## 2024 RES-178 AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION OF LAND IN THE TOWN OF WESTPORT

Dane County Land & Water Resources Department (LWRD) recommends the acceptance of a donation of approximately 2.25 acres in the Town of Westport from Whitehouse Associates, LLC on behalf of the William Towell family. The property is adjacent to 41 acres of wetlands that the LLC donated to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) in 2021 which is now known as the Towell Family State Habitat Area.

The parcel has some woods and wetlands on its north end and sits on the border of the North Mendota Natural Resource Area. It is on the east end of approximately 375 acres of public lands owned by WI DNR and lands recently purchased by the Town of Westport. Much of these lands contain wetlands which are providing bird and wildlife habitat and stormwater management benefits that enhance Lake Mendota water quality, while also creating space for public recreation and trail connections. This parcel will be managed in conjunction with WI DNR's adjacent habitat area and could provide off road public parking in the future. WI DNR and the County will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for shared management of this parcel.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize the acceptance of a donation of approximately 2.25 acres from Whitehouse Associates, LLC and the payment of miscellaneous closing costs associated with said donation according to Wis. Stats. Chapter 27.03(3); and

 **BE IT FINALLY RESOVED** 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.