

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Planning & Development Agency
INITIATED BY



Paul Benjamin
DRAFTED BY

Planning & Development Agency
SUBMITTED BY

April 26, 2010
DATE DRAFTED

AUTHORIZING 2010 FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PLANNING GRANT

1 **WHEREAS**, The Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative was passed as part of the State of Wisconsin's
2 2009-2011 biennial budget process and Ch. 91 of the Wisconsin Statutes, Farmland Preservation has
3 been substantially rewritten; and,

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection has begun
6 offering Farmland Preservation planning grants in order to assist Wisconsin counties in the farmland
7 preservation planning process; and,

8
9 **WHEREAS**, on April 9, 2010, the Rock County Planning and Development Agency received a letter and
10 other materials from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection offering
11 a Farmland Preservation planning grant to Rock County; and,

12
13 **WHEREAS**, obtaining these funds will allow Rock County to update its currently certified Farmland
14 Preservation Plan and include numerous new features of Farmland Preservation that have been written
15 into Ch. 91, Wisconsin Statutes, including purchase of development rights and Agricultural Enterprise
16 Areas; and,

17
18 **WHEREAS**, Rock County has been an active participant in the Farmland Preservation Program for over
19 30 years and the program has been valuable in the preservation of Rock County's rich agricultural lands.

20
21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
22 this 27th day of May, 2010 does hereby accept the 2010 Farmland Preservation Program
23 Planning Grant agreement for \$30,000 from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer
24 Protection and authorizes the County Board Chair to sign the respective grant agreement on behalf of the
25 County of Rock.

26
27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2010 Planning & Deveopment Department Budget be
28 amended as follows:

<u>Account/Description</u>	<u>Budget at</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Amended</u>
<u>Source of Funds:</u>	<u>5/1/2010</u>	<u>(Decrease)</u>	<u>Budget</u>
64-6405-0000-42200/ State Aid	-0-	30,000	30,000
<u>Use of Funds:</u>			
64-6405-0000-63110/ Administration Expense	-0-	25,650	25,650
64-6405-0000-63104/ Printing & Duplicating	-0-	2,750	2,750
64-6405-0000-63107/ Public & Legal Notices	-0-	150	150
64-6405-0000-63300/ Sundry Expense	-0-	1,450	1,450

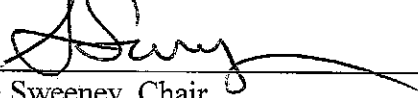
10-5B-049

AUTHORIZING 2010 FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PLANNING GRANT

Respectfully Submitted,

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT



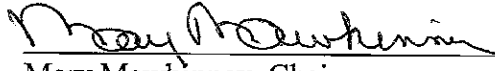
Alan Sweeney, Chair

Reviewed and approved on a vote of

5-0



Mary Mawhinney, Vice-Chair



Mary Mawhinney, Chair

5-20-10

Date



Wayne Gustina



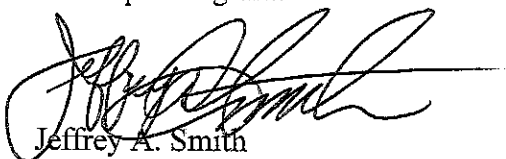
Marilynn Jensen



Phillip Owens

FISCAL NOTE:

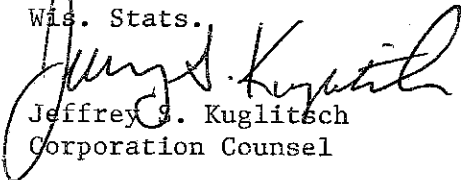
This resolution authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of \$30,000 in State Aid for the 2010-2011 Planning Department Farmland Preservation Grant. No additional County matching funds are required to accept this grant.



Jeffrey A. Smith
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to accept grant funds pursuant to sec. 59.52(19), Wis. Stats. As an amendment to the adopted 2010 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to sec. 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.



Craig Knutson
County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Resolution Authorizing 2010 Farmland Preservation Program Planning Grant

In order to participate in the State Farmland Preservation Program, a county must have a state-certified Farmland Preservation Plan. Farmers in participating counties may qualify for significant tax credits (s. 71.613, Wis. Stats.). Most counties must update their certified plans by deadline dates ranging from 2011 to 2015 in order to continue program participation (s. 91.14, Wis. Stats.).

A certified plan must meet state standards (ss. 91.10 and 91.18, Wis. Stats.), and must be consistent with the county's comprehensive plan. Among other things, a certified plan must identify clearly-mapped areas that the county plans to preserve for agricultural use. Farmers in those areas are eligible for tax credits if their land is covered by a Certified Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance or an individual Farmland Preservation Agreement. Other Farmland Preservation Program benefits, including agricultural enterprise area designations and agricultural conservation easement purchases, are likewise limited to farmland preservation areas designated in the county's certified plan.

The agreement with the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection requires that Rock County contribute at least 50% of the total eligible costs identified in a reimbursement request from any combination of county levy, non-state grant funds, and in-kind services including work performed by county employees but not including the work of unpaid volunteers. Rock County's contribution will be in the form of in-kind services.

The Rock County Agricultural Preservation Plan was certified in 2005 for ten years. The County has the option to remain certified until 2015 or take a Farmland Preservation Planning Grant for certification by December 31, 2011. Staff at the Rock County Planning and Development Agency recommend taking advantage of the planning grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to do an update of the Rock County Farmland Preservation Plan in order to take advantage of new features in the law. Sixteen of Rock County's twenty towns will also be required to bring their zoning ordinances up to the new standards in Ch. 91, Wis. Stats. By updating the town zoning ordinances by 2012 and doing the County Farmland Preservation Plan about the same time, we can insure that the zoning ordinances are consistent with the plan, a statutory requirement.