

2023 RES-402

**DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
TOWN OF DUNN AND GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY**

The Town of Dunn and Groundswell Conservancy have applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance for the acquisition of a conservation easement along the Yahara River in the Town of Dunn from Alan and Carol Breed. The 49.7 acre property is partially within the Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area and is near lands owned and protected by the County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Groundswell Conservancy. It is mostly farmland with woods on the north and east sides which contain wetlands and it has approximately 2,500 feet of Yahara River frontage on its eastern border along with a catalogued effigy mound.

The conservation easement would prohibit cropping along the river, creating a wooded buffer to reduce runoff, preserve the wetlands and enhance water quality. It would also protect wildlife, waterfowl and fish habitat and preserve an archeological and historic resource site.

The estimated project costs for the acquisition are \$333,000. The Town of Dunn will fund 25% of the project costs and has secured a Natural Resources Conservation Services, Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant for 50% of the costs. The Dane County Park Commission recommends granting the remaining 25% of costs, up to \$84,000 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 \$84,000 to the Town of Dunn and Groundswell 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.