

DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
GROUNDWELL CONSERVANCY AND THE TOWN OF DUNN (HEACOX)

Groundswell Conservancy and the Town of Dunn have applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase a conservation easement on approximately 130 acres owned by Randall and Lea Ann Heacox. The easement area is located on the west shore of Hook Lake in the Town of Dunn and sits within the County's Badfish Creek Natural Resource Area and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Hook Lake Bog-Grass Lake Wildlife Area. The property contains approximately 112 acres of cropland and a mix of woods and a farmstead area along with approximately 2400 feet of frontage on Hook Lake. Hook Lake Bog is one of the highest quality wetlands in Dane County.

The easement acquisition is a part of the Town of Dunn's Rural Preservation Program which uses agricultural conservation easements to purchase development rights and protect the rural and agricultural character within the Town.

The estimated project costs for the easement acquisition total \$424,100. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$159,300 in County matching funds. Funds from the Town of Dunn and an USDA NRCS Agricultural Land Easement grant and will complete the purchase.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of up to \$159,300 to Groundswell Conservancy and the Town of Dunn 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 interests be managed under the jurisdiction of the Dane County Park Commission.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Dane County Land & Water Resources Director and Real Estate Coordinator, are authorized to approve closing and reimbursement documentation for grant projects 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.