

RESOLUTION NO.: 16—2019-20

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1 County Land Conservation Departments throughout the state are trusted professionals
2 who offer boots-on-the-ground technical assistance to farmers and landowners, helping
3 them achieve their objectives while meeting environmental standards that protect land
4 and water. Stable funding is essential to building relationships and trust with
5 landowners in order to provide them support and understand their needs. A cost-
6 effective investment in conservation requires no new regulations or bureaucracy,
7 however, is one that has not been adequately funded in the past.
8

9 Governor Tony Evers' 2019-2021 Executive Budget recommends an annual increase of
10 \$1.4 million for County Conservation staffing and support grants, bringing annual
11 funding levels to \$10.4 million statewide. Wisconsin State Statute §92.14(6) provides
12 that the state should fund an average of three staff per county conservation office at
13 100% of the first position, 70% of the second position, and 50% for any additional staff
14 positions. Therefore, the budgeted amount is \$2 million short per year of meeting the
15 statutory goal, which, if fully funded, would cost \$12.4 million annually. Additionally,
16 the Governor's Executive Budget includes increasing annual State Bond revenue for
17 cost-share grants from \$3.5 million to \$5 million annually, which helps to fund
18 conservation practices which contribute to long-term farm profitability and
19 sustainability. This funding translates into real people and programs on the landscape
20 which allows County's to continue to improve and protect their surface and groundwater
21 resources.
22

23 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Agriculture, Extension Education, Zoning
24 and Land Conservation Committee recommend adoption of the following resolution.

25 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does hereby respectfully
26 request that the amount of funding included in Governor Evers' 2019-2021 Executive Budget for
27 Conservation Staffing Grants be increased from \$10.4 million annually to \$12.4 million annually, and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does support
29 the proposed increase in cost-share bond funding from \$3.5 million annually to \$5 million annually, and

30 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy
31 of this resolution to the Outagamie County Land Conservation Director, Governor Tony Evers, the

1 Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Outagamie County Lobbyist for distribution to the Legislative
2 representatives for Outagamie County.

3 Dated this ____ day of May 2019

4 Respectfully Submitted,

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6 AGRICULTURE, EXTENSION EDUCATION,
7 ZONING AND LAND CONSERVATION
8 COMMITTEE
9

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11
12 _____
13 Daniel Rettler

14 _____
15 Keith Suprise

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17 _____
18 Daniel Melchert

19 _____
20 Debbie VanderHeiden

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22 _____
23 BJ O'Connor-Schevers

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26 Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: _____
27

28
29 Signed: _____
30 Board Chairperson

31 _____
32 County Clerk

33 Approved: _____

34 Vetoed: _____

35 Signed: _____
36 County Executive