

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF LAND IN THE CHEROKEE MARSH NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

The Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan (POSP) recommends the acquisition of land within the Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Area and Yahara River corridor. Cherokee Marsh and the Yahara River are significant natural and recreational resources that are popular for fishing, canoeing and kayaking. The County and other partners seek to add public lands to these resource areas for conservation and recreational purposes.

The Department of Land & Water Resources has recently negotiated the acquisition of a significant stretch of the Yahara River from the Bollig Farm Property LLC. The acquisition would permanently protect approximately 81 acres, including over 1 mile of Yahara River frontage that could serve as a gateway to the Yahara Waterways. From the property, canoeists would be able to access the Yahara River and paddle down to where it empties into Cherokee Marsh, offering an incredibly scenic paddle with spectacular wildlife viewing and fishing opportunities. The acquisition will also preserve 40 acres of wetland. A large portion of the wetlands are part of the Cherokee Marsh wetland complex and adjacent to the WIDNR's Cherokee Marsh Fishery Area.

The purchase price has been established at the appraised value of \$1,010,000. Dane County will seek a WI DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to offset the acquisition costs. Funds for the purchase are 21 available in the Lake Preservation & Renewal Fund. The debt issued to support this expenditure will have a term of 20 years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize the purchase of approximately 81 acres from the Bollig Farm Property LLC for \$1,010,000;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dane County Clerk and Dane County Executive are authorized to execute documents necessary to maximize cost-sharing from project partners, which may include temporarily vesting land rights to another agency;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Dane County Land & Water Resources Deputy Director, Real Estate Coordinator, or Acquisition and Planning Specialist 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.