

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation Committee  
INITIATED BY

Land Conservation Committee  
SUBMITTED BY



Thomas Sweeney &  
Wade Thompson  
DRAFTED BY

February 15, 2011  
DATE DRAFTED

**PRESERVING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE  
AND PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS  
(PACE) PROGRAM**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors supports the protection and preservation of  
2 productive agricultural lands in the State of Wisconsin and Rock County; and,  
3

4 **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin adopted the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) in 1977, with the  
5 FPP serving as a national model for protecting and preserving productive agricultural lands and Rock  
6 County began participation in the FPP in 1979, and has maintained its participation to the present day;  
7 and,  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the vision and efforts of former DATCP Secretary Rod Nilsestuen, a Working  
10 Lands Steering Committee, consisting of twenty-six (26) State of Wisconsin residents representing  
11 various parties interested in and affected by farmland preservation in the State, was formulated in 2005 to  
12 develop recommendations to modify and improve the FPP, to ensure the FPP adapt to changes in land  
13 use planning and development trends and patterns, and to provide for a more comprehensive approach to  
14 protection and preservation of productive agricultural lands in the State; and,  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin adopted the recommendations of the Working Lands Steering  
17 Committee, entitled the Working Lands Initiative (WLI), as part of the 2009 Act 28, Biennium Budget  
18 Bill; and,  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, a specific component of the WLI, the State's PACE Program, provides funding to purchase  
21 agricultural conservation easements, to ensure protection and preservation of productive agricultural  
22 lands throughout the State; and,  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors recently adopted the Rock County PACE Program,  
25 a Program designed to purchase agricultural conservation easements in Rock County, working in  
26 cooperation with local governments in the County, enhancing the County's quality of life by building  
27 consensus towards a regional vision, including preservation of agricultural land, the agricultural  
28 economy, and the County's rural character, and responsible growth and development in appropriate  
29 areas; and,  
30

31 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin PACE program is in its infancy and given time will expand into other parts  
32 of the state as the initiative is better understood; ~~and,~~  
33

34 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Rock County Board of Supervisors, duly assembled this  
35 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011, requests the State of Wisconsin to preserve the Working Lands  
36 Initiative, the FPP, the PACE Program, the AEA Program and the Working Lands Fund in their current  
37 form, and not modify or amend said Initiative, Programs, or Fund,  
38

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Rock County Board of Supervisors oppose Assembly Bill 34,  
40 Senate Bill 24 and the language identified in the Governor's Proposed Budget.


11-3A-308

**PRESERVING THE WISCONSIN WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS (PACE) PROGRAM**

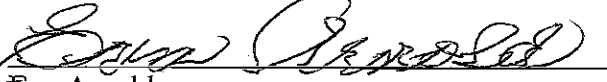
Page 2

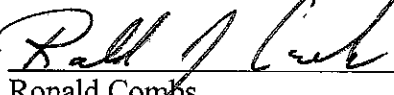
Respectfully submitted,

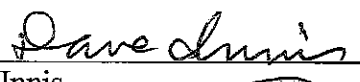
**Land Conservation Committee**

  
Richard Bostwick, Chair

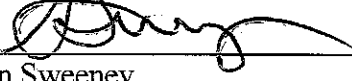
  
Larry Wiedenfeld, Vice Chair

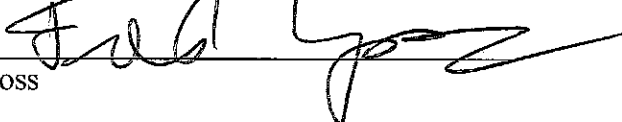
  
Eva Arnold

  
Ronald Combs

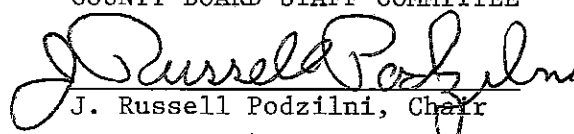
  
Dave Innis

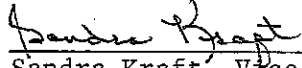
  
James Quade, FSA Representative

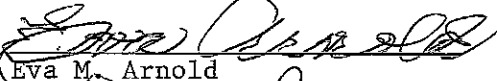
  
Alan Sweeney

  
Fred Yoss

**COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE**

  
J. Russell Podzilni, Chair

  
Sandra Kraft, Vice Chair

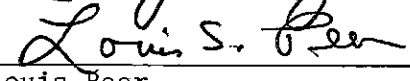
  
Eva M. Arnold


  
Henry Brill

  
Betty Jo Bussie

  
Ivan Collins

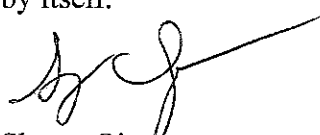
  
Marilynn Jensen

  
Louis Peer

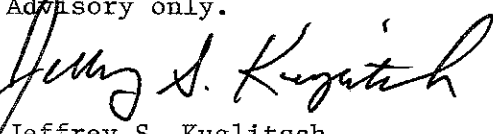
  
Kurtis L. Yankee

**FISCAL NOTE:**

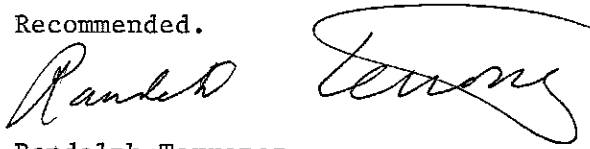
This resolution requests the State of Wisconsin to preserve the Working Lands Initiative and related programs in their current form. This resolution has no fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.

  
Sherry Oja  
Senior Accountant / Assistant to the Finance Director

**LEGAL NOTE:**

Advisory only.  
  
Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Corporation Counsel

**ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:**

Recommended.  
  
Randolph Terronez  
Acting County Administrator