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2014 RES-414
2014 DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
THE NATURAL HERITAGE LAND TRUST

The Natural Heritage Land Trust has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase approximately 5 acres in the Town of Westport. The property is identified as a prairie remnant site in the *Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan* and buffers the Westport Drumlin Prairie Unit within the DNR's Empire Prairie State Natural Area. The property will contribute toward the goals of the project area by its prairie restoration potential, protection of endangered and threatened species, and improved public access. Furthermore, preserving the property will fill in the last inholding of restorable land. The property will be open to the public for hiking, hunting, trapping, cross-country skiing, bird watching, and nature appreciation.

The project costs for the acquisition total \$104,510. The Conservation Fund Grant Advisory Committee recommends up to \$57,225 in County matching funds. The remainder of the acquisition costs will be provided by a grant from the DNR Stewardship Grant Program that has been secured by the Natural Heritage Land Trust.

The term of the debt issued to support this expenditure will be 20 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of \$57,225 to the Natural Heritage Land Trust is approved by the Dane County Board and the Dane County Executive and that the County will pay up to the grant amount based on actual project expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dane County Clerk and Dane County Executive are authorized to execute documents necessary to effectuate the grant award, which may include grant agreements, management agreements, and the acceptance of an easement that will vest in Dane County according to Wisc. Stats. 27.05(3), and that the land be managed under the jurisdiction of the Dane County Park Commission.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Real Estate & Acquisition Director, Real Estate Coordinator, and Acquisition and Planning Specialist are authorized to approve closing and reimbursement documentation for grant projects and the transfer of an easement to Dane County and the Controller is authorized to issue checks necessary to effectuate the transactions authorized through the grant award.