

2016 RES-035

AUTHORIZING A LAND EXCHANGE WITH THE NATURAL HERITAGE LAND TRUST

The Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT) is a local nonprofit organization that works to protect natural areas, wildlife habitat, working farms, healthy lakes and streams and recreation areas. Most of NHLT's project areas in Dane County are included in the *Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan* and they are a frequent partner of the Land & Water Resources Department (LWRD).

The Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Area, in northeastern Dane County, is a joint project area of NHLT, the County, the WDNR, and local partners such as the Patrick Marsh Middle School. Currently, the County owns approximately 13 acres at Patrick Marsh and NHLT owns 96 acres.

Another joint project area of NHLT and the County is a land and water legacy site identified in the North Mendota Priority Watershed Plan. Currently, the County owns approximately 80 acres at the land and water legacy site and NHLT owns 38 acres (known as the Wilke Prairie Preserve).

LWRD and NHLT recommend the exchange of properties at Patrick Marsh and the North Mendota land and water legacy site. The County would become the owner of the NHLT property at the North Mendota land and water legacy site and NHLT would become the owner of County property at Patrick March. The purpose of the exchange is to increase efficiencies, reduce operating costs and create a seamless public experience. The properties impacted by the exchange would be deed restricted so that they could only be used for natural resource protection and recreation. Additionally, the County would receive funds from NHLT to be used for the care and maintenance of the property deeded to the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Clerk and Dane County Executive are authorized to sign deeds and property restrictions necessary for the exchange,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LWRD Deputy Director or Real Estate Coordinator are authorized to approve closing documentation,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLED, that expense and revenue accounts LWRPKOP Wilke Prairie be established for \$38,000 and that all funds shall carry forward until expended.