



**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2014, 7:15 P.M.
LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE ROOM
440 N US HWY 14
JANESVILLE WI**

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order.
2. Approval of Agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes – August 6, 2014.
4. Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.
5. Bills/Encumbrances.
6. Land and Water Resource Management Program:
 - a) Approval of Cost Share Agreements.
 - b) Approval of Staff and Support Reimbursement Request.
7. Farmland Preservation Program – Approve Notices of Non-Compliance.
8. Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation:
 - a) Program Update.
 - b) Land Conservation Committee Policy Relating to Exemptions Detailed in the Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Ordinance.
9. Resolution: Approving Settlement Agreement and Release with Hanover Insurance Company Relating to a License Bond for Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation and Amending the 2014 Land Conservation Budget.
10. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements Program:
 - a) Purchase Price Policy Related to the Fair Market Value and Priority Areas.
 - b) Program Cash Flow Analysis – Updated.
 - c) Review 2014-15 Program Applications.
 - d) Approval of 2014-15 Program Applications.
11. Resolution: Long Term Financial Stability of the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (PACE).
12. Set November LCC Meeting Time and Date.
13. Adjourn.

COMMITTEE APPROVAL REPORT

Account Number	Account Name	PO#	Inv Date	Vendor Name	Inv/Enc Amt
62-6280-0000-64928	COST SHARING	P1402855	05/28/2014	LAWRENCE,JAMES M	1,275.75
	Budget	YTD Exp	YTD Enc	Pending	Closing Balance
	150,000.00	48,868.08	0.00	1,275.75	99,856.17
LWC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROG TOTAL				1,275.75	

I have examined the preceding bills and encumbrances in the total amount of **\$1,275.75**

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: **SEP 03 2014**

Dept Head _____

Committee Chair _____

Rock County Land Conservation Committee

Departmental Policy Relating to Exemptions Detailed in the Rock County Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Ordinance

Background and Purpose

Chapter 4 Part 10 of the Rock County of Ordinances was originally adopted in 2001 as required by Chapter 295 Wisconsin Statutes and NR 135 Wisconsin Administrative Code. The purpose of the state law and administrative code were to create a template for consistent enforcement of nonmetallic mine reclamation standards on a state wide basis. The Rock County Land Conservation Department (LCD) is tasked with enforcing this ordinance county-wide, including incorporated areas, for both private and public operations.

Nonmetallic mining is defined, in part, as operations or activities at a nonmetallic mining site for the extraction from the earth of mineral aggregates or nonmetallic minerals for sale or use by the operator. Nonmetallic mineral means a product, commodity or material consisting principally of naturally occurring, organic or inorganic, nonmetallic, nonrenewable material. Nonmetallic minerals include, but are not limited to, stone, sand, gravel, beryl, clay, coal, feldspar, peat, talc and topsoil. Unless a specific ordinance exemption is confirmed by the LCD, the removal of these materials from a site require a reclamation plan and permit prior to commencing work.

It is important to note from a policy standpoint that the LCD is the local Regulatory Authority approved by the DNR to administer the state-wide NR135 standards (through the County Ordinance). Associated with that authority are requirements for annual reports to the Department of Natural Resources and periodic program audits for the purpose of ensuring the state-wide standards are uniformly applied. Very little variance from the state standards are allowed. For that reason, the final determination of the applicability of an exemption can only be made after review and approval by LCD based on site specific characteristics and should not be presumed by a landowner without consultation with the LCD.

A specific exemption found in the ordinance is for “excavations for building construction purposes conducted on the building site” (4.1007(2) (F)). The purpose of this policy is to provide clarification of how this exemption is assessed and processed by the LCD. Considering the obligation to apply the regulations consistently on a state wide basis, the LCD consulted with the DNR NR 135 Statewide Coordinator to receive guidance on this matter.

Administrative Policy

This policy only applies to the building construction site exemption under 4.1007(2) (F) Rock County Code of Ordinance and specifically when nonmetallic minerals are removed from the site. Land disturbance in general and the typical cut/fill operations associated with a construction site do not require review under the Reclamation Ordinance. Additional exemptions may also apply to a particular project when materials are removed from the site. Most notably, the ordinance specifically exempts sites where less than one acre of total affected acreage occurs over the life of the project.

It was determined, based on the DNR guidance, that the review process should start with the following broad questions:

- Are the nonmetallic minerals removed from the construction/building project site(s)?

- Will the total surface area being affected (collectively) exceed one acre at any time during the entire project duration?
- Are the nonmetallic minerals generated incidental at the construction/building project site(s)?

More specifically, if there are plans to remove nonmetallic minerals from a construction site a determination of the applicability of the subject exemption by the LCD will be based on the following:

- 1. If the intention is to remove material only from the building footprint the exemption under 4.1007(2)(F) shall apply if:**
 - a. The duration of the excavation is less than one year. Overall construction of the new facility may be longer.
 - b. The site must have construction plans (including building plans and site plans) approved by all entities with review and permitting authority.

- 2. If the intention is to remove material from outside the building footprint, in order to claim the exemption under 4.1007(2)(F), the owner must prove that the material is an incidental byproduct and/or the result of standard construction practices.**
 - a. Acceptable standard construction practices are:
 - i. Removal of top soil material from areas of buildings, parking lots, driveways, roads or any other area to be disturbed based on approved construction plans. Removal of topsoil from areas outside of construction areas is not exempt.
 - ii. Removal of any type of nonmetallic minerals in basement and/or footing areas if material can not be used in fill areas on the site such as parking lots, driveways or roads.
 - b. Removal of nonmetallic minerals beyond the standard construction practices listed in Paragraph 2a must be justified by geotechnical report provided by a third party Professional Engineer or Geologist based on the building construction plans.
 - i. If material is removed from site contrary to third party professional opinion the exemption will not apply and a Reclamation Permit will be required.
 - c. Unless building plans are approved by all necessary permitting authorities, excavations from future expansion areas will not be considered for this exemption until such time that construction is planned and permitted.

- 3. If it is determined that the subject exemption does not apply by utilizing the steps in Paragraphs 1 or 2 above, or if the owner chooses to apply for a nonmetallic mine reclamation permit at a building site excavation to permit the sale/barter of nonmetallic material, the permit application will be processed as follows:**
 - a. The site must have construction plans (including building plans and site plans) approved by all entities with review and permitting authority.
 - b. Rock County LCD will review available site plans, erosion control and storm water management plans to determine if additional information is necessary to meet. Reclamation Plan requirements found in Chapter 4 Part 10 Rock County Ordinance.
 - c. The normal review process found in the Ordinance will be followed, including a public notice of the new permit application.
 - d. Fees will be assessed as per fee scheduled determined by annual budget process
 - e. Financial assurance requirements can not be waived entirely by ordinance, unless operations are conducted by a public entity, but limited duration of project will be considered in determining the necessary amount.

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

AUGUST 20, 2014
DATE DRAFTED

**APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE WITH HANOVER
INSURANCE COMPANY RELATING TO A LICENSE BOND FOR NONMETALLIC MINE
RECLAMATION AND AMENDING THE 2014 LAND CONSERVATION BUDGET**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) is responsible for the administration of the Rock
2 County Non Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance (Ordinance); and,
3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Ordinance requires that each operator of a non-metallic mine maintain compliance with
5 Ordinance standards, including providing Financial Assurance issued to the benefit of Rock County to guarantee
6 that the mine site is reclaimed should the operator default on their obligation; and,
7
8 **WHEREAS**, B.R. Amon and Sons, Inc. (Amon), is the Reclamation Permit holder at a leased property in Rock
9 County and provided a License Bond from Hanover Insurance Company (Hanover) in 2008 as Financial
10 Assurance for reclamation of the site; and,
11
12 **WHEREAS**, on or about April 15, 2013, Amon was placed into receivership by the Circuit Court of Walworth
13 County; and,
14
15 **WHEREAS**, upon notification of the receivership proceedings it was apparent Amon would be unable to complete
16 the reclamation work, therefore the LCD immediately sent notice to Hanover that the Bond funds would be
17 required to reclaim a portion or all of the permitted site, which would be dependent on whether or not the
18 landowners chose to continue the mining operation; and,
19
20 **WHEREAS**, in January 2014 the property owner entered into a lease agreement with a new operator to
21 continue the mining operations and the new operator is prepared to obtain the necessary County Reclamation
22 Permit; and,
23
24 **WHEREAS**, a portion of the site mined most recently by Amon will not be actively mined in the future by the
25 new operator and therefore must be reclaimed; and,
26
27 **WHEREAS**, the new operator has provided a proposal to complete the necessary reclamation work, which has
28 been accepted by Hanover; and,
29
30 **WHEREAS**, Hanover is prepared to provide the funds necessary to complete the reclamation work; and,
31
32 **WHEREAS**, the County is the bond obligee and therefore must receive the funds from Hanover and subsequently
33 pay the new operator for the work; and,
34
35 **WHEREAS**, a document titled "Settlement Agreement and Release" (Agreement), which outlines the details of
36 this transaction and releases Hanover from future responsibility, has been agreed to in form by County staff,
37 Hanover and the new operator; and,
38
39 **WHEREAS**, the LCD must amend the 2014 Budget to be able to accept the bond funds and pay the new operator
40 for the reclamation work.
41
42 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this
43 _____ day of _____, 2014, by enactment of this Resolution, approves the Agreement and authorizes
44 the County Board Chair to sign the Agreement on behalf of the County.
45

46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors amends the Land Conservation
47 Department's budget as follows:

48				
49	<u>A/C DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>BUDGET AT</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>
50		<u>01/01/2014</u>	<u>(DECREASE)</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
51	<u>Source of Funds:</u>			
52	62-6200-0000-46990	\$ 0	\$ 31,160	\$ 31,160
53	Misc. General Revenue			
54				
55	<u>Use of Funds:</u>			
56	62-6200-0000-62119	\$ 0	\$ 31,160	\$ 31,160
57	Other Contracted Services			

Respectfully submitted:

Land Conservation Committee

Richard Bostwick, Chair

Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

Tom Brien

Wes Davis

Jason Dowd

Dave Rebut, USDA-FSA

Rick Richard

Larry Wiedenfeld

FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

Reviewed and approved on a vote of _____.

Mary Mawhinney, Chair

FISCAL NOTE:

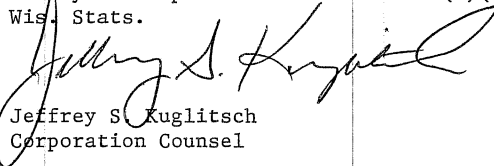
This resolution amends the budget to allow for the receipt of bond funds and payment to the current operator for the reclamation of a portion of a non-metallic mine located in Rock County.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

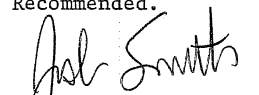
As an amendment to the adopted 2014 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to sec. 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.



Josh Smith
County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rock County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance was adopted to ensure that the state-wide reclamation standards are met in Rock County. Nonmetallic mine operations (i.e. sand and gravel and limestone pits and quarries) are required to have reclamation permits in order to be active. One permit requirement is to have financial assurance in place to guarantee that the site is reclaimed if the permit holder defaults on their obligations. Financial assurance can be bonds, letters of credit or a cash deposit. By law, the County must be the beneficiary of these financial guarantees in order to oversee the reclamation regardless of whether the site is operated by the landowner or leased to a third party.

B.R. Amon & Sons, Inc, operated one mine site in Rock County when the company was placed in receivership in the spring of 2013. This site is owned by another party and was leased to Amon. The landowners have since settled their outstanding business dealings with Amon and they have leased the site to another operator to continue the operation. However, a portion of the site that was mined by Amon requires reclamation since it will not be used by the new operator. Hanover Insurance Company, the surety that provided the bond for financial assurance for the Amon permit, has agreed to pay for the work. Since the County is the obligee for the bond, the County will hold the funds provided by Hanover and ensure the work is completed according to ordinance standards. The contractor who holds the lease to the property provided the proposal for work that was approved by Hanover. Once the Settle Agreement and Release document is finalized and the payment is in hand with Rock County, the new lessor will obtain a Reclamation Permit, including providing a new bond to ensure the reclamation of the remainder of the site, before conducting mining operations.

This action approves the agreement, authorizes the County Board Chair to sign the agreement and also approves an amendment to the Land Conservation Department Budget in order to accept the funds from Hanover and to pay the operator for the reclamation work.

Proposed Policy Related to PACE Program Easement Acquisition and Appraised Fair Market Value

For Consideration by
PACE Council and
Land Conservation Committee

Background: The purchase price for a PACE easement is based on an appraisal of the fair market value (FMV) of the easement. PACE funding is a combination of County and Federal program funds. Based on current Federal program rules, a landowner may get paid up to 75% of the FMV for the easement acquisition when combining the local and federal funds. By rule, the Federal program will contribute up to 50% of the FMV and the local entity (in this case the County) must contribute the other 25%. When viewed another way, the Federal program will contribute twice the local contribution, up to the 50% of the FMV federal cap. Therefore, for example, if the County chooses to offer a payment of 17% of the FMV, the Federal program (if approved) will pay an additional 34% of the FMV, making the total payment 51% of the FMV.

In the development of the PACE program, not only were eligible parcels designated, but geographic groups of eligible parcels were created to support the concept of creating blocks of protected land. These groups of parcels were also based on the parcel LESA scores. These groups of parcels were designated in order of priority for acquisition as follows:

1. Primary Target Acquisition Areas
2. Tier 1 Farmland Adjacent to Primary Target Acquisition Areas
3. Secondary Target Acquisition Areas
4. Other Eligible Parcels

The Federal program does not have criteria for prioritizing certain groups of parcels over another. However, each individual parcel gets a “score” to help determine, on a state wide basis, which applications will be funded. This federal scoring system does give some credit for being within a local priority area.

Purpose of policy: As outlined above, the PACE program was designed by putting each eligible parcel into one of four priority levels. However, when the appraisal for a parcel is completed there is no consideration for what level of priority the parcel falls within. The appraiser has industry standards, methods and procedures that must be followed, along with making links to “comparable” properties. Therefore, the FMV of parcel which is simply “Eligible” could be higher than a parcel that is in a “Primary Target Acquisition Area.”

After a few years of implementation of PACE, LCD staff is proposing to develop an objective payment structure that reflects the level of priority in which the parcel is located. With a policy as described below, LCD staff will be able to better inform potential applicants as to the level of funding they can expect. It is important to formally document the expected payment percentage since the applicant is responsible for the cost of the appraisal if he/she decides to not move forward with the acquisition after the appraisal is completed. However, since the payment is still tied to the

appraised FMV, it will vary from parcel to parcel and year to year and LCD staff cannot predict the actual payment that will be received.

Proposed Policy: An “Option to Purchase” agreement is required to apply for Federal funding and is only developed after the application is approved at the County level and an appraisal is completed. To reflect the acquisition priorities as determined in the development of the PACE program, it is proposed to utilize the following payment structure when developing an “Option to Purchase” agreement with a PACE applicant:

Priority Level	Total Percent of FMV Paid (County and Federal Share)
1. Primary Target Acquisition Areas	65-75
2. Tier 1 Farmland Adjacent to Primary Target Acquisition Areas	65-75
3. Secondary Target Acquisition Areas	60-70
4. Other Eligible Parcels	50-60

LCD staff is proposing a range of total percentage payment to give the Land Conservation Committee the ability to “negotiate” with a landowner after the appraisal is complete and a FMV is determined. This will be especially important for the situations when a property is valued very high or low compared to historic averages and/or for applications with a large number of acres. Keep in mind, the landowner has the benefit of the income tax deduction on any portion of the total FMV which is not purchased (subject to an IRS appraisal).

It may also be appropriate for the PACE Council and LCC to consider setting a maximum per acre payment as part of this proposed policy.

UPDATE FOLLOWING PACE COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 25, 2014:

The PACE Council voted to recommend this policy as written and also recommend a maximum per acre payment for the 2014-2015 application cycle. The recommended cap is \$2,100.00 per acre with the flexibility to have a higher payment on parcels with high LESA scores. The recommended payment cap is based on the average payments to date and therefore should be reconsidered on an annual basis.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AGENDA NO. _____

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation Committee
INITIATED BY



Thomas Sweeney
DRAFTED BY

Land Conservation Committee
SUBMITTED BY

August 28, 2014
DATE DRAFTED

**LONG TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE
PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (PACE)**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County PACE program’s intent is to identify productive agricultural parcels in
2 the highest priority areas of the county, as determined through the program manual, and purchase
3 agricultural conservation easements from willing landowners on the specified parcels; and,
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has supported this program through various resolutions
6 including the program launch to financial support as demonstrated in the following whereas clauses;
7 and,
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 09-2B-219 which allocated one half of the
10 ATC Environmental Impact Fee for a utility project, which amounted to \$740,000 being allocated to
11 the PACE program; and,
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 09-6B-311 approving the Rock County
14 PACE Program to commence with the formation of the PACE Ad Hoc Committee; and,
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 11-1A-250 approving the start of the PACE
17 program and approval of the program manual; and,
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 12-11D-179 which allocated \$228,000 to
20 the PACE program from the sale of 5 additional acres of the Rock County Farm to the GOEX
21 Corporation for the construction of a new manufacturing plant; and,
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) requested staff to provide a review of the
24 PACE program financial status as it relates to short term goals and long term stability of the program
25 and present findings to the LCC; and,
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) conducted the internal analysis of the program
28 funding and presented the preliminary findings to the LCC, after which the LCC directed staff to
29 consider three stable funding sources. These sources include: the rent receipts from the county farm
30 lease, sales tax receipts and the tax levy; and,
31

32 **WHEREAS**, the LCC also identified proceeds from future sale(s) of county owned real estate
33 holdings, with the exception of park land and IN REM properties, as an additional funding source.
34 However this source is unstable at best; and,
35

36 **WHEREAS**, at its August 2014 meeting the Rock County PACE Council recommended easements to
37 be purchased on four properties totaling 412.5 acres in 2015, which will reduce the account balance for
38 the program to approximately \$40,000; and,
39

40 **WHEREAS**, the LCC concludes that to continue the Rock County PACE program into the foreseeable
41 future, the LCD must request financial assistance from the Board of Supervisors with an annual budget
42 appropriation of \$200,000 commencing with the 2015 budget; and,
43

44 **WHEREAS**, the funding sources to be used during any given year, will be at the discretion of the
45 County Administrator and approved by the County Board through their annual budget process.

Long Term Financial Stability of the PACE Program

Page 2

46 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors in session this
47 _____ day of _____, 2014, approves apportioning \$200,000 annually to the Rock County
48 PACE program until an alternative outside funding source can be located with final approval through the
49 annual budget process; and,

50
51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that proceeds from the sale of County owned real estate holdings,
52 with the exception of park land and IN REM properties, will be deposited into the PACE account to
53 assure that the short and long term goals of the program are met. If proceeds from said sales are available
54 they should not be used to reduce the annual budget appropriation requested.

Respectfully submitted,

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Richard Bostwick, Chair

Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

Thomas Brien

Wes Davis

Jason Dowd


David Rebut, FSA

Rick Richard

Larry Wiedenfeld

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01, 59.03 and 59.51, Wis. Stats. This resolution proposes apportioning \$200,000 to the Rock County Pace program annually. While the County Board can take this action, this is a voluntary payment. Unlike a debt service payment, the County Board can depending on financial condition, modify, delete, or increase such payments in the future. This likely could occur during the annual budget process.


Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

Reviewed and approved on a vote of

Mary Mawhinney, Chair

FISCAL NOTE:


This resolution appropriates \$200,000 to the PACE program annually until the County Board takes action otherwise. Three possible funding sources are mentioned: tax levy, farm lease revenues and sales tax revenues. Since the County farm lease revenue is a direct offset to County levy, any redirected lease revenue would need to be filled with tax levy. The County continues to operate under strict levy limits. Our estimated maximum allowable levy increase for all departments and programs in 2015 is \$441,000.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

As described in the fiscal note, the effect of State-imposed levy limits will restrict the ability of the County to utilize tax levy or County farm lease revenue in 2015. Consequently, if the resolution is approved, the 2015 administrator's recommended budget would include \$200,000 in sales tax revenue for the PACE program.


Jesh Smith
County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The vision and goal statement for the PACE Program is: The Rock County Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program will work in cooperation with local governments to enhance Rock County's quality of life by building consensus towards a regional vision, to include preservation of agricultural land, the agricultural economy, and the County's rural character, and responsible growth and development in appropriate areas.

The County Board has supported the PACE Program in the recent past as identified by the numerous resolutions adopted. This resolution requests the County Board to continue the support for the PACE program in the form of an annual budgetary appropriation to the program in the sum of \$200,000. This request will allow the program to continue into the future. This request is a direct result of the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) requesting the Land Conservation Department staff to conduct an internal analysis for the PACE program funding, which concluded that the program will exhaust existing funds within two years if additional funds are not allocated to the program. As noted in the program's manual, this program is not a short term commitment. An American Farmland Trust report dated 2010, identifies numerous local government programs nearing or exceeding their 20th year of operation. The closest long term PACE program is located in the Town of Dunn, Dane County WI.

The LCC, with assistance from the PACE Council, will develop policies that will cap the value of easement purchase price, which will likely be below the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service program maximum of 75% of the easement appraised value. The LCC will also establish a cap for the annual acreage allowed into the program or the number of applications approved, whichever is below the established acreage threshold. Other policies and provisions that will increase the cash flow efficiency of this program will be evaluated in the future. These proactive actions/policies are needed to assist with the overall cash flow of the program. Also, the resolution will only be effective until such time that alternative outside funding sources are made available.

The PACE program has a direct and indirect impact to the economy of Rock County, by not only providing a payment to landowners (which can then be used to make future investments in the operation) but also by protecting a valuable resource. Furthermore, by providing local funding for the PACE Program the County is providing the means necessary to secure funding from the federal government. On average, for every dollar the county contributes to the purchase price of an easement, \$2.66 has been contributed by the federal government under the USDA-NRCS program. Without a local entity like Rock County to provide the local contribution, those dollars would be going to another area or even another state.

The resolution also requests the County Board to defer the receipts from sales of real estate holdings to the PACE program. Exceptions to this request include any IN REM property and/or any sale of county park land.