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2 2018 RES-624  
3 DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO  
4 GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY (O'MALLEY)

5 Groundswell Conservancy has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for  
6 financial assistance to purchase approximately 84 acres in the Town of Westport from the  
7 O'Malley family. The parcel contains approximately 1,500 feet of an un-channelized segment of  
8 Sixmile Creek as well as an unnamed tributary and a drainage ditch. Sixmile Creek is classified  
9 as a Tier II stream, designated as an Exceptional Water Resource by the Wisconsin Department  
10 of Natural Resources (DNR) and supports a diverse forage, warm water sport fishery and  
11 spawning grounds. Acquisition of Tier II stream properties by non-profits and local units of  
12 government with assistance from the Conservation Fund Grant Program is outlined in the 2018-  
13 2023 Parks and Open Space Plan.

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15 The property lies just east of the DNR's Waunakee Marsh Wildlife Area and north of the County's  
16 North Mendota Natural Resource Area. Village of Waunakee's Ripp Park is south of the property  
17 across Highway 19. Development and a golf course abut the parcel to the north and east and  
18 Hellenbrand Road is on the west. The O'Malley's are retaining approximately 28 acres of cropland  
19 on the west side.

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21 The parcel is dominated by wetlands and includes an overgrown oak savanna. The wetlands are  
22 valuable for protecting the Yahara River and chain of lakes. A restriction covers approximately  
23 12.5 acres on the east side of the property that was restored to wetlands as part of a mitigation  
24 project on nearby land.

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26 Groundswell Conservancy desires to purchase this parcel from the O'Malley family in order to  
27 protect this stretch of Sixmile Creek and adjacent wetlands to help maintain and improve water  
28 quality, limit impervious surface and reduce flooding and also provide public access for nature  
29 based outdoor recreation, including an existing snowmobile trail.

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31 The project costs for this acquisition are \$404,770.00. The Dane County Park Commission  
32 recommends up to \$113,042.50 in County matching funds. Groundswell has secured a Knowles  
33 Nelson Stewardship Grant as well as a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant and the  
34 Village of Waunakee has also committed funds toward the purchase. The term of the debt issued  
35 to support this expenditure will be 20 years.

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37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that a grant of \$113,042.50 to Groundswell  
38 Conservancy is approved by the Dane County Board and the Dane County Executive and that the  
39 County will pay up to the grant amount based on actual project expenses.

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41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Clerk and Dane County Executive are  
42 authorized to execute documents necessary to effectuate the grant award, which may include  
43 grant agreements, management agreements, and the acceptance of an easement that will vest in  
44 Dane County according to Wisc. Stats. 27.05(3), and that the land interests be managed under  
45 the jurisdiction of the Dane County Park Commission.

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47 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Land & Water Resources Director or Real  
48 Estate Coordinator are authorized to approve closing and reimbursement documentation for grant  
49 projects and the transfer of an easement to Dane County and the Controller is authorized to issue  
50 checks necessary to effectuate the transactions authorized through the grant award.

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