## 2025 RES - 194 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF LAND IN THE TOWN OF WESTPORT

Dane County Land & Water Resources Department (LWRD) recommends the purchase of approximately 2.94 acres in the Town of Westport from Whitehouse Associates, LLC. The parcel is on the border of the North Mendota Natural Resource Area and sits on the east end of approximately 375 acres of public lands owned by WI DNR and the Town of Westport. The property is immediately adjacent to 41 acres of wetlands that Whitehouse Associates, LLC donated to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) in 2021 which is now known as the Towell Family State Habitat Area.

The landowner had originally intended to donate 2.25 acres to the County as described in 2024 RES-178, and sell the remaining land for commercial development but has instead decided to work with the County on a bargain sale for the entire 2.94 acres. The property was appraised at \$600,000 and the seller has offered the parcel for a purchase price of \$220,000 for the entire parcel.

The parcel contain wetlands which provide bird and wildlife habitat and stormwater management benefits that enhance Lake Mendota water quality, while also creating space for public recreation and trail connections. This parcel will be managed in conjunction with WI DNR's adjacent habitat area under a Memorandum of Understanding and could provide off road public parking in the future on the existing asphalt area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize the purchase of approximately 2.94 acres from Whitehouse Associates, LLC and the payment of miscellaneous closing costs associated with said purchase according to Wis. Stats. Chapter 27.03(3); 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.