

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation Committee
INITIATED BY

Land Conservation Committee
SUBMITTED BY



Thomas Sweeney
DRAFTED BY

March 20, 2018
DATE DRAFTED

**AMENDING THE LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET TO UTILIZE THE
CURRENT ATC ACCOUNT FUND BALANCE TO COMMENCE ACTIVITES ASSOCIATED
WITH THE GROUNDWATER NITRATE INITIATIVE PROJECT**

1 **WHEREAS**, County Board Resolution 17-10A-369 determined the Allocation of the American
2 Transmission Company (ATC) Environmental Impact Fees to be received in 2018 between the Land
3 Conservation Department (LCD) and the Parks Division; and,
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Resolution 17-10A-369 further segregated \$120,000 of the anticipated funding that the
6 LCD is to receive to assure the Groundwater Nitrate Initiative Project can commence with planned
7 activates; and,
8

9 **WHEREAS**, as of the draft date of this resolution, ATC has not commenced the construction of the
10 planned Alliant Energy Power Plant Line and therefore funding is not available to start the Groundwater
11 Nitrate Pilot Project; and,
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Groundwater Nitrate Initiative Workgroup (Workgroup) has developed a plan to
14 commence with the implementation of the groundwater nitrate reduction pilot project in spring of 2018,
15 and the project will include the establishment of numerous observation wells within the selected areas;
16 and,
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the establishment of these wells will assist the Workgroup with developing an
19 understanding of the background nitrate levels within the areas prior to implementation of best
20 management practices on the landscape; and,
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the timing for the establishment of the observation wells will be prior to spring planting
23 (early spring) with the cost to establish aforesaid observation wells estimated at \$25,000.00; and,
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) requests that the LCD budget be amended to
26 accommodate the anticipated ATC Environmental Impact Fee deposit which will allow for expenditures
27 for the Groundwater Nitrate Initiative Project; and,
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the LCDs' portion of the estimated environmental impact fees from the construction of the
30 new high voltage transmission line is estimated between \$398,480 and \$415,280. The Workgroup has
31 requested that current ATC fund balance be used in lieu of the 2018 anticipated funds.
32

33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rock County Board of Supervisors in session this
34 12th day of April, 2018, approves the use of the current ATC fund balance to allow for the
35 establishment of the planned observation wells.
36

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Land Conservation Department's budget be amended as
38 follows:

<u>Account/Description</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>1/1/18</u>	<u>Increase</u> <u>(Decrease)</u>	<u>Amended</u> <u>Budget</u>
41 <u>Source of Funds</u>			
42 62-6265-0000-46400	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000
43 Fund Balance			

18-4A-503

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44	<u>Use of Funds</u>			
45	62-6265-0000-62119	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
46	Other Contracted Services			
47	62-6265-0000-64928	\$0	\$80,000	\$80,000
48	Cost Sharing			
49	62-6265-0000-65109	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
50	Other Insurance			

Respectfully submitted:

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

Richard Bostwick, Chair

Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

Stephanie Aegerter

Brenton Driscoll

Wes Davis

Kara Hawes

James Quade, USDA-FSA Representative

Jeremy Zajac

Reviewed and approved on a vote of 5-0.

Mary Mawhinney, Chair

4-5-18
Date

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution authorizes the appropriation of \$120,000 from the ATC fund balance that is designated for use by the PACE program. Once the 2018 ATC Environmental Impact Fee is received, this fund balance will be replenished.

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

As an amendment to the adopted 2018 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to sec. 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Josh Smith
County Administrator

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The County will receive environmental impact fees for the construction of a high voltage transmission line to be constructed by the American Transmission Company (ATC) in early 2018. This transmission line will commence at the newly constructed Alliant Energy power plant and terminate in western Rock County at the existing high voltage transmission line. Per State Statute, the fees collected as environmental impact fees must be used to support environmental and/or park projects, any deviation from these activates must be approved via a waiver by the Public Service Commission. Two line routes have been submitted to the Public Service Commission for consideration. The anticipated impact fees are estimated to be between \$796,960 and \$830,560, with ATC's preferred route impact fees estimated at \$796,960. The Land Conservation Departments estimated fee allocation from this project is estimated to be between \$398,480 and \$415,280. As of this date, the fees associated with this project have not been received by the County.

As part of the County Board Resolution 17-10A-369, the Land Conservation Committee recommended that \$120,000 be segregated to fund the County's Groundwater Nitrate Initiative. The remainder of the funds segregated to the Land Conservation Department will be used to fund ongoing projects; Clean Sweep and PACE.

The Groundwater Nitrate Initiative Workgroup has developed a plan to commence with the implementation of the groundwater nitrate reduction pilot project in spring of 2018, and the project will include the establishment of numerous observation wells within the selected areas. The establishment of these wells will assist the Workgroup with developing an understanding of the background nitrate levels within the areas prior to implementation of best management practices on the landscape. The estimated cost for the wells is \$25,000.

The resolution requests the utilization of existing fund balance within the Land Conservation Departments portion of ATC balance sheet in lieu of the anticipated receipt of funds in 2018. Also, this resolution also establishes an account within the Land Conservation Budget to accommodate the anticipated ATC Environmental Impact Fee deposit and allow for the projects expenditures.