

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

LAND CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
INITIATED BY



THOMAS SWEENEY
DRAFTED BY

LAND CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY

DECEMBER 28, 2012
DATE DRAFTED

**APPROVAL OF CONVEYANCE AGREEMENT AND ESCROW INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE
PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS PROGRAM**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors officially approved the Rock County Purchase of
2 Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program and adopted the document entitled Rock County PACE
3 Program Manual, identifying and outlining all aspects of Program development and implementation, on
4 January 13, 2011; and,
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Program works to achieve its mission by acquiring agricultural conservation easements
7 (Easements) on eligible lands throughout unincorporated Rock County; and,
8

9 **WHEREAS**, applications were submitted by landowners to the Program in 2012, with said applications reviewed
10 and approved by Rock County Land Conservation Department (LCD) staff, the Rock County PACE Council, and
11 the Rock County Land Conservation Committee (LCC), all in accordance with the Rock County PACE Program
12 Manual; and,
13

14 **WHEREAS**, application approval by the LCC authorizes the LCD to begin the Easement acquisition process on
15 Properties identified in said applications, subject to the consent of the landowners, as follows:
16

- 17 1. Vanthournout Property - tax parcel number 6-20-103, Town of Union;
- 18 2. Morton Properties – tax parcel number 6-10-95, Town of La Prairie, and tax parcel number 6-7-387,
19 Town of Harmony; and,
20

21 **WHEREAS**, to move towards completion of the Easement acquisition process, each of the owners of the
22 aforementioned Properties (Applicants), Rock County, and Brabazon Title Company, Inc. will sign and execute a
23 *Rock County – Conveyance Agreement and Escrow Instructions – Agricultural Conservation Easement*,
24 identifying and outlining all aspects of the Easement acquisition process, including but not limited to, the
25 following activities, subject to all terms and conditions as stated therein:
26

- 27 1. Opening escrow with Brabazon Title Company, Inc. and Securing a Minimum Title Insurance
28 Commitment of \$15,000 (Title Report) for each Property - County Activity;
- 29 2. Applicant depositing three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in the established escrow account - Landowner
30 Activity;
- 31 3. Rock County contracting with an appraiser to determine the fair market value (Appraisal) of an
32 Easement on each Property - County Activity; and,
33

34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this
35 10 day of January, 2013, do by enactment of this Resolution approve a *Rock County –*
36 *Conveyance Agreement and Escrow Instructions – Agricultural Resources Conservation Easement* for each
37 Property, authorizing the LCD to undertake activities identified therein and obligate all necessary funds to
38 complete said activities.

13-1A-222

Respectfully submitted:

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE


Richard Bostwick, Chair

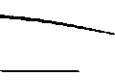

Larry Wiedenfeld, Vice-Chair

Absent
Eva Arnold

Absent
Ed Nash


Jim Quade

Absent
Deloyde Sanders


Alan Sweeney

Fred Yoss

FISCAL NOTE:

Sufficient funds are in the 2013 budget for the Pace Program

Susan Balog
Sr. Accountant/Assistant to Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01, 59.51 and 93.73, Wis. Stats.

Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Randy Terronez
Assistant to the County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Rock County Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program acquires agricultural conservation easements ("Easements") on eligible lands throughout unincorporated Rock County. This resolution authorizes Rock County to execute an agreement ("Option") with three property owners, identifying Rock County and the property owner's interest in completing the Easement acquisition process on their properties, and also identifying the purchase price of the Easements. Completion of the Easement acquisition process is subject to funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.