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2016 RES-036
DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS (WADE)

The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) have applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase a 6.26-acre parcel in the Town of Vermont. The property is within the boundary of the Blue Mounds Natural Resource Area in the *Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan* as well as TPE's Parrish Oak Savanna within their Pleasure Valley Conservancy. This acquisition will enhance the adjacent Parrish Oak Savanna interpretive site and trailhead entrance.

The landscape of the Blue Mounds NRA consists of steep wooded hills and valleys which afford spectacular views, streams, savanna and prairie remnants. This 6.26-acre parcel has excellent road frontage on Moyer Road that is actively managed as an oak woodland site consistent with surrounding protected lands. This latest addition to Blue Mounds NRA is adjacent to 1,892 acres of permanently protected, high quality natural area fee and conservation easement lands within the resource area, Blue Mounds State Park, and Brigham County Park. This large contiguous tract creates high-quality corridors for wildlife and native plant communities.

The project cost for the 6.26-acre acquisition totals \$166,363. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$88,182 in County matching funds. The remaining costs will be offset by funds from the DNR Stewardship Grant Program.

The term of the debt issued to support this expenditure will be 20 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of \$88,182 to The Prairie Enthusiasts is approved by the Dane County Board and the Dane County Executive and that the County will pay up to the grant amount based on actual project expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dane County Clerk and Dane County Executive are authorized to execute documents necessary to effectuate the grant award, which may include grant agreements, management agreements, and the acceptance of an easement that will vest in Dane County according to Wisc. Stats. 27.05(3), and that the land rights be managed under the jurisdiction of the Dane County Park Commission.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department Deputy Director and Real Estate Coordinator are authorized to approve closing and reimbursement documentation for the grant project and the transfer of an easement to Dane County, and the Controller is authorized to issue checks necessary to effectuate the transactions authorized through the grant award.