIDA AND FOREST COUNTIES

WHEREAS, Federal, State and County forest ownerships in Wisconsin provide in excess of 2.3 million acres of public forest lands open to recreational uses in the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law provides hundreds of thousands of additional forest acres which are open to public recreational uses; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County Board of Supervisors has received a notice from the State of Wisconsin with information on the pending acquisition of a conservation easement on 56,259 acres with a 30-day deadline for response regarding the conservation easement; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County Board of Supervisors recognizes a 30-day notice is not sufficient to allow review of facts and local impacts related to the proposed conservation easement acquisition; and

WHEREAS, the Counties, Towns and School Districts of Wisconsin provide mandatory and required services and infrastructure to the residents and visitors of their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the costs of such services is funded through property tax assessments and property tax collections with minor contributions from sales tax; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County Board of Supervisors, Towns and School Districts of Langlade County understand that the conservation easement purchase will permanently reduce property tax collections on the property under the Conservation easement; and

WHEREAS, economic development, labor forces for business, industry, services and retention of schools depends upon rural growth of population; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County Board of Supervisors, Towns and School Districts of Langlade County understand that the conservation easement will permanently reduce development potential on the property under the Conservation easement thereby reducing the potential increase in labor force; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County Board of Supervisors does not have full disclosure on the current and future impacts of such conservation easement acquisition to future rural growth of population and to future property tax limitation; and

WHEREAS, historically, use of Federal and State money for purchase of public lands, such as National Forests, within a County required County action to approve of such public land purchase; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County Board of Supervisors, Towns and School Districts of Langlade County recognize the negative impacts of historic public land purchases, such as the National Forest, on the tax base and populations within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the current proposal to utilize Federal and State Funds to acquire the conservation easement does not required County action; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County Board of Supervisors recognizes the current status of the Conservation Easement lands as a site with reduced tax base from Wisconsin Managed Forest Law enrollment which will expire within the next 25-50 years; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County Board of Supervisors recognizes future expiration of Wisconsin Managed Forest Law enrollment allows the potential for land use changes to meet the demand for land, development and property tax in the future; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County Board of Supervisors and Towns have the jurisdictional authority to plan current and future land uses to meet the needs of their residents which is not addressed within the process to acquire the conservation easement; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County Board of Supervisors recognizes the current status of the Conservation Easement lands as a site with land use restriction under the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law which requires forest management and public recreational use with the exception of motorized vehicle access and motorized recreational vehicle use; and


WHEREAS, the current land use of the Conservation Easement lands for forest production and public recreational use is unlikely to change within the next 25-50 years due to lack of public infrastructure and roads and cost of withdrawal the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County Board of Supervisors does not recognize the public benefits that would be realized from acquisition of the Conservation easement at a significant cost to our residents and taxpayers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to maintain the future viability of local rural communities and school districts by preservation of development potential, taxable base and population growth potential, the Board of Supervisors of Langlade County respectfully request the State of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to stop actions related to the acquisition of the Conservation Easement of the Pelican River Forest until such a time that Langlade County, Towns and School Districts can be fully informed on the impacts that a conservation easement purchase may have on the jurisdictions under their control.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is hereby directed to provide completed copies of this resolution to the Governor, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Congressional Representative Tiffany, Congressional Representative Gallagher, State Senator Mary Felzkowski, State Representative Calvin Callahan, State Representative Jeffery Mursau, Oneida County Board of Supervisors, the Forest County Board of Supervisors, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association.

**LANGLADE COUNTY
FORESTRY & RECREATION COMMITTEE**



John Medo, Chairman



Roger Buck



Reinhardt Balcerzak

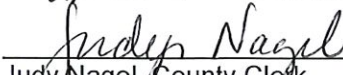


Ben Pierce



Todd Mayr

FISCAL NOTE:
The acquisition of a conservation easement by the State and Federal Government within the Town of Elcho will provide restrictions on future property taxes into perpetuity and may result in reductions in future development and population growth that could negatively affect Langlade County.

Adopted by the County Board of Langlade County,
this 24th day of October, 2022.


Judy Nagel, County Clerk

