

AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE OF LAND IN THE TOWN OF VIENNA FOR
FLOODWATER STORAGE AREA

Dane County Land & Water Resources Department (LWRD) recommends the purchase of approximately 82 acres off County Highway V in the Town of Vienna from the Koch Family Farm, LLC for \$779,000. Approximately 43 acres of the parcel is wetland and the remaining acreage is cropped. A member of the LLC will be permitted to continue cropping according to Conservation and Nutrient Management Plans for the next 10 years.

The parcel is located within the Yahara River Watershed and along with neighboring lands along County Highway V, has become a water drainage area for approximately 5000 acres north of the highway. The property has a relatively shallow depth to ground water making it ideal for promoting and enhancing wetland functions including the environmental benefits of floodwater storage and groundwater protection.

The parcel is adjacent to a 40 acre Waterfowl Production Area owned by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) which protects habitat for waterfowl including mallards and blue winged teal and provides habitat for migratory birds such as sand hill cranes, herons, egrets and marsh wrens. USFWS supports the County's purchase of this parcel as it would significantly enhance the wetland habitat for waterfowl, create future upland to attract grasslands bird and provide additional lands for public recreation including hunting.

Funds for the purchase are available in the Dane County Conservation Fund. The debt issued to support this expenditure will have a term of 20 years. LWRD intends to apply for State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) Stewardship grant dollars to offset the purchase price. LWRD may use the parcel as match for existing USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize the purchase of approximately 82 acres from the Koch Family Farm LLC for \$779,000 plus miscellaneous costs according to Wis. Stats. Chapter 27.03(3); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize applications to the WI DNR and other agencies for grants to offset the purchase costs and to match already committed USFWS grant dollars, and that the Dane County Executive and County Clerk are authorized to execute the grant and partnership documents necessary to maximize cost-sharing from project partners; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED 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.