

2026 RES - 053

**AUTHORIZING A LAND ACQUISITION FOR
BADFISH CREEK NATURAL RESOURCE AREA**

Dane County Land & Water Resources Department (LWRD) recommends the purchase of approximately 196 acres in the Town of Rutland from the Bonnie G. Marthinsen Trust for the Badfish Creek Natural Resource Area. This parcel is located on the corner of Hildreth Road and Old Stone Road and sits across the road from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 1140 acre Badfish Creek State Wildlife Area.

The parcel is a mixture of tillable land, lowland and wetlands and contains approximately 1,900 feet of Bass Lake frontage and approximately 500 feet of two bank of perennial stream frontage. Acquisition of the property will provide opportunities for public recreation, including hunting and will allow the public to access Bass Lake, a slow, no wake which has been surrounded by private ownership. Wetland restoration would enhance wetland functions and improve wetland habitat expanding the wildlife habitat corridor from the existing State Wildlife Area.

The seller is retaining ownership of the land to the east which includes an older farmhouse and outbuildings. A portion of the septic system encroaches onto the parcel so an easement will be put in place to allow the septic system to remain in place. The easement would expire if the farmhouse is moved or razed.

The seller has agreed on a purchase price of \$2,100,000 for the property. Funds for the purchase are available in the 2026 Dane County Conservation Fund budget. The debt issued to support this expenditure will have a term of 20 years. LWRD plans to use U.S. Fish and Wildlife North American Wetland Conservation Act grant funds of up to \$550,000 to offset the purchase costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize the purchase of approximately 196 acres from the Bonnie G. Marthinsen Trust and the grant of an easement as described above 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 the use of U.S. Fish and Wildlife North American Wetland Conservation Act grant funds to offset the purchase costs and that the Dane County Executive and County Clerk are authorized to execute the grant and partnership documents necessary; 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.