

Resolution No. _____

Agenda No. _____

RESOLUTION
_____ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Subject: Provide adequate resources to support county land conservation and cost-sharing for farmers and other land users

WHEREAS, the County Land Conservation Department is the necessary local delivery mechanism for a wide range of natural resource management programs including non-point pollution control, reclamation of non-metallic mines, invasive species control, woodland management, lakes protection ; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation:

- supports the concept of credit trading and adaptive management between municipalities and the agriculture community to reduce phosphorus discharge
- urges the state to stop the spread of invasive species into Wisconsin
- supports adequate funding to local units of government to implement the nonpoint program, provided that local regulations do not exceed state standards

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection acknowledges the counties' statutory role in coordinating and implementing farm conservation standards at the local level, and supports efforts to ensure that adequate resources are available for counties to do their job ; and

WHEREAS, County Land Conservation staff supported by state grants have decreased since the program began, and,

WHEREAS, the Governor's budget has not requested maintenance of the staff funding allocations that were included in the 2013-15 biennial budget, thus reducing the funding to \$8 million annually in the 2015-17 budget, down from the 2001 to 2011 average of \$9.3 million; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) 2015 statewide policy recognizes the value of the work County Land Conservation Departments provide to farmers and Wisconsin citizens by supporting adequate resources to implement maintaining this base level of funding; and

WHEREAS, the inability to adequately fund local, voluntarily accepted farm conservation practices has led to environmental problems and increasing citizen suits and court decisions against farmers; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the _____ County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this ___ day of _____, 2015 does hereby urge the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and all elected representatives in the Wisconsin State Legislature to return to the \$9.3 million appropriation for state aid to counties, recognizing the invaluable service that county conservation employees provide in helping Wisconsin farmers grow our state's agriculture while preserving the state's land and water resources for future generations.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____ **COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

ATTEST:

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Vote of Board: _____ Approve _____ Not Approve