

AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE OF LAND ADJACENT TO MORTON FOREST

Dane County Land & Water Resources Department (LWRD) recommends the purchase of approximately 65.5 acres of land in the Town of Black Earth from Randall, Linda, Ryan and Travis Brunner. The property is adjacent to the south end of Morton Forest on the east side of Reeve Road. Like Morton Forest, the property contains hills, rock outcroppings and attractive views and is mostly wooded. It also contains a small area of cropland and an open area that was formerly used a small stone quarry, along with a 40' x 47' outbuilding.

The property is located adjacent to 120 acres of land that Mr. Stephen Morton generously donated 23 years ago and will provide the public with more opportunities for recreation including hiking and bird watching and more ways to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Driftless Area. Due to steep slopes, providing easy access on the east side of Reeve Road to Morton Forest has been difficult and the Brunner property provides a gravel driveway that will address this access issue for the public and for land management.

Funds for the purchase are available in the 2022 Dane County Conservation Fund budget. The debt issued to support this expenditure will have a term of 20 years. LWRD intends to apply for State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant dollars to offset the purchase price.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize the purchase of approximately 65.5 acres from Randall, Linda, Ryan and Travis Brunner for \$725,000 plus miscellaneous costs according to Wis. Stats. Chapter 27.03(3); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize an application to the WI DNR to offset the purchase costs, and the Dane County Executive and County Clerk are authorized to execute the grant and partnership documents necessary to maximize cost-sharing from project partners; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department Director and the Real Estate Coordinator are authorized to administer the closing and the transfer of the above-mentioned property to Dane County, and the Controller is authorized to issue checks necessary to effectuate the transaction.