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RESOLUTION: Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$3,030,300 for Land and Water Conservation Projects administered by the Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD)

TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, the Board has now created a special revenue fund known as the Spirit Fund, using resources made available through use of ARPA funds designated as replacement of lost revenue and used for general government services through Resolution No. 167-012023; and

WHEREAS, about twenty-five percent of the land in Winnebago County is covered by water; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago Lake System contains about seventeen percent of the state's inland water; and

WHEREAS, an infusion of capital will allow the LWCD to take the appropriate amount of time to determine the highest and best need for a multi-decade impact to preserve our land and water resources; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used on legacy projects with the primary focus being to improve water quality in Winnebago County ensuring future generations benefit from these investments; and

WHEREAS, this allocation is within the Government Identified Community Projects category identified by the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission in their framework document;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that an appropriation of \$3,030,300 from the Spirit Fund for the Land and Water Conservation Department to implement conservation efforts to include but not be limited to Harvestable Buffer Programs, Soil Health Programs, Wetland Development and Restoration, Waterway Systems, Barnyard Runoff Control Systems, Manure Storage Closures, Off-Shore Breakwaters, Shoreline Habitat Restoration, Well Abandonments, Rain Gardens, and Management Plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a policy plan shall be established by the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) which shall contain or comply with the following:

- (1) A timeframe to expend the funds
- (2) Conservation practices and the estimated amounts within each practice
- (3) All practices shall consist of a cost-share of which the county share paid may not exceed 90%
- (4) All practices shall be tracked for success and subsequently reported the LCC
- (5) These funds may be used as a local match to secure other grant funding
- (6) The LWCD shall comply with all requests of county administration and Spirit Fund reporting requirements including a dashboard or other reporting mechanism on the county website

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LCC shall receive an annual report from the LWCD Director and may amend the policy plan as needed within the original timeline set by the LCC.

Fiscal Note: *The Spirit Fund will be reduced by \$3,030,300 as the allocation is spent.*

Respectfully submitted by:

ARPA STRATEGY AND OUTCOMES COMMISSION

Commission Vote: *Motion to approve by Farrey, seconded by Doemel. 7-0 (Buck virtual and Galloway excused)*

43 Vote Required for Passage: **Two-thirds of Membership**

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45 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2023.

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Jonathan D. Doemel
Winnebago County Executive