

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation Comm.
INITIATED BY



Andrew M Baker
DRAFTED BY

Land Conservation Comm.
SUBMITTED BY

April 23, 2021
DATE DRAFTED

**AMENDING THE 2021 LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET
FARMERS ON THE ROCK PRODUCER LED WATERSHED GROUP ACCOUNT**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) has established a partnership with
 2 Farmers on the Rock (FOTR) Producer Led Watershed Group via a Memorandum of
 3 Understanding (MOU); and,
 4
 5 **WHEREAS**, the primary purpose of the MOU is to work collaboratively on a producer led water
 6 quality protection project in the Lower Rock River watershed to achieve improved water quality;
 7 and,
 8
 9 **WHEREAS**, the LCD has agreed to manage donations, contributions and other funding sources
 10 acquired by FOTR; and,
 11
 12 **WHEREAS**, FOTR desires to utilize a portion of the funds that have been contributed to date;
 13 and,
 14
 15 **WHEREAS**, the current budget does not include expense codes associated with the account to
 16 allow the County to spend the fund as dictated by FOTR.
 17
 18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
 19 assembled this 13th day of May, 2021, approves the creation of the Farmers on
 20 the Rock Account and hereby amends the Land Conservation Department’s budget as follows:
 21
 22
 23

<u>A/C DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>BUDGET AT 05/1/2021</u>	<u>INCREASE (DECREASE)</u>	<u>AMENDED BUDGET</u>
<u>Land Conservation</u>			
<u>Source of Funds:</u>			
62-6267-0000-46000			
Contributions	\$-0-	\$1,000	\$1,000
<u>Use of Funds:</u>			
62-6267-0000-63110			
Administrative Expense	\$ -0-	\$1,000	\$1,000

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Respectfully submitted:

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

/s/Richard Bostwick

Richard Bostwick, Chair

/s/Alan Sweeney

Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

/s/Stephanie Aegerter

Stephanie Aegerter

/s/Wees Davis

Wes Davis

/s/Kaelyb Lokrantz

Kaelyb Lokrantz

/s/Robert Potter

Robert Potter

/s/James Quade

James Quade, USDA-FSA

/s/Genia Stevens

Genia Stevens

Finance Committee Endorsement

Reviewed and approved on a vote of 5-0

/s/Mary Mawhinney

Mary Mawhinney, Chair

5/13/2021

Date

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution authorizes setting up an account and budget to allow for contributions to and expenses for the Farmers on the Rock group.

/s/ Sherry Oja

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

/s/ Josh Smith

Josh Smith
County Administrator

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats. As an amendment to the adopted 2021 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to § 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

/s/ Richard Greenlee

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Farmers on the Rock Producer Led Watershed Group (FOTR) is to reduce nitrate loading in groundwater and surface waters from agriculture in Rock County. Rock County Land Conservation Department, in partnership with the Rock County Public Health Department has identified numerous areas within the County of Rock where nitrate well tests results have shown an increasing trend of elevated nitrate levels above the Preventative Action Limit of 2mg/l and Enforcement Standard of 10mg/l. As a result of the observations and data collected, Rock County developed a Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup, composed of respected leaders from multi-agencies, agricultural producers, and agricultural industries, to provide assist with numerous objectives regarding upward trends of nitrates found in groundwater and well water. One objective was the establishment of a groundwater nitrate pilot project on the County Farm which includes the establishment of three observation wells and implementation of best management practices on the aforementioned farm. Another objective is the establishment of a producer led watershed effort to assist with the efforts of reducing nitrates entering the groundwater system. A third objective is to create partnerships with agencies and the agricultural community, to establish BMPs to reduce nitrate in groundwater, and to educate the community to launch the BMPs.

Via an existing MOU with FOTR, Rock County LCD has committed to contribute staff time and travel costs needed to assist FOTR in implementing conservation practices, managing funds, communication, planning and attending educational events and other resources. This resolution authorizes an amendment to the 2021 Budget to establish financial accounts on behalf of the FOTR. Any funds contributed to, or expended from, these accounts will be 100% collected and controlled by FOTR. There is no direct County contribution to these funds at this time.