

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation Committee
INITIATED BY



Thomas Sweeney
DRAFTED BY

Land Conservation Committee
SUBMITTED BY

December 8, 2017
DATE DRAFTED

**APPROVAL TO BEGIN ACQUISITION PROCESS FOR SELECTED 2017 PACE PROGRAM
APPLICATIONS (NON-FEDERALLY FUNDED)**

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 PACE
3 Program Manual, identifying and outlining all aspects of Program development and implementation, on
4 January 13, 2011; and,
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors adopted resolution 16-9A-092 which officially approved
7 an amendment to the PACE Program, which allowing the County to purchase agricultural conservation
8 easements with or without USDA-NRCS funding, on September 26, 2016; and,
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the Program works to achieve the mission by acquiring agricultural conservation easements
11 (Easements) on eligible lands throughout unincorporated Rock County; and,
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) received five (5) applications for the PACE program
14 during the 2017 application cycle; and,
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the applications have been reviewed by the LCD staff, the PACE Council, and the Land
17 Conservation Committee (LCC), all in accordance with the Rock County PACE Program Manual; and,
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the LCC voted to approve one PACE application, located within a Primary Target Acquisition Area,
20 for the non-federal funding option of the PACE Program and begin the Easement acquisition process, that
21 application is described below:
22

23 Morgan Property - Rock County tax parcel number 6-16-9.5, Part of the SE 1/4 of Section 2,
24 Township 4N, Range 11E, Porter Township (approximately 40 total acres); and,
25

26 **WHEREAS**, to proceed with the Easement acquisition process, the LCD will develop an *Agricultural*
27 *Conservation Easement Conveyance Agreement* between Rock County and the owner of the aforementioned
28 property; and,
29

30 **WHEREAS**, to formalize the Easement acquisition process, the owner of the aforementioned property, Rock
31 County, and Brabazon Title Company, Inc. will sign and execute the aforesaid *Conveyance Agreement* document,
32 which will include the estimated purchase price and will outline all aspects of the Easement acquisition process,
33 including but not limited to, the following activities, subject to all terms and conditions as stated therein:
34

- 35 1. Opening an escrow with Brabazon Title Company, Inc. and securing a minimum Title Insurance
36 Commitment of \$15,000 (Title Report) for each Property
- 37 2. Landowner depositing three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) in the established escrow account
38

39 **WHEREAS**, final acquisition of any or all of the Easements will take place only after future action by the County
40 Board.
41

42 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this
43 11th day of January, 2018, does by enactment of this Resolution approve an *Agricultural*
44 *Conservation Easement Conveyance Agreement* for each Property, authorizing the LCD to undertake activities
45 identified therein and obligate all necessary funds to complete said activities.

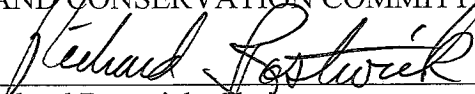
18-1A-433

APPROVAL TO BEGIN ACQUISITION PROCESS FOR SELECTED 2017 PACE PROGRAM APPLICATION (NON-FEDERALLY FUNDED)

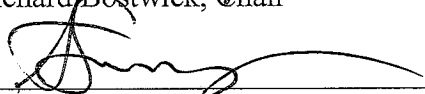
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Respectfully submitted:

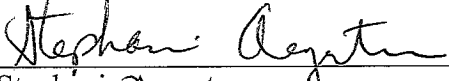
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE



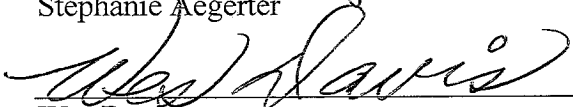
Richard Bostwick, Chair



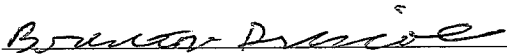
Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair



Stephanie Aegerter



Wes Davis



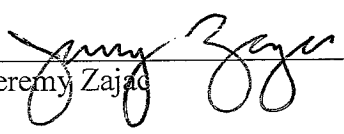
Brenton Driscoll



Kara Hawes



James Quade, USDA-FSA



Jeremy Zajac

FISCAL NOTE:

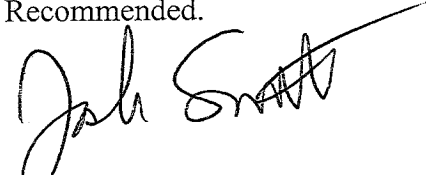
Sufficient funds are available in the Land Conservation Department's PACE budget for the escrow, estimated appraisal and related costs necessary to begin the acquisition process for Agricultural Conservation Easement Conveyance on this property. Once we have an estimated purchase price, sufficiency of available funding will need to be determined.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

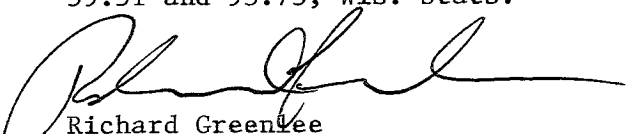
Recommended.



Josh Smith
County Administrator

LEGAL NOTE:

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



Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**APPROVAL TO BEGIN ACQUISITION PROCESS FOR SELECTED 2017 PACE PROGRAM
APPLICATION (NON-FEDERALLY FUNDED)**

This resolution authorizes the County to enter into an *Agricultural Conservation Easement Conveyance Agreement* (Agreement) with landowners and Brabazon Title Company for two PACE applications located in unincorporated Rock County. The Agreement identifies and outlines the agricultural conservation easement (Easement) acquisition process to be undertaken by the Rock County PACE Program. The first steps in the process include establishing an escrow account to be held by Brabazon Title Company, purchasing title insurance. Acquisition of the easements by Rock County is contingent upon action by the County Board.

Acquisition of Easements will protect and preserve productive agricultural lands in Rock County, encouraging and promoting the goals of a strong agricultural economy and community identity, and intergovernmental cooperation.