

**DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY – KERNEN PARCEL**

The Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC) has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance for the acquisition of 80 acres in the Town of Primrose from Benjamin Kernen. The property is a mix of cropland and grassland and also contains remnant prairie. A portion of the property has been subdivided into three residential lots and was marketed for sale. DALC was able to negotiate a purchase of the entire 80 acres for \$920,000.

The property is within the County’s Southwest Grasslands Resource Protection Initiative area. It sits within the core of the Southern Driftless Grasslands’ Perry Primrose Bird Conservation Area which focuses on conserving land to benefit sensitive and threatened grassland birds such as the Upland Sandpiper and Henslow’s sparrow. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource’s (DNR) 300 acre Sherven Unit is approximately ½ mile northeast of this property.

Acquisition of this property would protect the remnant prairie and the threatened species that it supports. While providing bird and wildlife habitat, it would also provide public recreational opportunities including hiking, snowshoeing, birding and hunting and trapping. Once acquired, DALC will work to restore the prairie and manage the property for wildlife habitat and public access.

The estimated project costs for the acquisition are \$928,590. DALC has applied for a DNR Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant for 50% of the costs. The Dane County Park Commission recommends granting the remaining 50% of costs, up to \$464,300 in County matching funds.

The term of the debt issued to support this expenditure will be 20 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of up to \$464,300 to Driftless Area Land Conservancy is approved by the Dane County Board and the Dane County Executive and that the County will pay up to the grant amount based on actual project expenses.

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

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