

1 2016 RES-299  
2 DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO  
3 THE NATURAL HERITAGE LAND TRUST (NELSON)  
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5 The Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT) has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant  
6 Program for financial assistance to purchase a 102.5-acre parcel in the Town of Dunn. The property  
7 is within the boundary of the Badfish Creek Natural Resource Area in the *Dane County Parks & Open*  
8 *Space Plan* as well as the Hook Lake/Grass Lake State Wildlife Area.  
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10 The Hook Lake/Grass Lake Wildlife Area is highly ecologically significant with diverse and unique  
11 plant and animal communities, including a soft bog lake, one of the rarest natural features in southern  
12 Wisconsin. This 102.5 acres will add a significant block of land to 1,096 acres of existing publicly  
13 owned state property and adjacent conservation easements. The purchase will provide essential  
14 public access to the resource and wildlife area from the north and east, while securing key lands for  
15 recreational use including hunting and youth recreational instruction. Working lands will be restored to  
16 native upland cover, adding great benefit to the matrix of wildlife land and important breeding and  
17 brood rearing habitat for grassland birds.  
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19 The project cost for the 102.5-acre acquisition totals \$694,205. The Town of Dunn has committed  
20 \$60,000 in funding, and the tract will be jointly owned and managed by the NHLT and the Town.  
21 The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$358,353 in County matching funds. The  
22 remaining costs will be offset by funds from NHLT and a potential state Stewardship grant.  
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24 The term of the debt issued to support this expenditure will be 20 years.  
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26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that a grant of \$358,353 to The Natural Heritage Land  
27 Trust is approved by the Dane County Board and the Dane County Executive and that the County  
28 will pay up to the grant amount based on actual project expenses.  
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30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Clerk and Dane County Executive are  
31 authorized to execute documents necessary to effectuate the grant award, which may include  
32 grant agreements, management agreements, and the acceptance of an easement that will vest in  
33 Dane County according to Wisc. Stats. 27.05(3), and that the land rights be managed under the  
34 jurisdiction of the Dane County Park Commission.  
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36 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department Deputy  
37 Director and Real Estate Coordinator are authorized to approve closing and reimbursement  
38 documentation for the grant project and the transfer of an easement to Dane County, and the  
39 Controller is authorized to issue checks necessary to effectuate the transactions authorized  
40 through the grant award.