

**RESOLUTION**

**ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation Committee  
INITIATED BY



1/20/2022  
DATE DRAFTED

**Approval of Certain Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Cost Share Payments**

**WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) applies for State Soil and Water Resource Management Grant funds through the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) on an annual basis; and,

**WHEREAS**, the grant funds are earmarked for a portion of LCD annual staff cost and for cost share payments made to landowners and/or operators to install conservation practices; and,

**WHEREAS**, cost share funding is used for physical construction of “hard” practices, such as grassed waterways, as well as “soft” practices, such as Nutrient Management Planning and implementation; and,

**WHEREAS**, if an eligible owner/operator is selected by the LCD and Land Conservation Committee for a cost share contract for Nutrient Management Planning, as per DATCP Policy the entire farm must be included in the plan; and,

**WHEREAS**, current cost share rate for a Nutrient Management Plan contract is forty dollars (\$40) per acre; and,

**WHEREAS**, a single operator may have separate contracts for a single operation if land is leased from multiple landowners; and,

**WHEREAS**, in some instances, due to the size of the farm operation, the Nutrient Management Plan contract payment amount, or total of multiple contracts, will exceed the maximum payment amount allowed to be approved by staff and, therefore, require additional approvals by the Finance Committee and County Board of Supervisors; and,

**WHEREAS**, cost share payments to landowners are 100% reimbursed by DATCP; and,

**WHEREAS**, contract payments for two operators will exceed the aforesaid thresholds in order to provide cost share funding for the entire farm operation as required by DATCP.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 10th day of February, 2022, approves the payments for cost share contracts LR-001.22 up to \$21,720; and LR-002.22, LR-003.22, LR-004.22, LR-005.22 and LR-006.22 in the sum of up to \$25,176.00.

**FISCAL NOTE:**

The cost share contracts are funded by state revenue. No County funds are required.

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

**LEGAL NOTE:**

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01, 59.51 and 92.07(3), Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

**Committee Action**

Land Conservation Committee

The Land Conservation Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Resolution: Approval of Certain Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Cost Share Payments**

On an annual basis the Land Conservation Department is awarded grant funds from the State to implement conservation in Rock County. These funds are for both staff time and cost share payments to landowners or operators for conservation practices. One eligible conservation practice is Nutrient Management Planning. The payment rate for this practice is \$40 an acre to be paid as a one-time payment to develop and implement the Nutrient Management Plan. An operator is required to include all the acres in the operation in the Plan. Depending on the size of the operation, this requirement occasionally results in relatively high contract values and/or multiple contracts because different landowners/landlords are involved (whom must be included in the contract).

A number of 2022 contracts (or the total of multiple contracts with same operator) exceed the maximum payment amount allowed for staff approval established by County Board rules, requiring actions by both the Finance Committee and County Board of Supervisors. Therefore, this resolution is intended to provide approval of payments for cost share contracts LR-001.22 up to 21,720.00; and LR-002.22, LR-003.22, LR-004.22, LR-005.22 and LR-006.22 in the sum of up to \$25,176.00.

DATCP reimburses the County 100% for the cost of these payments.