



Resolution

No. 2025-73

Support For Increasing Base Funding For County Conservation Staffing to \$20.2 Million

WHEREAS, The Land and Water Conservation Staffing Grant supplements the overall County budget in support of the Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD). Increases to the state grant allocation would decrease the County levy and increase the capacity of the LWCD to deliver the services to residents of the county; and,

WHEREAS, County LWCD's in Wisconsin play a key role in implementing state agricultural and resource management programs. These programs reduce non-point pollution, preserve farmland, address flooding, protect water, reclaim non-metallic mines, limit aquatic invasive species control, manage forests, promote infiltration and reduce floods; and,

WHEREAS, LWCD staff are trusted, technical advisors that consult with landowners to understand their land management goals and then propose customized solutions that include project planning and contracting, engineering, quality control, and securing of cost-share funding to reduce project expenses; and,

WHEREAS, LWCD's leverage cost-share funding from federal and private sources, providing a 2:1 (or greater) return on the state investment, and spurring local economic growth in industries including agriculture, construction, tourism, forestry, and recreation; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Law (Wis. Stats Chap. 92) mandates LWCD's to meet specific funding goals, but since its inception, the state has failed to meet these goals, with base funding decreasing by 24% from 2006 to 2024. Support for county LWCD's is widely promoted and accepted by conservation, government, environmental, and other local groups alike;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 27th day of May 2025, hereby urge the Wisconsin State Legislature to strengthen the viability of the State's County Land and Water Conservation Staffing program by increasing base funding for the program by \$11,035,900 on an annual basis to a total of \$20.2 million annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the resolution be sent to WI Land+Water Conservation Association, all State Legislators, the Governor, DATCP Secretary, DNR Secretary, DOA Secretary, Joint Finance Committee, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Wisconsin Towns Association.

By Action of the:
Bayfield County Board of Supervisors


Dennis M. Pocernich, *Chair*

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF BAYFIELD)

I, Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2025-73, Volume 30, adopted by the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on the 27th day of May 2025.


Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*