

AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
WITH THE WI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FOR THE CREATION OF AN AGRICULTURAL WETLAND MITIGATION BANK  
IN THE CHEROKEE MARSH WILDLIFE AREA

The Dane County Land & Water Resources Department is partnering with the WI Department of Natural Resources and USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service on restoring wetlands and creating a Wisconsin Agricultural Wetland Mitigation Bank in the Cherokee Marsh Wildlife Area south of STH 19 and east of River Rd, in the Town of Westport. The project consists of disconnecting existing tile systems, filling ditches, creating shallow waterfowl scrapes and seeding wetlands and upland native prairies.

Funding for the project is provided by the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service and is administered through the WI Department of Natural Resources in collaboration with Dane County.

The project has many water quality benefits, including allowing more water to infiltrate the soil and to be held on site, increasing groundwater recharge, and reducing the amount of runoff nutrients and sediment entering the Yahara River. The project will also provide an increase in habitat suitable for ducks, amphibians, and other wildlife and an increase and diversification of wetland and prairie plant communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Executive is authorized to execute on behalf of Dane County a Memorandum of Understanding with the WI Department of Natural Resources for Restoration and Management of the Cherokee Marsh Wildlife Area and NRCS Wetland Mitigation Bank, which includes authorization for the Dane County Clerk to execute and enter into a Temporary Limited Easement to allow the WI Department of Natural Resources and their contractors access to the project site for construction and maintenance.