RESOLUTION: Oppose Reduction of Recycling Grant Funding and Elimination of

SHWEC and UW System Solid Waste Research Program Funding

1

TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, recycling provides a whole host of environmental benefits, including preserving natural resources, less air pollution, energy savings, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reducing mining wastes and conserving landfill space; and

WHEREAS, recycling also provides extensive economic benefits, providing material feedstock for manufacturing, business development, state and local tax revenue and four times more jobs than the disposal industry; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin mandated recycling in 1990 under 1989 Wisconsin Act 335 and Administrative Code NR 544; and

WHEREAS, Towns, Villages, Cities and Counties, hereafter Municipalities, responded by becoming Responsible Units (RUs) for Recycling and as such, invested millions of dollars in education, collection and processing infrastructure for Effective Recycling Programs; and

WHEREAS, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties invested in Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and constructed a MRF in each County to serve the recycling processing needs of its residents in anticipation of the 1995 landfill bans; and

WHEREAS, to improve the efficiencies and cost effectiveness of the three Counties' programs, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago County developed and signed a Cooperative Agreement in 2002 which consolidated recycling processing operations and eliminated one MRF; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 to further enhance operational efficiencies and to invest in needed technological improvements. Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties consolidated all processing operations into a single new, jointly-owned \$9.8 million dollar single stream recycling MRF; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 to further enhance operational efficiencies and expand recyclable material acceptance. Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties improved the single stream recycling MRF with a new, nearly \$1.9 million dollar investment; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin originally proposed to cost share 66% of the Municipalities' costs for establishing and maintaining Effective Recycling Programs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has imposed levy limits on Municipalities putting many under severe financial constraints; and

WHEREAS, the 2015-2017 Executive Budget Bill proposed by Governor Scott Walker seeks to reduce recycling grant funding to RUs by \$4 million in 2015-2016; eliminate funding for the Department of Corrections computer recycling program, the UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) and the UW-System Solid Waste Research grant program; and

WHEREAS, the source of funding for recycling grants for RUs is the \$7.00/ton Recycling Fee charged on each ton of municipal solid waste disposed of at Wisconsin landfills; and

WHEREAS, the Recycling Fee generates an average of \$34.1 million per year, yet the recycling funding to RUs has eroded from nearly \$30 million in 2008 to \$19 million in 2011 to the proposed \$15 million for 2015, a 50% reduction in seven years, while the full \$7.00/ton Recycling Fee continues to be collected by the State; and

56 57 58

WHEREAS, the proposed \$15 million recycling grant allocation is anticipated to cover only 14% of actual program costs of the mandated recycling program; and

Resolution Number: 134-32015

59 WHEREAS, SHWEC's mission is to enhance Wisconsin's environment and economy by providing quality 60 education, information and technical assistance to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, and Winnebago 61 County has directly benefitted from SHWEC's staff expertise, factsheets, workshops and website; and 62 63 WHEREAS, the UW-System Solid Waste Research program was established by the Wisconsin legislature in 64 1990 and seeks research into alternative methods of solid waste disposal, including the reduction in the amount of 65 solid waste generated, the reuse and recycling of materials, composting, source separation and the disposal of 66 household hazardous waste and the program has funded over 250 research projects to date; and 67 68 WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board previously opposed 69 reduction/elimination of recycling grant funding (2011) and the elimination of SHWEC (2001); 70 71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby 72 opposes the \$4 million reduction of RU recycling grant funding in 2015-2016; and 73 74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Winnebago County opposes the elimination of funding for UW-Extension 75 SHWEC and the UW-System Solid Waste Research program; and 76 77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Winnebago County supports the full use of the Recycling Fee as the 78 source of funding for financial assistance to Municipalities, as it was intended, and the funding of SHWEC and the 79 UW-System Solid Waste Research program; and 80 81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to municipalities of Winnebago 82 County, Brown County, Outagamie County, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, Winnebago County State Representatives and State 83 84 Senators, Joint Committee on Finance and Governor Scott Walker. 85 86 Respectfully submitted by: 87 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD 88 Committee Vote: 5-0 89 Respectfully submitted by: 90 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE 91 Committee Vote: 9-0 Vote Required for Passage: Majority of Those Present 92 93 94 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this _____ day of ______, 2015. 95 96

97

98

Resolution Number: 134-32015 Page 2

Mark L Harris

Winnebago County Executive