



**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY APRIL 1, 2015 7:15 P.M.
LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
CONFERENCE ROOM
440 N US HWY 14
JANESVILLE WI**

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order.
2. Approval of Agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes – March 4, 2015.
4. Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.
5. Bills/Encumbrances/Transfers.
6. Farmland Preservation Program – Approval of Voluntary Withdraw for Richard Zanzinger.
7. Land and Water Resource Management Program – Approval of Cost Share Agreements.
8. Approval of 2015 Gypsy Moth Suppression Grant Contract.
9. Approval of letter outlining comments as they relate to conservation issues outlined in the Governor's 2015-17 proposed State Budget.
10. Resolution - Opposition to Freezing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Fund.
11. Approval of Municipal WPDES Stormwater Permit 2014 Annual Report.
12. Approval of Letter of Support for Multi-Municipality MS4 Grant Application.
13. Resolution - Finalizing Purchase of the Plankey Agricultural Conservation Easement.
14. Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE) – Program Update.
15. Adjourn.

Account Number	Account Name	PO#	Inv Date	Vendor Name	Inv/Enc Amt
62-6200-0000-63200	PUBL/SUBCR/DUES	P1501464	03/06/2015	JANESVILLE GAZETTE INC	65.93
	Budget	YTD Exp	YTD Enc	Pending	Closing Balance
	2,100.00	2,028.99	0.00	65.93	5.08
62-6200-0000-64200	TRAINING EXP	P1501463	03/05/2015	ROCK RIVER COALITION	100.00
	Budget	YTD Exp	YTD Enc	Pending	Closing Balance
	1,700.00	877.69	0.00	100.00	722.31
LAND CONSERVATION PROG TOTAL				165.93	
62-6225-0000-63100	OFC SUPP & EXP	R1501604	03/11/2015	BLISS COMMUNICATIONS INC	79.68
ENC	Budget	YTD Exp	YTD Enc	Pending	Closing Balance
	0.00	0.00	0.00	79.68	(79.68)
62-6225-0000-63110	ADMIN.EXPENSE	R1501605	03/11/2015	EVANSVILLE REVIEW LTD	63.00
ENC		R1501606	03/11/2015	BELOIT DAILY NEWS	38.37
ENC		R1501607	03/11/2015	HOMETOWN NEWS LIMITED PARTNER	32.50
	Budget	YTD Exp	YTD Enc	Pending	Closing Balance
	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	133.87	1,866.13
WILDLIFE DAMAGE/ASSMTS. PROG TOTAL				213.55	
62-6280-0000-64928	COST SHARING	P1501332	02/08/2015	BAKER,ANDREW AND TERESA	367.47
	Budget	YTD Exp	YTD Enc	Pending	Closing Balance
	150,000.00	8,410.00	0.00	367.47	141,222.53
LWC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROG TOTAL				367.47	
62-6340-0000-62119	OTHER SERVICES	R1501677	03/16/2015	WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATUR.	1,764.78
ENC	Budget	YTD Exp	YTD Enc	Pending	Closing Balance
	14,850.00	0.00	0.00	1,764.78	13,085.22
62-6340-0000-63110	ADMIN.EXPENSE	P1501331	01/31/2015	BELOIT DAILY NEWS	37.44
	Budget	YTD Exp	YTD Enc	Pending	Closing Balance
	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	37.44	3,962.56
GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROG TOTAL				1,802.22	

Account Number	Account Name	PO#	Inv Date	Vendor Name	Inv/Enc Amt
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I have examined the preceding bills and encumbrances in the total amount of **\$2,549.17**

Claims covering the items are proper and have been previously funded. These items are to be treated as follows:

- A. Bills and encumbrances over \$10,000 referred to the Finance Committee and County Board.
- B. Bills under \$10,000 to be paid.
- C. Encumbrances under \$10,000 to be paid upon acceptance by the Department Head.

Date: **APR 01 2015**

Dept Head _____

Committee Chair _____

PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER P1500158

PEID 053624

PRE-APPROVED ENCUMBRANCE AMENDMENT FORM

This form must be used when adding funds to or changing an account number of a previously approved encumbrance. Please complete this form and e-mail to Susan Balog in Accounting (balog@co.rock.wi.us), Cheryl Mikrut in Accounting (mikrut@co.rock.wi.us) **and** Jodi Millis in Purchasing (jodi@co.rock.wi.us). Susan or Cheryl will forward on to your governing committee for approval. The Encumbrance and Purchase Order will be updated upon approval of all necessary committees and County Board (if amendment is over \$10,000).

DATE 3/12/2015

DEPARTMENT LAND CONSERVATION

COMMITTEE LAND CONSERVATION

VENDOR NAME SCHUMACHERS NURSERY AND BERRY FARM INC

ACCOUNT NUMBER 62-6200-0000-64319

FUNDS DESCRIPTION TREE PURCHASE

AMOUNT OF INCREASE \$ 135.00

INCREASE FROM \$ 260.00 TO \$ 395.00

ACCOUNT BALANCE AVAILABLE \$ 741.07 SB 03/12/15

REASON FOR AMENDMENT GOLDEN CURRANT SHRUBS SOLD OUT EARLY.

IN OUR TREE SALE PROGRAM. SO WE ORDERED ADDITIONAL 100 WHICH

HAVE ALSO ALREADY SOLD OUT. ALSO ADDED MONEY TO COVER SHIPPING.

APPROVALS

GOVERNING COMMITTEE _____
Chair _____ Date _____

FINANCE COMMITTEE _____
(If over \$10,000) Chair _____ Date _____

COUNTY BOARD _____
(If over \$10,000) Resolution # _____ Adoption Date _____

State of Wisconsin DNR
 Department of Natural Resources
 P.O. Box 7921
 Madison, WI 53707-7921

**GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM
 GRANT AGREEMENT**
 Form 2400-142 Rev. 3/14

GRANT SPONSOR (aka County Coordinator)
 Thomas Sweeney
 County Conservationist
 440 N Us Hwy 14
 Janesville, WI 53546-9708

PROJECT NUMBER
 GM-112-15

PERIOD COVERED BY THIS AGREEMENT
 July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

PROJECT TITLE
 Rock County Gypsy Moth Suppression Grant 2014-2015

PROJECT SCOPE AND DESCRIPTION

Rock County proposes to participate in the Gypsy Moth Suppression grant program as explained in the attached agreement. A detailed description of associated treatment blocks is included with this agreement. Aerial Spray costs per acre will be the following for both Btk and Gypcheck: \$43.90/acre.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS
 (subject to finalizing of treatment blocks)

Estimated Total Aerial Spray Cost	\$1,756.00
Estimated Sponsor Cost Share of Aerial Spray*	\$1,756.00
Estimated Federal Cost Share of Aerial Spray* <i>response still pending</i>	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	To Be Determined
Estimated Total Number of Acres	40

The following documents are incorporated into and made part of this agreement
 (1) Chapter NR 47, Wis Adm Code
 (2) Gypsy Moth Suppression Grant application (Form 2400-131) and attachments.

* Federal cost share from U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service/Cooperative Forestry Assistance grant #CFDA 10.680 is subject to availability of funds.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The purpose of this agreement is to provide a cooperative Gypsy Moth Suppression Program between the parties. The parties agree to the following terms and conditions for cost share and continued eligibility for the grant identified in this agreement. The agreement is effective once both parties sign at the end of the document.
2. The applicant is defined as a Wisconsin county that submits an application for inclusion in the state Gypsy Moth Suppression Program and cost sharing for the treatment of and associated administrative costs for suppression of Gypsy Moth outbreaks. The applicant may assign an agent who is authorized to execute this agreement and bind his or her principal, either by duly adopted resolution or otherwise. In this case, this agent will be known as the "sponsor" of the grant and is responsible to ensure all duties outlined in s. NR 47.913, Wis. Adm. Code, are completed. If the applicant does not assign an agent, the applicant shall be known as the "sponsor" of the grant.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS

3. Any reimbursement of cost share expenses is subject to the availability of federal funds provided by the USDA Forest Service. If full funding is not available, cost share reimbursements will be prorated.
4. The Department of Natural Resources (department) will invoice the sponsor for the total costs of the aerial spray based on the estimated total number of acres submitted with the sponsor's application multiplied by the cost per acre for Btk and/or Gypchek treatments. Those costs per acre are described on the first page of this agreement. The sponsor shall submit the full payment to the department no later than April 1 of this year.
5. The sponsor is responsible for arranging and collecting financing for the full cost of the treatment with available sources of local funding. The sponsor shall not use other matching federal funds, besides the Gypsy Moth cost share reimbursement (as described below) administered by the department, to cover the local portion of the cost share.
6. The sponsor shall submit a record of administrative expenses incurred from July 1 of last year through June 30 of this year to the department no later than July 15 of this year on the prescribed department forms.
7. The department shall reimburse the sponsor, from available federal funds, for both aerial spray costs and administrative expenses up to 50% of total expenses. The department agrees to provide this reimbursement within a reasonable processing time following submission of all sponsor expense reports, not to go beyond September 30 of this year.
8. The sponsor shall record administrative expenses that are both necessary and reasonable for the operation of the program. Only eligible administrative expenses as defined in s. NR 47.917(1), Wis. Adm. Code, are eligible for reimbursement. Administrative expenses incurred for treatment blocks that do not receive aerial insecticide are not eligible for reimbursement.
9. The sponsor shall use time sheets that record the work of their employees on a daily basis, and may be either the timesheet provided by the department or the employees' standard timesheet. These daily time sheets shall document the type of work performed and training received for the project. If employees do not keep daily time sheets, any time spent working on the project must be recorded in a project labor log. The log shall record the date, hours worked, work done, employee name and rate of pay.
10. The sponsor shall include fringe benefits for their employees who perform work for the project. These fringe benefits may include employee insurance plans, retirement plans, Social Security contributions, worker's compensation, etc. Fringe benefits may be reimbursed at rates up to those specified by the Department of Administration (varies by county).
11. The sponsor may use vehicle logs to document mileage accrued for work performed for the project. Mileage may be reimbursed at rates up to those specified by the Department of Transportation.

12. The sponsor shall retain backup documentation of all expenses on file for four (4) years. This information includes copies of invoices, receipts, time sheets, canceled checks and other financial documents as further requested by the department. The sponsor is subject to and agrees to an audit by the USDA Forest Service and the department.

PROJECT ACTIVITY PROVISIONS

13. The sponsor shall submit final treatment block boundaries to the department no later than March 7 of this year. Changes to spray block acreage may be the result of deletions because of objectors, alterations for the safety of the public and/or the applicator, threatened or endangered species concerns, or the need to redraw the treatment block for ease of flying and improve treatment efficiency. Once the department has received the sponsor's payment for the total cost of aerial spray of the treatment blocks, the boundaries of these treatment blocks shall be considered fixed, and this grant will be adjusted accordingly.
14. Alteration or cancellation of a treatment block after April 1 of this year, may only occur in the event of an irreconcilable conflict with a federal or state listed, threatened or endangered species; or where it is determined that the pesticide treatment may be hazardous to the public or the applicator, as stated in s. NR 47.914(10)(a), Wis. Adm. Code. This grant will be adjusted accordingly for these deletions; and no additions to the total acreage can be made.
15. The sponsor shall notify and work with the landowners by responding to requests for assistance and complying with administrative rule and statutory notice provisions. The sponsor is responsible for resolving objections to treatment.
16. The sponsor shall keep records of all public contacts and submit them to the department, as described in s. NR 47.914(8), Wis. Adm. Code. The sponsor shall also provide the department a list of telephone contacts made, including emergency telephone numbers, associated with each treatment block, as provided in NR 47.914(11), Wis. Adm. Code.
17. The department intends to field check at least 10% of the applicant's treatment blocks for eligibility.
18. The applicant shall attend training as a ground observer of the Wisconsin aerial spray program and assist as an observer during the treatment.
19. The applicant shall provide to the department a post-treatment evaluation of defoliation within their treatment blocks using the survey methods provided by the department.

STANDARD PROVISIONS

20. The department and the sponsor mutually agree to perform this agreement in accordance with the Federal Cost Sharing Program to Suppress Gypsy Moth and with the project proposal, application, terms, promises, conditions, provisions, plans, specifications, estimates, procedures, maps and also any assurances attached hereto and made a part hereof.
21. The department hereby promises, in consideration of the covenants and agreements made by the sponsor herein, to obligate to the sponsor the amount of, and to tender to the sponsor that portion of, the obligation of which the federal government is required to pay based upon the state providing the federal portion of eligible project costs (subject to federal funding availability). The sponsor hereby promises, in consideration of the promises made by the department herein, to execute the project described herein in accordance with this agreement.
22. The sponsor agrees to comply with all applicable Wisconsin Statutes and Wisconsin Administrative Codes in fulfilling the terms of this agreement. In particular, the sponsor agrees to comply with the provisions of s. NR 47, Wis. Adm. Code.
23. The department agrees that the sponsor shall have sole control of the method, hours worked, and time and manner of any performance under this agreement other than as specifically provided herein. The department reserves the right only to inspect the job site or premises for the sole purpose of insuring that the performance is progressing or has been completed in compliance with the agreement. The department takes no responsibility of supervision or direction of the performance of the

agreement to be performed by the sponsor or the sponsor's employees. The sponsor is an independent contractor for all purposes, not an employee or agent of the department. The department further agrees that it will exercise no control over the selection and dismissal of the sponsor's employees.

- 24. This agreement, together with any referenced parts and attachments, shall constitute the entire agreement and previous communications or agreements pertaining to the subject matter of this agreement are hereby superseded. Any revisions must be made by an amendment to this agreement or other written documentation, signed by both parties, prior to the termination date of the agreement.
- 25. The sponsor may rescind this agreement in writing at any time prior to the starting of the project and before expending any funds. After the project has been started or funds expended, this agreement may be rescinded, modified, or amended only by mutual agreement in writing.
- 26. Failure by the sponsor to comply with the terms of this agreement shall not cause the suspension of all obligations of the State hereunder if, in the judgment of the Secretary of the department, such failure was due to no fault of the sponsor. In such case, any amount required to settle, at minimum costs, any irrevocable obligations properly incurred shall be eligible for assistance under this agreement at the department's discretion.
- 27. The sponsor agrees, to save, keep harmless, defend and indemnify the department and all its officers, employees and agents, against any and all liability claims, costs of whatever kind and nature, for injury to or death of any person or persons, and for loss or damage to any property (state or other) occurring in connection with or in any way incident to or arising out of the occupancy, use, service, operation or performance of work in connection with this agreement or omissions of the sponsor's employees, agents or representatives.
- 28. The sponsor agrees to reimburse the department for any and all funds the department deems appropriate in the event the sponsor fails to comply with the conditions of this agreement or project proposal as described, or fails to provide public benefits as indicated in the project application, proposal description or this agreement. In addition, should the sponsor fail to comply with the conditions of this agreement, fail to progress due to non-appropriation of funds, or fail to progress with or complete the project to the satisfaction of the department, all obligations of the department under this agreement may be terminated, including project cost payment.
- 29. In connection with the performance of work under this agreement, the sponsor agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, religion, color, disability, handicap, sex, physical condition, developmental disability, sexual orientation or national origin, as defined in s. 51.01(5), Wis. Stats. This provision shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The sponsor further agrees to take affirmative action steps to ensure equal employment opportunities, as required by law.

Indicate to the right where <u>your check should</u> <u>be mailed</u> , if different from the county coordinator listed on your grant application.	Name _____
	Title _____
	Business/County _____
	Address _____
	City, State Zip _____

Sign and return this agreement to the department by April 1 of this year.

The person(s) signing for the applicant represents both personally and as an agent or sponsor of his or her principal that he or she is authorized to execute this agreement and bind his or her principal either by a duly adopted resolution or otherwise.

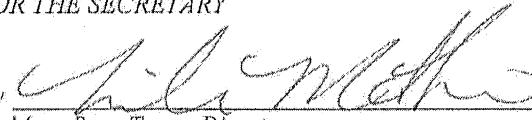
STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FOR THE SECRETARY

By _____

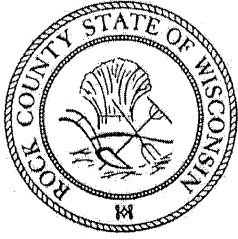
(Signature)

(Title)

(Date)

By 
for Mary Rose Teves, Director
Bureau of Community Financial Assistance

3/19/2015
(Date)



Rock County Land Conservation Committee

440 N US Hwy 14

Janesville, WI 53546-9708

Phone: (608) 754 - 6617 ext.3

March 18, 2015

Representative/Senator XXXX
Wisconsin State Capital, Suite XX
Madison WI 537XX

Members of the Joint Committee on Finance.

The Rock County Land Conservation Committee (LCC) would like to submit the following comments regarding to the Governor's 2015-17 Biennium State Budget Proposal.

County Conservation Staffing Grants (DATCP):

The proposed budget once again reduces funds for county conservation staff, who help farmers, rural landowners, municipalities and NGO's. Funding falls to \$8 million per year, down from the long-term average of \$9.3 million. We request you restore local staff funding to \$9.3 million annually in DATCP's budget. Please note the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board passed a resolution during their March 2015 meeting which supports restoring the grant funds to the historical \$9.3 million.

Bond Cost Share dollars (DATCP and DNR):

The proposed budget reduces the cost-sharing funds by \$920 K for the biennium. The funds are found in the DATCP and DNR budgets. Both DATCP and DNR have lapses in cost-share funding of 10%. The base funding theoretically remains the same for future biennial budgets though these reductions often become permanent. The Rock County LCC requests you restore the \$920K for the biennium.

SEG Cost Share dollars (DATCP):

The LCC supports maintaining the SEG funding for Nutrient Management at the last biennium level. However, we do have issue with further segregation of this fund, to provide funding, \$500K, to producer led councils. We support the funding only if statutory language is included that will reduce conflict between the newly formed councils and the established conservation programs run by the County Land Conservation Departments. Statutory language would allow a non-governmental entity to work in watershed project within a county without any provision to coordinate efforts with the ongoing conservation efforts within said watershed. Without explicit coordination requirements, including the sharing of resource information, conservation efforts will be duplicated, or worse, conflicting expectations will be conveyed to farmers, which is a disservice to agriculture, and likely to our natural resources. Further, such duplication is financially irresponsible. The LCC requests the development of language requiring any entity that receives a "producer led watershed grant" to coordinate its efforts with the statutorily mandated conservation programming efforts of the county. To do so will enhance conservation in Wisconsin, not detract from it.

DNR Educational Grants

We oppose the proposed reduction of DNR NPS educational grants in the sum of \$1.4 million. The proposed reductions have widespread impact on the delivery of conservation. They may include:

- Loss of DNR funding of \$75,000 over the biennium for the Standards Oversight Council. This council develops and updates all best management practice standards for agriculture and urban application.
- Funding for SNAP+ from DNR eliminated. This issue is very important in achieving the conservation standards as defined in NR 151 and ATCP 50.

Fertilizer Research Council and Funding (DATCP):

We oppose the elimination of Fertilizer Research Council & funding for this Council which is located in the DATCP budget in the sum of \$540 K. The funding for this program which supports UW research projects on nutrient efficiency and the related programs such as the Nutrient and Pest Management Center comes from a fee on fertilizer tonnage sold, and will have no impact on the budget.

- In recent past the Ag industry actually advocated for higher fees.
- Farm Bureau is advocating for reinstatement of the Council.

Urban Nonpoint Program (DNR):

We oppose the reduction to the Urban Non-point program housed in DNR which is estimated to be \$1.6 Million. This fund helps cities implement urban stormwater management practices.

DATCP and DNR Boards:

We oppose the conversion of DATCP and DNR Boards to advisory councils. Both the DATCP and DNR citizen boards are proposed to be converted to advisory councils, which in turn will mean less citizen input to both DATCP and DNR on policy that directly affects counties.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund (DNR):

We oppose the freezing of the Stewardship Fund. The Stewardship Fund provides funding for easements and purchases of particularly unique lands in Wisconsin. Budget would halt new purchases until 2028. It is alleged that the Fund carries too much debt service but it is far below that of the Environmental Fund. A resolution from the full County Board of Supervisors regarding this opposition is forth coming.

DNR Science Bureau:

We oppose the elimination of DNR Science Bureau of which 4.5 positions currently are working on Non-Point Source programming. Some of the most important work on water quality related to non-point work has come from this bureau.

Clean Sweep (DATCP):

We oppose the Governor's proposal to freeze the funding for this program at \$750K per year for the biennium. We ask that the funding be returned to the funding in 2013-14 of \$1.5M per year. The program provides financial assistance to Wisconsin counties, regional planning commissions, cities, villages, and other municipalities to collect unwanted pesticides, household hazardous wastes, and unwanted prescription drugs such as controlled substances, analgesics, anti-inflammatory drugs, antibiotics, gastrointestinal drugs, and antihistamines.

I strongly urge you to support the issues in this letter.

Sincerely,

Richard Bostwick
 Chair, Rock County Land Conservation Committee
 cc.

Senator Alberta Darling, Co-Chair
Room 317 East
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative John Nygren, Co-Chair
Room 309 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Luther Olsen
Room 313 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Dale Kooyenga
Room 324 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Sheila Harsdorf
Room 122 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Amy Loudenbeck
Room 306 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Leah Vukmir
Room 131 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Dean Knudson
Room 304 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Tom Tiffany
Room 409 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Michael Schraa
Room 320 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Howard Marklein
Room 8 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Representative Mary Czaja
Room 321 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison WI 53708

Senator Lena Taylor
Room 19 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Chris Taylor
Room 306 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Jon Erpenbach
Room 104 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Gordon Hintz
Room 109 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Janis Ringhand
Room 22 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Representative Mark Speitzer
Room 420 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Steve Nass
Room 10 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Representative Andy Jorgensen
Room 113 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Representative Deb Kolste
Room 8 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AGENDA NO. _____

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Public Works Committee
INITIATED BY



Lori Williams and
Thomas Sweeney
DRAFTED BY

Public Works Committee,
Land Conservation Committee and
Planning and Development
Committee
SUBMITTED BY

March 13, 2015
DATE DRAFTED

Opposition to Freezing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Fund

1 **WHEREAS**, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has been providing money to the state, local
2 governments, land trusts and other non-profits (NGOs) to purchase and protect land since 1989. It has
3 helped protect more than 500,000 acres. These lands benefit all of us in Wisconsin by providing jobs,
4 supporting local economies, protecting our water resources & air quality, promoting tourism & healthy
5 lifestyles, guaranteeing places to hunt, hike, fish and explore close to home; and,
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the Public Works Parks Division has utilized the stewardship fund in the recent past as an
8 alternative funding source for various park projects and planned to utilize this fund for future park
9 projects within Rock County. Past and future projects included or would include land acquisition and
10 park development projects; and,
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) identified the stewardship fund as an
13 alternative funding source for the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program
14 for lands that fell within the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) leased Public Hunting Program
15 areas located in Rock County; and,
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the LCD and DNR were committed to the development of a partnership for protecting
18 the working lands of Rock County, through the PACE Program, while facilitating DNR interests of
19 increasing public access opportunities within the public hunting areas; and,
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the proposed freeze on the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Fund dissolves this
22 partnership, slows the progress of protecting working lands and slows the ability of the DNR increasing
23 public access to private lands for hunting and fishing opportunities; and,
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the Planning & Development Committee recommended and the County Board adopted
26 policies in the Rock County Comprehensive Plan 2035 to protect agricultural and natural resources
27 with viable and useful implementing tools such as the stewardship fund; and,
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Fund has been used by land trusts and other
30 NGOs to purchase conservation easements in Rock County for the protection of working lands and
31 natural areas; and,
32

33 **WHEREAS**, the Public Works Committee, the Land Conservation Committee, and Planning and
34 Development Committee have stated their opposition to freezing the stewardship funds as identified in
35 the Governor's proposed 2015-2017 budget.
36

37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
38 this _____ day of _____, 2015, urges Governor Scott Walker to reconsider the proposed
39 freeze to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and requests the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly
40 to take action which maintains the stewardship fund in its entirety; and,
41

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk forward this Resolution to Wisconsin Governor
43 Scott Walker; Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, Cathy Stepp; Senator Janis Ringhand;
44 Senator Steve Nass; Representative Mark Speitzer; Representative Andy Jorgensen; Representative Deb
45 Kolste; and Representative Amy Loudenbeck.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Betty Jo Bussie, Chair

Eva Arnold

Brenton Driscoll

Brent Fox

Rick Richard

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Alan Sweeney, Chair

Wes Davis

Wayne Gustina

Jason Heidenreich

Mary Mawhinney

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Rich Bostwick, Chair

Thomas J. Brien

Wes Davis

Jason Dowd

David Rebout, FSA Representative

Alan Sweeney

Larry Wiedenfeld

Jeremy Zajac

FISCAL NOTE:

No fiscal impact.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

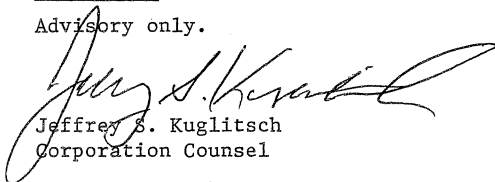
Matter of policy.



Josh Smith
County Administrator

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

Opposition to Freezing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Fund

Executive Summary

Governor Walker has proposed to freeze the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Fund until 2023, as introduced in the 2015 – 2017 State Budget proposal. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Fund is available each year in the form of grants to local units of government and nonprofit conservation organizations. These grants help fund land acquisition and recreational development statewide. This fund has helped protect over 500,000 acres of natural areas and working lands since its inception in 1989. Rock County, local units of government and nonprofit conservation organizations have relied on the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Fund to provide critical financial support for past, present and future projects.

The Rock County Public Works Department Parks Division has utilized this fund for park improvement projects and to add land to the County Park System. The Parks Division was granted funds from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Funds to complete many of the projects in the Beckman Mill County Park. All projects are outlined in the County's Park Revitalization Plan. By securing this funding the Park Division was able to secure funding from additional grant sources and matching County funds. As a direct result of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds, the vast network of volunteers associated with this park provided in-kind contributions that led to the completion of projects making this park what it is today.

In addition the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Funds were utilized by nonprofit conservation organizations such as the Green-Rock Audubon Society for the purchase of lands in the Town of Newark on the East Branch of Raccoon Creek. The lands have had extensive work completed by volunteers resulting in a beautiful natural area. Another example of NGOs working in Rock County is the Natural Heritage Land Trust used these funds to facilitate the acquisition of land adjacent to the DNR's Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area in Avon Township.

The Rock County Land Conservation Department has been working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop a formal partnership to preserve productive agricultural lands in conjunction with providing recreational access (hunting) in the proximity of Evansville, Footville, and Orfordville. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Fund would have been used to reduce the County's fiscal exposure as it relates to the Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE).

The Rock County Comprehensive Plan 2035 directs the County to ensure the viability of agricultural and natural resources. Adopted policies were designed to support efforts to preserve and protect these important regional elements including seek funding opportunities through partnerships.

As stated earlier, the proposal as submitted by Governor Walker in the 2015 – 2017 State Budget, is to freeze this fund until 2023. The Public Works, Land Conservation, and Planning and Development Committees have discussed this issue and are opposed to the proposal.

This resolution is advisory in nature.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AGENDA NO. _____

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation
Committee
INITIATED BY



Andrew Baker and Thomas Sweeney
DRAFTED BY

Land Conservation
Committee
SUBMITTED BY

March 13, 2015
DATE DRAFTED

FINALIZING PURCHASE OF THE PLANKEY AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT

- 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**, a PACE application was submitted in 2013 by Michael C. Plankey for approximately 182 acres of
7 real property located in Section 23, Township 1 North, Range 13 East, (Turtle Township) Rock County, State of
8 Wisconsin, Rock County Tax Parcel Numbers 6-19-264A, 6-19-264B, 6-19-264C & 6-19-264D; and,
9
10 **WHEREAS**, the application was recommended for approval by the PACE Council, approved by the Land
11 Conservation Committee and County Board in accordance with the Rock County PACE Program Manual and
12 approved for partial funding by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); and,
13
14 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program and the NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) require
15 that easement appraisals be completed by a State of Wisconsin Certified General Appraiser and meet the
16 Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) to determine the purchase price of the
17 easement; and,
18
19 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program policy and procedures and the NRCS-ACEP program require a signed Option to
20 Purchase agreement between Rock County and the Landowner of the aforementioned property identifying the
21 purchase price of the Easement, which was previously authorized by separate action; and,
22
23 **WHEREAS**, the LCD worked closely with the NRCS staff to secure the NRCS-ACEP portion of the funding for
24 said easement purchase and will receive said funding following the easement closing; and,
25
26 **WHEREAS**, each party to this PACE Easement are required to have financial interests as follows; Landowner
27 will donate up to forty nine percent (49%) of the easement value, approximately \$293,020, the County will
28 contribute seventeen percent (17%) of the easement value, totaling \$101,660, and the NRCS will contribute thirty
29 four percent (34%) of the easement value, totaling \$203,320.
30
31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this
32 _____ day of _____, 2015, do by enactment of this Resolution approves the purchase of the
33 Agricultural Conservation Easement on the Plankey Property, authorizes the County Board Chair or County Clerk
34 to sign the Easement on behalf of the County, authorizes the LCD to make payment to the landowner for said
35 easement, accepts the NRCS-ACEP portion of the funding, and authorizes the LCD to undertake final necessary
36 activities to close on the Easement.

FINALIZING PURCHASE OF THE PLANKEY AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT

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Respectfully submitted:

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Richard Bostwick, Chair

Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

Thomas J. Brien

Wes Davis

Jason Dowd

David Rebut, USDA-FSA

Larry Wiedenfeld

Jeremy Zajac

FISCAL NOTE:

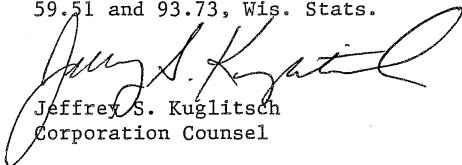
This resolution approves the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement and accepts NRCS funding. Sufficient funds are available in the Land Conservation Department's PACE budget for the estimated purchase price of this easement.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

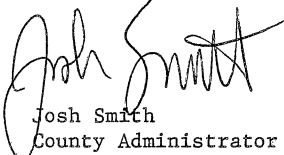
The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01, 59.51 and 93.73, Wis. Stats.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.



Josh Smith
County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This resolution authorizes the Land Conservation Department (LCD) to finalize acquisition of the Agricultural Conservation Easement under the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (PACE) for the Plankey Property.

Acquisition of easements such as this is intended to protect and preserve productive agricultural lands in Rock County, encouraging and promoting the goals of a strong agricultural economy and community identity, intergovernmental cooperation, and a regional land use vision throughout the County.

The value of the Easement was determined by a qualified Real Estate Appraiser and reviewed by a third-party review appraiser, as per USDA-NRCS program guidelines. An Option to Purchase was previously executed for this acquisition based on the final appraisal of the proposed easement.

If this resolution is approved, the LCD will complete the Easement acquisition process on the Plankey Property, make payment to the landowner and submit reimbursement documentation for the USDA-NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program portion of the acquisition. Acquisition of the easement by Rock County is contingent upon a portion of the funding being provided by the USDA.