

2025 RES-291

RECOGNIZING JANUARY 26-30, 2026, AS WINTER SALT WEEK

WHEREAS, all deicing salt applied to Dane County's roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks eventually makes its way into our fresh water, polluting lakes, streams, and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, chloride contamination is increasing countywide, with measurable impacts on drinking water and aquatic ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, even a small amount of salt—just one teaspoon—can pollute five gallons of water to a level that is toxic for aquatic life, and removing salt from water is both difficult and costly; and

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin, 39% of community wells have exceeded the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' recommended sodium level for individuals on a low-salt diet (20 mg/L) at least once since 2004, underscoring the need to reduce salt use to protect public health and freshwater quality; and

WHEREAS, overuse of rock salt causes damage to buildings, bridges, and other infrastructure, resulting in substantial repair costs and highlighting the economic importance of using salt efficiently and responsibly; and

WHEREAS, affordable and effective alternatives to traditional deicing salt—such as brine, sand, and improved application techniques—can reduce environmental harm while maintaining public safety; and

WHEREAS, Dane County residents, businesses, and municipalities can make meaningful contributions to reducing salt pollution by learning about and adopting best practices, achieving lasting reductions in salt use, and hiring trained and certified service providers; and

WHEREAS, Winter Salt Week, led by Wisconsin Salt Wise, provides an opportunity for communities, local leaders, and winter maintenance professionals to learn about smart salting practices and effective strategies for protecting our freshwater resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes January 26-30, 2026, as Winter Salt Week, and urges all residents, businesses, and county departments to take part in activities and initiatives that promote the responsible use of deicing salt and encourage the adoption of smart salting practices.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2025.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk