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2024 RES-175

**AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE OF LAND IN THE TOWN OF VERONA
FOR THE SUGAR RIVER WILDLIFE AREA**

Dane County Land & Water Resources Department (LWRD) recommends the purchase of approximately 80 acres in the Town of Verona from the Allison Family Limited Partnership for the Sugar River Wildlife Area. The property sits between the recently purchased 625 acre Duerst farm and the 300 acre Madison Metropolitan School District Forest. Acquisition of this property would create an area of approximately 1000 contiguous acres of public land.

The topography is rolling with a mix of tillable land and woods. The tillable land is rented and has been in alfalfa for a number of years. Future restoration of the uplands and woodlands will create a large continuous wildlife corridor while providing public recreation opportunities in an area that, in addition to Epic Systems development, is beginning to see residential development. A future partnership with the MMSDF would allow for shared opportunities in public education and recreation and in land management.

The Seller has agreed to grant a Right of First Refusal to the County for the remaining family ownership to the north of this property and will also grant an access easement from Sugar River Road.

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 a State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to offset the purchase price.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize the purchase of approximately 80 acres along with an access easement and a right of first refusal from the Allison Family Limited Partnership for \$3,598,500 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 an application to the WI DNR for a grant to offset the acquisition costs, and that the Dane County Executive and County Clerk are authorized to execute the documents necessary for the grant; 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.