

2 **RESOLUTION: Request Authority to Apply to American Transmission Company for a**  
3 **Planting Grant**

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6 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

7 **WHEREAS**, Winnebago County is interested in applying for \$5,000 in funding accessible through the American  
8 Transmission Company (ATC) Planting Grant Program; and

9 **WHEREAS**, said funds are made available to municipalities to help fund the introduction of plants that help  
10 improve the community's species diversity; and

11 **WHEREAS**, grant funding awarded by ATC would be directed towards the establishment of a 40 foot wide strip  
12 of prairie plantings along the east side of the WIOUWASH Trail from Westwind Road parking lot to Brooks Road; and

13 **WHEREAS**, introduction of tall prairie grasses along the aforementioned strip will provide for a more natural and  
14 environmentally-friendly ground cover in areas of the WIOUWASH Trail that have undergone extensive vegetation  
15 management on ATC's part in its effort to clear the buckthorn understory established within its 40-foot-wide easement.

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17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that, on behalf of  
18 Winnebago County, the Winnebago County Executive and the Winnebago County Clerk are hereby authorized to apply  
19 to the American Transmission Company for any financial aid that may be available from the Company's Planting Grant  
20 Program to assist Winnebago County in the installation of prairie grasses on the south end of the WIOUWASH Trail.

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22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that any funds that may be  
23 awarded to Winnebago County by the American Transmission Company's Tree Planting Grant will thereafter be  
24 appropriated towards activities involving the planting of said prairie grasses alongside the WIOUWASH Trail.

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26 **Fiscal Note:** Pursuit of funding from the ATC's Planting Grant Program was not taken into account as part of the Parks  
27 Department's 2017 Budget. Consequently, it is anticipated that should the County be award all or the  
28 majority of the maximum \$5,000 grant, the Parks Department will proceed to contribute \$2,500 towards  
29 the purchase of additional seed in order to increase the length of trail covered in prairie. Ultimately, it is  
30 the Department's goal to plant two-thirds of the two-mile stretch of affected trail in prairie. Starting in 2018,  
31 the Department will begin to save approximately \$300 per year in labor and equipment costs due to the  
32 planting of prairie grasses and the associated reduction in brushing, tree trimming and mowing activities  
33 along this particular section of the trail.  
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35 Respectfully submitted by:

36 **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

37 Committee Vote: **4-0**

38 Vote Required for Passage: **Two-Thirds of Membership**

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40 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

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Mark L Harris  
Winnebago County Executive