

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

LAND CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
INITIATED BY



THOMAS SWEENEY
DRAFTED BY

LAND CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY

APRIL 21, 2016
DATE DRAFTED

**FINALIZING PURCHASE OF THE JOHN AND KATHY MORTON
AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors officially approved the Rock County Purchase of
2 Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program and adopted the document entitled Rock County
3 PACE Program Manual, identifying and outlining all aspects of Program development and
4 implementation, on January 13, 2011; and,
5

6 **WHEREAS**, a PACE application was submitted by John and Kathy Morton to the Land Conservation
7 Department (LCD) in 2014 for sixty seven (67) acres of real property located in part of Section 14,
8 Township 2 North, Range 13 East, La Prairie Township, Rock County Tax Parcel Number 6-10-101,
9 (Morton Property); and,
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the application was recommended for approval by Land Conservation Department (LCD)
12 and the PACE Council, approved by the Land Conservation Committee and County Board in accordance
13 with the Rock County PACE Program Manual and approved for partial funding by the Natural Resources
14 Conservation Service (NRCS); and,
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program and the NRCS Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
17 require that easement appraisals be completed by a State of Wisconsin Certified General Appraiser and
18 meet the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and,
19

20 **WHEREAS**, the purchase price of the easement was determined with the aforementioned methodology
21 and the appraisal valuations have been approved by the NRCS; and,
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the LCD worked closely with the NRCS staff to secure the ACEP funding for said
24 easement purchase and will receive said funding at time of the easement closing(s); and,
25

26 **WHEREAS**, each party to PACE are required to have financial interests as follows; Landowner will
27 donate thirty three percent (33%) of the easement value, the County will contribute seventeen percent
28 (17%) of the easement value, totaling \$43,350.00 and the NRCS will contribute fifty percent (50%) of
29 the easement value, totaling \$86,700.00 for a total purchase price of \$130,050.00.
30

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this
32 12th day of May, 2016, do by enactment of this Resolution approve the purchase of the
33 Agricultural Conservation Easement on the John and Kathy Morton Property, accepts the ACEP
34 Funding, and authorizes the LCD to undertake final necessary activities identified therein and obligate
35 all necessary funds to complete said activities.
36

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County Board Chair and/or the County Clerk will act as the
38 County's agent(s) for closing of said easements.

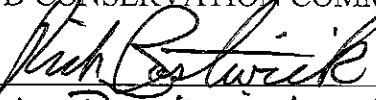
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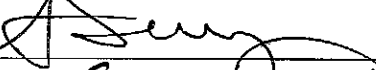
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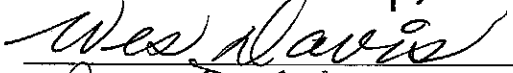
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Respectfully submitted:

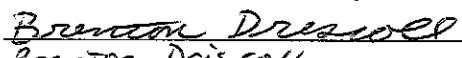
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE



Rich Bestwick, Chair



Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair


Wes DAVIS


Kara Hawes


Brennon Driscoll


David Reboist


Anders Dowd

FISCAL NOTE:

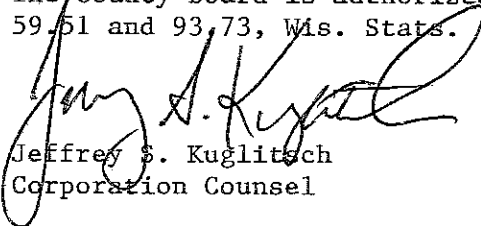
This resolution approves the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement and accepts NRCS funding. Sufficient funds are available in the Land Conservation Department's PACE budget for the estimated purchase price of this easement.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

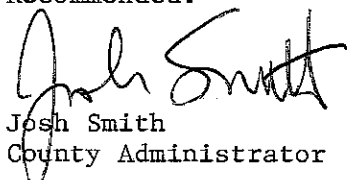
LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01, 59.51 and 93.73, Wis. Stats.


Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.


Josh Smith
County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This resolution authorizes the Land Conservation Department (LCD) to finalize acquisition of the Agricultural Conservation Easement under the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (PACE) for the John and Kathy Morton Property, which is described as follows:

Sixty-seven (67) acres of real property located in part of Section 14, Township 2 North, Range 13 East, La Prairie Township, Rock County Tax Parcel Number 6-10-101.

Acquisition of easements such as this is intended to protect and preserve productive agricultural lands in Rock County, encouraging and promoting the goals of a strong agricultural economy and community identity, intergovernmental cooperation, and a regional land use vision throughout the County.

The value of the Easement was determined by a qualified Real Estate Appraiser and reviewed by a third-party review appraiser, as per USDA-NRCS program guidelines.

If this resolution is approved, the LCD will complete the Easement acquisition process on the John and Kathy Morton Property, and submit Easement funding reimbursement documentation to the USDA-NRCS. Acquisition of the easements by Rock County is contingent upon funding from the USDA.

