

2 **RESOLUTION: Support for Achieving Base Funding Goal for County Conservation Staffing**

3
4
5 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

6 **WHEREAS**, Wis. Stats 92.06 and 92.07 create and define the powers of Land Conservation Committees
7 (LCCs), and Wis. Stat. 92.09 empowers Land & Water Conservation Departments (LWCDs) to administer county soil
8 and water conservation programs and may exercise the powers granted to the LCCs; and

9 **WHEREAS**, county LWCDs are the local delivery mechanism for a wide range of Wisconsin's agricultural
10 non-point pollution control, farmland preservations, lakes protection, and more; and

11 **WHEREAS**, LWCD professionals work as trusted, technical advisors to support agricultural producers, assist
12 waterfront property owners, help farmers develop and implement nutrient management plans, respond to natural
13 disasters like floods, and spend years building the trust to be able to successfully accomplish these tasks; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the conservation practices that LWCD professionals help landowners with result in numerous
15 water quality benefits that include: preventing soil erosion and promoting soil health, increasing infiltration into
16 groundwater aquifers, protecting drinking water supply, reducing surface runoff and flood severity; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin establishes in Wis. Stat. 92.14(6)(b) a base funding goal for county
18 conservation staffing at an average of three positions at 100, 70, and 50 percent support, respectively, for each
19 LWCD; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the return on investment in county LWCDs is high-leveraging other grant dollars into more
21 conservation on the land and more dollars into local economies, and multiplying several times over the state's
22 existing investment; and

23 **WHEREAS**, support of county LWCD funding is a bipartisan issue, supported by farm, conservation,
24 environmental and local government groups alike, and was a top priority voiced by Wisconsinites at statewide Water
25 Quality Task Force hearings in 2019.

26
27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge
28 the Wisconsin Legislature and the Joint Committee on Finance to provide \$13.0 Million in base funding for county
29 conservation staffing, in fulfillment of the state's base funding goal and in recognition that county LWCD professionals
30 are among the best and most cost-effective solutions to improve water quality, achieve clean and safe drinking water,
31 and support a viable agricultural industry.

32
33
34 Committee Vote: 7-0 **LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

35
36
37 Committee Vote: 14-0 **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

38
39 Vote Required for Passage: **Majority.**

40
41 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2021.

42
43
44
45

Jonathan D. Doemel
Winnebago County Executive