

RESOLUTION NUMBER 04-2025

SUPPORT FOR INCREASING BASE FUNDING FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFFING TO \$20.2 MILLION

The County Board of Supervisors of Green Lake County, Green Lake, Wisconsin, duly assembled at its regular meeting begun on the 15TH day of APRIL, 2025, does resolve as follows:

- 1 **WHEREAS**, County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) staff are relied
- 2 upon to carry out a range of Wisconsin’s state agricultural and resource management
- 3 programs that reduce non-point pollution, preserve farmland, protect waterfront
- 4 property, reclaim non-metallic mines, limit aquatic invasive species control, manage
- 5 forests, and reduce floods; and,
- 6
- 7 Fiscal note NA.
- 8 Majority vote is needed to pass.

Roll Call on Resolution No. 04-2025

Submitted by Land, Water, Parks,
and Community Committee:

Ayes 16, Nays 0, Absent 2, Abstain 0,
Vacant 1

/s/ Robert Schweder

Passed and Adopted/Rejected this 15TH
day of APRIL, 2025.

Robert Schweder, Chair

/s/ Mike Skivington

Mike Skivington

/s/ David Abendroth

County Board Chairman

/s/ David Albright

David Albright

/s/ Elizabeth A. Otto

ATTEST: County Clerk
Approve as to Form:

/s/ Bill Boutwell

Bill Boutwell

/s/ Jeffrey Mann

Corporation Counsel

/s/ Nancy Hiestand

Nancy Hiestand

/s/ Nita Krenz

9 **WHEREAS**, LWCDs assist Wisconsin’s farmers in many ways, including supporting
10 producer-led watershed groups, developing nutrient management plans, engineering
11 manure storage and transfer systems, and applying conservation practices that promote
12 soil health and build profitability; and,
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the shared conservation work of LWCD professionals and landowners has
15 major water quality benefits, including preventing soil erosion, protecting drinking water
16 supply, increasing rainwater infiltration into groundwater aquifers, and restoring native
17 habitat; and,
18

19 **WHEREAS**, LWCD experts are trusted, technical advisors that consult with landowners
20 to understand their land management goals and then propose customized solutions that
21 includes project planning and contracting, engineering, quality control, and securing of
22 cost-share funding to reduce project expenses to; and,
23

24 **WHEREAS**, building a partnership based on trust and understanding with farmer and
25 landowner clients cannot happen instantly, but rather, requires a sustained commitment
26 over time from LWCD professionals; and,
27

28 **WHEREAS**, LWCDs leverage cost-share funding from federal and private sources,
29 providing a 2:1 return on the state investment, and spurring local economic growth in
30 industries including agriculture, construction, tourism, forestry, and recreation; and,
31

32 **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin codifies LWCDs’ role in carrying out state
33 conservation standards via Wis. Stats Chap. 92, defining a goal that the State fund staff
34 positions in every LWCD at 100% of the first, 70% of the second, and 50% of each
35 additional staff position; and,
36

37 **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin has not ensured baseline support of LWCDs by
38 meeting this funding goal since its inception, and in the 18-year period from 2006 to
39 2024, base funding relative to LWCD staffing needs decreased by 24%.

40
41 **WHEREAS**, supporting county LWCDs is a widely supported priority supported by
42 conservation, environmental and local government groups alike; and,
43

44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that GREEN LAKE COUNTY, does hereby
45 urge the Wisconsin State Legislature to strengthen the viability of the State’s County
46 Land and Water Conservation Staffing program by increasing base funding for the
47 program by \$11,035,900 on an annual basis to a total of \$20.2 million annually.
48

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of the resolution be sent to WI Land+Water
50 Conservation Association, all State Legislators, the Governor, DATCP Secretary, DNR
51 Secretary, DOA Secretary, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Wisconsin
52 Towns Association.
53

54 **FISCAL NOTE: NA**