



NOTE TIME CHANGE

**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday October 27, 2021, 5:30 P.M.**  
**USDA Service Center, 440 N US Hwy 14, Janesville 53546**

**-OR-**

**Via Zoom**  
**CALL: 1-312-626-6799**  
**Meeting ID: 815 1497 7883**  
**Passcode: 156105**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81514977883?pwd=S2tuWXd3bEVlZmloR05wdHR2S1R6dz09>

Meeting ID: 815 1497 7883

Passcode: 156105

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,81514977883#,,,,\*156105# US (New York)

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Dial by your location

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If you are interested in providing public comments on items on this agenda, you must submit your comments by noon on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. To submit a public comment use the following email: [andrew.baker@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:andrew.baker@co.rock.wi.us)

**Join from a telephone:**

- On your phone, dial the phone number provided above
- Enter the meeting ID number when prompted, using your dial-pad.
- Please note that long-distance charges may apply. This is not a toll-free number.
  
- Supervisors: Please identify yourself by name
- Please mute your phone when you are not speaking to minimize background noises
- We are new at holding meetings this way, so please be patient

Instructions for the hearing impaired –

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/207279736-Getting-started-with-closed-captioning>



NOTE TIME CHANGE

**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday October 27, 2021, 5:30 P.M.**  
**USDA Service Center, 440 N US Hwy 14, Janesville 53546**  
**OR**  
**Via Zoom**

**AGENDA**

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Agenda Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2021 Meeting
3. Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements
4. Review Bills Paid
5. **Information Item.** Review 2022 Recommended Budget
6. **Action Item: Resolution.** *FINALIZING PURCHASE OF THE BARLASS, VANTHROUTNOUT AND WATSON AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS*
7. **Action Item: Resolution.** *APPROVAL TO BEGIN ACQUISITION PROCESS FOR SELECTED 2021 PACE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS (FEDERAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS)*
8. **Action Item.** Land and Water Resource Management Program: Approval of 2021 Cost Share Agreements
  - A. Hahn Family Revocable Trust – Grassed Waterway, LR-022.21
9. **Action Item.** Approval of Farmland Preservation Notice of Noncompliance Documents
  - A. Dave and Christine Burkett (Voluntary, sold most of land)
  - B. Bettenhausen Farms Inc (Voluntary, no long wants to participate in the program, no compliance issues)
  - C. Kurt O Schadewaldt Jr (Voluntary, no long wants to participate in the program, no compliance issues)
10. Adjourn



## MINUTES

**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday October 6, 2021, 7:15 P.M.**  
**USDA Service Center, 440 N Hwy 14 and Virtual via Zoom**

- Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.  
**Committee Members Present:** Stephanie Aegerter, Rich Bostwick, Janelle Crary (via Zoom), Wes Davis, James Quade, Genia Stevens (via Zoom) and Alan Sweeney.  
**Committee Members Excused:** Mike Mulligan  
**Others Present:** Andrew Baker, Chip Lovell, USDA Wildlife Services (via Zoom)
- Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- Approval of Minutes – September 1, 2021 LCC meeting.** Supervisor Sweeney moved the approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** None
- Review Bills Paid:** Andrew reviewed the bills. There were no questions.
- Action Item.** 2021 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program crop price approval – David Terrall – USDA Wildlife Services.

Mr. Chip Lovell attended the meeting via zoom in place of Mr. Terrall. He explained the program is a state DNR program that the County can choose to administer themselves or via a contractor. In this case the USDA Wildlife Services is the contractor. The program is funded by hunting licenses and is 100% reimbursed by the DNR. Landowner's that experience crop damage due to bear, deer, geese or turkeys can apply for the program and receive damage claims and abatement assistance (such as fencing, special harvest permits). An additional condition is that the landowner must allow hunting access on the covered property. This agenda item is need to se the price for crop damage claims this season. The proposed prices are based on an annual average from Oct 2020 – September 2021.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the proposed crop prices as presented for alfalfa, \$5.00 per bushel for corn and \$12.00 for soybeans, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Lovell noted that the LCC also need to approve a date at which it is likely at least 90% of the harvest will be completed in Rock County. He suggested December 1.

Supervisor Aegerter made a motion to approve the 90% harvest date as December 1, 2021, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Action Item.** 2022 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program budget approval – David Terrall – USDA Wildlife Services

Mr. Lovell explained the budget process, including the fact that the federal requirements are a little different than the state requirements in terms of how budgeted dollars are itemized, but the total budget is the same. The budget also includes up to \$3000.00 for County administrative time, which is payable on a reimbursement basis at the end of the year based on actual costs. The budget is done from 2021 due to lesser enrollment (down from seven in 2020 to five in 2021). Program participants are dealing with deer and goose damage.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the 2022 budget as presented, seconded by Mr. Davis. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Action Item:** Request for Erosion Control Permit Double Fee Waiver – After the Fact Permit for Shed Project – David Keil (Center Township)

Andrew explained the nature of the request. The applicant was not in attendance to state his case. The landowner conducted minor earth moving associated with a pole barn construction project. He obtained the necessary permits for the building construction, but not an erosion control permit. The total amount of disturbed area is approximately 10,000 square feet, including the building area and the driveway approach. LCD staff notice the project and relayed the permit requirements to the landowner. The landowner made a timely after the fact permit application and is requesting that the automatic penalty of double fees be waived. The normal permit fee would be approximately \$250, so the penalty is also that amount. Andrew noted that the landowner made a quick effort to resolve the matter and there are no resource concerns. Staff is recommending approval of the double fee waiver, meaning the landowner would pay only the normal fees.

Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve the double fee waiver for the after the fact permit, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. **Action Item.** Land and Water Resource Management Program: Approval of 2021 Cost Share Agreements

- a. Brandl Farm Inc (various landowners)- Nutrient Management  
LR-014.21, LR-015.21, LR-016.21 and LR-017.21
- b. BTL Ag – Nutrient Management -- LR-018.21
- c. Dar and Colleen Hoffman – Nutrient Management - LR-019.21
- d. Templeton Farms (various landowners) – Nutrient Management  
LR-020.21 and LR-021.21

Andrew explained that each agreement is for nutrient management planning and implementation. Some operators have multiple agreements because the landowner also has to be party to it. These contracts will use almost all of the allocated dollars from DATCP for nutrient management and are 100% reimbursed by DATCP.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve each of the agreements, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**10. Action Item: Resolution. APPROVAL OF CERTAIN SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GRANT COST SHARE PAYMENTS**

Andrew explained that any contract amount over \$10,000 must follow the County's standard practice of being approved by Finance Committee and County Board via resolution. This resolution addresses that requirement.

Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**11. Action Item: Resolution. YAHARA RIVER BASIN ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROJECT APPROVAL OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS**

Andrew explained that any payment amount over \$10,000 must follow the County's standard practice of being approved by Finance Committee and County Board via resolution. This resolution addresses that requirement for the Yahara WINS payments for 2021. In each case, the landowner has chosen to take payments for the practices over a multi-year timeframe. These payments are 100% reimbursed by Yahara WINS.

Supervisor Aegerter made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**12. Review 2021 PACE Applications – Staff Presentation**

Ref. # (not ranking)	Landowner Name	Parcel #	Primary Target Acquisition Area	LESA	ACRES	Town Section
1	Craig Myre*	6-16-8	No	5.5	79	Porter 2
2	Curt Watson*	6-16-17	No#	6.9#	34.7	Porter 2
3	Evan Sayre*	6-16-110	Yes	7.3	82	Porter 13
4	Evan Sayre*	6-16-114	Secondary	6.8	73	Porter 13
5	Evan Sayre*	6-16-205	Secondary	6.6	80	Porter 4
6	McNall	6-9-256	Yes	7.77	151	Johnstown 29
7	McNall	6-9-258	Yes	8.02	85	Johnstown 30

Andrew displayed a Powerpoint presentation for this item. Andrew informed the LCC of the account balances for the PACE Program. This has been no indication that budgeting sales tax funds for the program will be changed in 2022.

Andrew updated the Council regarding the status of past applications. Specifically discussed was the fact that one Barlass parcel had to be withdrawn from consideration because the landowner entered into a solar development lease. NRCS will not approve a conservation easement on land under that type of lease agreement even if the solar project has not been finalized. Currently working on finalizing four easements, two for Barlass, Vanthournout and Watson. Beginning acquisition process on the Conway parcel, which was selected late in the process by NRCS after two other parcels were withdrawn.

Andrew reviewed our local ranking process along with the NRCS priorities. When consider our applications it is important to consider both ranking process, which is why staff calculates an approximate score based on the federal system as well as the LESA score. The LCC discussed the details of each application. In this application cycle, there were five parcels renewed from prior years and two new parcels. Reviewing the scores, the County LESA ranking aligned with the federal ranking system. Discussion

followed regarding balancing the tendency to select high scoring parcels with budget limitations and preserving properties that do not necessary rank the highest on paper. The LCC also discuss the recommendation from the PACE Council.

- 13. Action Item.** Select 2021 PACE Application(s) to move forward in the acquisition process.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to accept the PACE Council recommendation, meaning application numbers 7 (the 85 acre McNall), 3 (82 acre Sayre) and 2 (34.7 acre Watson parcel) be selected for application to the federal USDA-NRCS program, ranked in priority in that order, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion Carried.**

- 14. Action Item:** Approval of Cooperative Agreement to Satisfy Eligibility for Rock River Coalition to Apply for Lake Monitoring & Protection Network Grant Application on Behalf of Rock County.

Andrew explained that this agreement will allow the Rock River Coalition to apply for grant funds on behalf of the County and will implement programs intended to address aquatic invasive species. The funding, approximately \$11,000, is already allocated to each County, simply have to make an application including a plan for the program. The agreement includes the plan. The LCD has not been involved in programs addressing aquatic invasive species in the past, so this will be a good way to implement the funds in the County in a way that has not been done before. Supervisor Sweeney noted that the Lake District will soon be making efforts to address water quality, primarily sedimentation, in the portion of the Rock River Basin feeding Lake Koshkonong. There may be an opportunity to work in partnership with the Rock River Coalition through this program or one of their other initiatives.

Supervisor Aegerter made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 15. Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made a motion to adjourn at 8:36pm, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker  
Director

**Minutes are not official until adopted by the Land Conservation Committee.**  
G: office/lcc/lcc2020/M10062021

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

LAND CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE  
INITIATED BY



ANDREW BAKER, DIRECTOR  
DRAFTED BY

LAND CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE  
SUBMITTED BY

OCTOBER 11, 2021  
DATE DRAFTED

**FINALIZING PURCHASE OF THE BARLASS, VANTHROUTNOUT, AND WATSON  
AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**

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  
3 PACE Program Manual, identifying and outlining all aspects of Program development and  
4 implementation, on January 13, 2011; and,  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, PACE applications were submitted as follows over the last three years:

- 7 1. Barlass property (2018 application) for approximately thirty nine and four tenths acres (39.4) of  
8 real property located in Section 26, Township 3 North, Range 13 East, Harmony Township, Tax  
9 Parcel Number(s) 6-7-256; and,
- 10 2. Barlass property (2019 application) for approximately seventy-eight and five tenths (78.5) acres  
11 of real property located in the East 1/2 of the NE 1/4, Section 26, Township 3 North, Range 13  
12 East, Harmony Township, Rock County, Tax Parcel Number 6-7-255; and,
- 13 3. Vanthournout property (2020 application) for approximately seventy seven and forty seven  
14 hundredths (77.47) acres of real property located in Section 13, Township 4 North, Range 10  
15 East, Union Township, Rock County, Tax Parcel Numbers 6-20-107.1 and 6-20-109; and,
- 16 4. Watson property (2020 application) for approximately thirty seven and five tenths (37.5) acres of  
17 real property located in the SE1/4 of the SE1/4, Section 2, Township 4 North, Range 11 East,  
18 Porter Township, Rock County, Portion of Tax Parcel Number(s) 6-16-17.1; and,  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, the applications were recommended for approval by Land Conservation Department  
21 (LCD) and the PACE Council, approved by the Land Conservation Committee and County Board in  
22 accordance with the Rock County PACE Program Manual and approved for partial funding by the  
23 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); and,  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program and the NRCS Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)  
26 require that easement appraisals be completed by a State of Wisconsin Certified General Appraiser and  
27 meet the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and,  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the purchase price of the easement was determined with the aforementioned methodology  
30 and the appraisal valuations have been approved by the NRCS; and,  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, the LCD worked closely with the NRCS staff to secure the ACEP funding for said  
33 easement purchase and will receive said funding at time of the easement closing(s); and,  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, each party to PACE are required to have financial interests as follows; Landowner will  
36 donate twenty five percent (25%) of the easement value, totaling \$188,100, the County will contribute  
37 twenty five percent (25%) of the easement value, totaling \$188,100 and the NRCS will contribute fifty  
38 percent (50%) of the easement value, totaling \$376,200 for a total purchase price of \$564,300 for the four  
39 easements.  
40

41 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this  
42 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, do by enactment of this Resolution approve the purchase of the  
43 Agricultural Conservation Easement on the Barlass, Vanthournout and Watson Properties, accepts the  
44 ACEP Funding, and authorizes the LCD to undertake final necessary activities identified therein and  
45 obligate all necessary funds to complete said activities.  
46

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County Board Chair and/or the County Clerk will act as the  
48 County's agent(s) for closing of said easements.

Respectfully submitted:

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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Richard Bostwick, Chair

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Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

---

Stephanie Aegerter

---

Janelle Crary

---

Wes Davis

---

Mike Mulligan

---

James Quade, USDA-FSA Rep.

---

Genia Stevens

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 these easements.

*/s/ Sherry Oja*  
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.

*/s/ Richard Greenlee*

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

*/s/ Josh Smith*

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) on for properties. The summary of the purchase amounts is as follow:

<i>Property Owner</i>	<i>Easement Value</i>	<i>Purchase Price</i>	<i>Federal Contribution</i>	<i>County Contribution</i>	<i>Landowner Donation</i>
Barlass (2018)	\$126,400	\$94,800	\$63,200	\$31,600	\$31,600
Barlass (2019)	\$289,000	\$216,750	\$144,500	\$72,250	\$72,250
Vanthournout (2020)	\$232,000	\$174,000	\$116,000	\$58,000	\$58,000
Watson (2020)	\$105,000	\$78,750	\$52,500	\$26,250	\$26,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$752,400</b>	<b>\$564,300</b>	<b>\$376,200</b>	<b>\$188,100</b>	<b>\$188,100</b>

Acquisition of easement 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.

If this resolution is approved, the LCD will complete the Easement acquisition process on the two Barlass properties, the Vanthournout property and the Watson property and submit Easement funding reimbursement documentation to the USDA-NRCS. Acquisition of this easement by Rock County is contingent upon funding from the USDA.

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

LAND CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE  
INITIATED BY



ANDREW BAKER, DIRECTOR  
DRAFTED BY

LAND CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE  
SUBMITTED BY

OCTOBER 11, 2021  
DATE DRAFTED

**APPROVAL TO BEGIN ACQUISITION PROCESS FOR SELECTED 2021 PACE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS (FEDERAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS)**

- 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 the mission by acquiring agricultural conservation easements  
7 (Easements) on eligible lands throughout unincorporated Rock County; and,  
8
- 9 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) received two (2) new landowner applications and  
10 reactivated five (5) landowner applications for the PACE Program during the 2021 application cycle, totaling  
11 seven (7) parcels and approximately five hundred eighty five (585) acres; and,  
12
- 13 **WHEREAS**, the applications have been reviewed by LCD staff, the PACE Council, and the Land Conservation  
14 Committee (LCC), all in accordance with the Rock County PACE Program Manual; and,  
15
- 16 **WHEREAS**, the LCC voted to approve the reactivation of one Watson and one Sayre application and approve the  
17 one new application from McNall to begin the Easement acquisition process. The applications are described as:  
18
- 19 Sayre Property – Rock County tax parcel number **6-16-110**, part of Section 13, Township 4N, Range 11E,  
20 Porter Township (approximately 82 acres); and,  
21
  - 22 Watson Property – Rock County tax parcel **6-16-17**, part Section 2, Township 4N, Range 11E, Porter  
23 Township (approximately 34.7 acres); and,  
24
  - 25 McNall Property – Rock County tax parcel **6-9-258**, part of Section 30, Township 3N, Range 14E,  
26 Johnstown Township (approximately 85 acres); and,  
27
- 28 **WHEREAS**, to proceed with the Easement acquisition process, the LCD will submit an Easement acquisition  
29 funding application for the aforementioned properties to the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service  
30 (“NRCS”), which, if approved, provides funding for a maximum fifty percent of the Easement value; and,  
31
- 32 **WHEREAS**, the NRCS requires, as a component of its application process, a signed purchase agreement between  
33 Rock County and the owners of the aforementioned properties; and,  
34
- 35 **WHEREAS**, the agreement will be based on an estimated value of the Easement and is contingent on a final value  
36 being determined by an appraisal, which will be contracted by Rock County only if the property is selected by the  
37 NRCS for funding; and,  
38
- 39 **WHEREAS**, to formalize the Easement acquisition process, the owners of the aforementioned Properties, Rock  
40 County, and Brabazon Title Company, Inc. will sign and execute three *Agricultural Conservation Easement*  
41 *Conveyance Agreement* documents (i.e. purchase agreement), one for each application, which will include the  
42 estimated purchase price and will outline all aspects of the Easement acquisition process, including but not limited  
43 to, the following activities, subject to all terms and conditions as stated therein:  
44
- 45 1. Opening an escrow with Brabazon Title Company, Inc. and securing a minimum Title Insurance  
46 Commitment of \$15,000 (Title Report) for each Property,
  - 47 2. Landowner depositing three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) in the established escrow account,
  3. LCD submitting an application to the NRCS for the federal portion of the purchase funding,

48 4. If selected for funding by the NRCS, Rock County contracting with an appraiser to determine the fair  
49 market value of the Easement; and,  
Approval to Begin Acquisition Process for Selected 2021 Pace Program Applications (Federal Funding  
Applications)  
Page 2

50 **WHEREAS**, final acquisition of any or all of the Easements will take place only after future action by the County  
51 Board.

52  
53 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this  
54 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, does by enactment of this Resolution approve an *Agricultural*  
55 *Conservation Easement Conveyance Agreement* for each property, authorizes the County Board Chair to sign all  
56 necessary documents on behalf of the County and authorizes the LCD to undertake activities identified therein  
57 and obligate all necessary funds to complete said activities.

Respectfully submitted:

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Bostwick, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Aegerter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janelle Crary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wes Davis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Mulligan

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Quade, USDA-FSA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Genia Stevens

FISCAL NOTE:

Sufficient funds are available in the Land Conservation Department's PACE budget for the escrow, estimated appraisal and related costs necessary to begin the acquisition process for Agricultural Conservation Easement Conveyances on these three properties. Once we have estimated purchase prices, sufficiency of available funding will need to be determined. Purchase of these easements is subject to funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

*/s/ Sherry Oja*

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.

*/s/ Richard Greenlee*

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

*/s/ Josh Smith*

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**APPROVAL TO BEGIN ACQUISITION PROCESS FOR SELECTED 2021 PACE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS (FEDERAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS)**

This resolution authorizes the County to enter into an *Agricultural Conservation Easement Conveyance Agreement* for three parcels located in unincorporated Rock County. The Agreement identifies and outlines the agricultural conservation easement (Easement) acquisition process to be undertaken by the Rock County PACE Program. The first steps in the process include establishing an escrow account to be held by Brabazon Title Company, purchasing title insurance, submitting applications to the USDA-NRCS funding of a portion of the easement value and contracting for appraisals if approved for funding by the USDA-NRCS. Acquisition of the easements by Rock County is contingent upon funding from the USDA-NRCS and will be finalized only after future action by the County Board.

Acquisition of Easements will protect and preserve productive agricultural lands in Rock County, encouraging and promoting the goals of a strong agricultural economy and community identity, and intergovernmental cooperation.