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3 **2014 RES-472**

4 **ESTABLISHING A DANE COUNTY POLLINATOR PROTECTION TASK FORCE**

5 There has been a severe loss of pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, bats, birds, and  
6 butterflies in recent decades. This has had a dramatic impact on food production, particularly  
7 fruit, nut, and vegetable production.  
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9 Factors affecting the loss of pollinators include a loss of native habitat, exposure to pesticides,  
10 and a lack of adequate diet. These factors can be addressed at the local level.  
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12 Earlier this year, the White House created a federal Pollinator Health Task Force, directing  
13 agencies to review current practices and prepare to implement strategies to improve pollinator  
14 health. More recently, the City of Madison directed the Madison Food Policy Council to  
15 convene a task force on pollinator health.  
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17 The Dane County Food Council and Environmental Council share these concerns and believe  
18 Dane County government and other municipal governments can take steps to restore bee, bat,  
19 bird, and butterfly populations.  
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21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby  
22 establishes the Dane County Pollinator Protection Task Force which shall consist of the chairs  
23 of the Dane County Environmental Council and the Dane County Food Council, and seven other  
24 members jointly appointed by those chairs. Members may include other local government  
25 officials, citizen experts, and staff from the Land and Water Resources, Public Works and  
26 Highway, and Dane County-UW Extension departments, and Madison-Dane Public Health.  
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28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Task Force shall:

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- 30 1) Collaborate with the City of Madison Task Force on Pollinator Health for review of
  - 31 available research on pollinator decline and efficacy of protection strategies
  - 32 2) Communicate and collaborate with other municipalities in Dane County to invite or assist
  - 33 with development and/or administration of pollinator protection policies
  - 34 3) Review current County department practices that affect pollinator habitat and health
  - 35 4) Solicit input from local stakeholders with additional information on the issue
  - 36 5) Monitor the work of the White House Pollinator Health Task Force and use information
  - 37 and recommendations to supplement its work
  - 38 6) Explore public-private partnerships to help address the issue
  - 39 7) Develop recommendations for departments to improve the habitat for pollinators on
  - 40 county-owned land
  - 41 8) Develop recommendations for citizens to plant pollinator-friendly habitats and guidance
  - 42 on pesticide use around their house
  - 43 9) Provide guidance for a long-term strategy to departments to promote pollinator health  
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45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Dane County-UW Extension provide staff support to the  
46 Task Force.  
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48 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Dane County Task Force on Pollinators complete its  
49 review within nine months and make recommendations to the Environment, Agriculture, and  
50 Natural Resources Committee, and to the County Board by September 15, 2015. The task  
51 force shall officially dissolve upon delivery of its report to the Board.