

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: 8/25/23

FROM: Chad Casper, Director of Land & Water Conservation

RE: Resolution: Approve the Land & Water Conservation Department Spirit Fund Program Policy Plan

General Description:

The County Board has appropriated Spirit Funds in the amount of \$3,030,300 for Land and Water Conservation Projects administered by the Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) through Resolution No. 202-032023 This Resolution requires that a policy plan be established by the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) with the guidance and expertise of the LWCD.

Action Requested:

To approve the Resolution: Approve the Land & Water Conservation Department Spirit Fund Program Policy Plan

Procedural Steps:

Committee of Jurisdiction: Land Conservation	Meeting date: 9/7/23
Action taken: Approved	Vote: 6-0

County Board	Meeting date: 9/19/23
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Background:

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved the appropriation (Resolution - 202-032023) of \$3,030,300 from the Spirit Fund for the LWCD 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. A policy plan shall be established by the LCC.

Policy Discussion:

The policy plan shall be established by the 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 to 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

These funds will be used on legacy projects with the primary focus of improving water quality in Winnebago County, ensuring future generations benefit from these investments.

Attachments:

Resolution: Approve the Land & Water Conservation Department Spirit Fund Program Policy Plan