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2015 RES-349
ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF THE REPORT OF THE POLLINATOR PROTECTION
TASK FORCE AND PLANNING NEXT STEPS FOR POLLINATOR PROTECTION IN DANE
COUNTY

Over the past eight months, the Dane County Pollinator Protection Task Force has worked with staff from County and other municipal departments, as well as local stakeholders, to identify the current status of pollinators and develop recommendations for future pollinator protection in Dane County.

On September 15, 2015, the Task Force submitted its report to the County Executive and the County Board. The extensive report outlines specific objectives, recommended tasks, evaluation methods, opportunities for future initiatives, and possible barriers to implementation for each goal. The Task Force developed specific recommendations for education/outreach, land management, pesticide use, and research for suggested implementation in Dane County.

The work of the Task Force is aligned with state and national efforts. Wisconsin is one of several states developing a statewide pollinator plan, and the federal government released a National Strategy for Pollinator Protection earlier this year.

The Dane County Environmental Council, along with the Food Council, has spearheaded the County's interest in pollinator protection. The Environmental Council, in particular, is well-suited to embrace the Dane County Pollinator Protection Task Force report as part of its work plan for future action. The Dane County Code of Ordinances specifies the duties of the Environmental Council as follows: "...to advise persons, groups, organizations, county departments and others when requested, on environmental matters and assist them to recognize and protect natural areas on private and public property; to assume an educational role in the protection of the environment and natural resources; and in general to promote awareness, conservation and preservation of Dane County's natural resources." These duties mirror the areas for action recommended for pollinator protection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors acknowledges receipt of the report of the Pollinator Protection Task Force and appreciates the members of the Task Force for their timely, thorough work;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board recognizes the recommendations of the Dane County Pollinator Protection Task Force as an important first step in the development of a comprehensive set of County policies to protect pollinators, and recognizes the report as the guiding document for the County in addressing pollinator decline;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board directs the Environmental Council to guide implementation of the report recommendations for Dane County, with further consultation with County departments, and municipalities in Dane County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board requests the continued participation and input of County staff and departments, as well as that of the Food Council, Tree Board, Park Commission and other appropriate bodies, as implementation of the report recommendations proceeds;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Environmental Council shall produce a progress report by September 15, 2016, on the County's pollinator protection efforts, to be submitted to the Environment, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.