

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

LAND CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
INITIATED BY



ANDREW M BAKER
DRAFTED BY

LAND CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY

MAY 17, 2021
DATE DRAFTED

**APPROVAL OF CERTAIN SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GRANT COST SHARE PAYMENTS**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) applies for State Soil and Water Resource
- 2 Management Grant funds through the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection
- 3 (DATCP) on an annual basis; and,
- 4
- 5 **WHEREAS**, the grant funds are earmarked for a portion of LCD annual staff cost and for cost share
- 6 payments made to landowners and/or operators to install conservation practices; and,
- 7
- 8 **WHEREAS**, cost share funding is used for physical construction of "hard" practices, such as grassed
- 9 waterways, as well as "soft" practices, such as Nutrient Management Planning and implementation;
- 10 and,
- 11
- 12 **WHEREAS**, if an eligible owner/operator is selected by the LCD and Land Conservation Committee
- 13 for a cost share contract for Nutrient Management Planning, as per DATCP Policy the entire farm must
- 14 be included in the plan; and,
- 15
- 16 **WHEREAS**, current cost share rate for a Nutrient Management Plan contract is forty dollars (\$40) per
- 17 acre; and,
- 18
- 19 **WHEREAS**, a single operator may have separate contracts for a single operation if land is leased from
- 20 multiple landowners; and,
- 21
- 22 **WHEREAS**, in some instances, due to the size of the farm operation, the Nutrient Management Plan
- 23 contract payment amount, or total of multiple contracts, will exceed the maximum payment amount
- 24 allowed to be approved by staff and, therefore, require additional approvals by the Finance Committee
- 25 and County Board of Supervisors; and,
- 26
- 27 **WHEREAS**, cost share payments to landowners are 100% reimbursed by DATCP; and,
- 28
- 29 **WHEREAS**, contract payments for four operators will exceed the aforesaid thresholds in order to
- 30 provide cost share funding for the entire farm operation as required by DATCP.
- 31
- 32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
- 33 assembled this 10th day of June, 2021, approves the payments for cost share contracts
- 34 LR-16.20, LR-17.20, LR-18.20 and LR-19.20 in the sum of \$15,472, LR-21.20, LR-22.20, LR-23.20,
- 35 LR-24.20 and LR-25.20 in the sum of \$18,012, LR-026.20 in the sum of \$14,496 and LR-27.20 and LR-
- 36 28.20 in the sum of \$23,980.

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Respectfully submitted:

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Endorsement

Reviewed and approved on a vote of 5-0

/s/Richard Bostwick
Richard Bostwick, Chair

/s/Mary Mawhinney 6/10/2021
Mary Mawhinney, Chair Date

/s/Alan Sweeney
Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

/s/Stephanie Aegerter
Stephanie Aegerter

/s/Wes Davis
Wes Davis

VACANT
Vacant

/s/Mike Mulligan
Mike Mulligan

/s/James Quade
James Quade, USDA-FSA Rep.

/s/Genia Stevens
Genia Stevens

FISCAL NOTE:

Cost share payments are included in the budget and are 100% reimbursed by DATCP. No County funds are required.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

/s/ Sherry Oja

/s/ Josh Smith

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

Josh Smith
County Administrator

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01, 59.51 and 92.07(3), Wis. Stats.

/s/ Richard Greenlee

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On an annual basis the Land Conservation Department is awarded grant funds from the State to implement conservation in Rock County. These funds are for both staff time and cost share payments to landowners or operators for conservation practices. One eligible conservation practice is Nutrient Management Planning. The payment rate for this practice is \$40 an acre to be paid as a one-time payment to develop and implement the Nutrient Management Plan. An operator is required to include all the acres in the operation in the Plan. Depending on the size of the operation, this requirement occasionally results in relatively high contract values and/or multiple contracts because different landowners/landlords are involved (whom must be included in the contract).

A number of existing 2020 contracts (or the total of multiple contracts with same operator) exceed the maximum payment amount allowed for staff approval established by County Board rules, requiring actions by both the Finance Committee and County Board of Supervisors. Therefore, this resolution is intended to provide approval of payments for cost share contracts LR-16.20, LR-17.20, LR-18.20 and LR-19.20 in the sum of \$15,472, LR-21.20, LR-22.20, LR-23.20, LR-24.20 and LR-25.20 in the sum of \$18,012, LR-026.20 in the sum of \$14,496 and LR-27.20 and LR-28.20 in the sum of \$23,980.

DATCP reimburses the County 100% for the cost of these payments.