



**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010, 7:00 p.m.  
COURTHOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 250  
ROCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
JANESVILLE WI**

1. Call Meeting to Order.
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.
4. Resolution – Amending Land Conservation/Planning and Development Budgets for Implementation of the Conservation Compliance for the Farmland Preservation Program.
5. Adjourn.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation/ Planning  
and Development Comm.  
INITIATED BY



Thomas Sweeney  
and Steve Schraufnagel  
DRAFTED BY

Land Conservation Comm.  
SUBMITTED BY

February 25, 2010  
DATE DRAFTED

**AMENDING LAND CONSERVATION/PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS FOR IMPLEMENTATION  
OF CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE FOR THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

1       **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin, Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection  
2       (DATCP), redesigned the Farmland Preservation Program as part of the Working Lands Initiative;  
3       and,  
4

5       **WHEREAS**, as part of the redesign of the Farmland Preservation Program, participants must  
6       meet specific conservation compliance performance standards by December 31, 2015; and,  
7

8       **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department workload associated with the current  
9       participation level, 753 participants, surpasses the current staff available to implement the  
10       conservation compliance requirements by the aforementioned deadline; and,  
11

12       **WHEREAS**, the Planning and Development Agency has agreed to shift a portion of a Planner II  
13       position, currently shared at a 50/50 rate to an 80/20 rate, to assist the Land Conservation  
14       Department with the Farmland Preservation Program workload; and,  
15

16       **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation and Planning and Development Committees agree with the  
17       shift of staff time and the need to amend their budgets to accommodate these expenditures.  
18

19       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly  
20       assembled this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010, does hereby approve the reallocation of an  
21       additional 3 FTE Planner II position from the Planning and Development Agency to the Land  
22       Conservation Department, effective April 1, 2010.  
23

24       **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Land Conservation and Planning and Development  
25       2010 budgets be amended as follows:

<u>A/C DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>BUDGET AT 04/01/ 10</u>	<u>INCREASE (DECREASE)</u>	<u>AMENDED BUDGET</u>
<b><u>Planning &amp; Development:</u></b>			
64-6400-0000-61100/ Salaries	516,508	(4,944)	511,564
64-6400-0000-61400/ FICA	41,096	(379)	40,717
64-6400-0000-61510/ Retirement	56,981	(544)	56,437
64-6400-0000-61610/ Health Insurance	159,527	(2,281)	157,246
64-6400-0000-61620/ Dental Insurance	4,496	(62)	4,434
<b><u>Land Conservation</u></b>			
62-6200-0000-61100/ Salaries	240,607	4,944	245,551
62-6200-0000-61400/ FICA	18,406	379	18,785
62-6200-0000-61510/ Retirement	26,467	544	27,011
62-6200-0000-61610/ Health Insurance	81,880	2,281	84,161
62-6200-0000-61620/ Dental Insurance	1,737	62	1,799

Respectfully submitted:

**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

Richard Bostwick, Chair

Larry Wiedenfeld, Vice Chair

Eva Arnold

Katie Kuznacic

Ronald Combs

Alan Sweeney

Robert Fizzell

James Quade

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Alan Sweeney, Chair

Mary Mawhinney, Vice Chair

Wayne Gustina

Phillip Owens

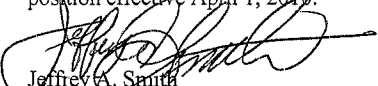
Marilynn Jensen

**FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT**

Reviewed and approved on a vote of \_\_\_\_\_.

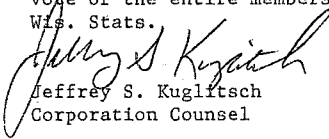
Mary Mawhinney, Chair

**FISCAL NOTE:** This resolution authorizes the transfer of a .3 FTE Planner II from the Planning budget to Land Conservation budget for the salary and fringe benefit costs related to the additional .3 FTE position effective April 1, 2010.

  
Jeffrey A. Santh  
Finance Director

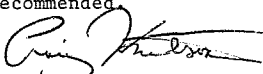
**LEGAL NOTE:**

As an amendment to the adopted 2010 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.

  
Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Corporation Counsel

**ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:**

Recommended

  
Craig Knutson  
County Administrator

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Working Lands Initiative, The Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) was redesigned. Historically this program had a soil erosion abatement compliance standard associated with it since its inception in 1977. The program was proposed by DATCP to be eliminated in 2006-07 due to declining enrollment and the eventual phase in of Use Value taxation policies in Wisconsin. Numerous farm agencies testified in favor of maintaining the program until such times were it could be overhauled.

In 2009, DATCP commenced with the redesign of this program as part of the Working Lands Initiative (WLI). The WLI is three fold, first being the FPP, second the Purchase Agriculture Conservation Easements program (PACE/PDR), and third the Agriculture Enterprise Areas (AEA). The second and third were designed to mimic successful programs in other states to help reduce the conversion of farmland to other uses.

As part of the FPP redesign, program participants, 753 at this time, will be required to implement all applicable agriculture conservation performance standards and prohibitions identified in Wisconsin Administrative Rule NR 151 to be eligible for the new FPP tax credit, \$7.50/acre. Current participants will have until December 31, 2015 to implement all new requirements for their operation. New enrollee's will be required to be in compliance with the aforementioned standards prior to program participation. The LCD is required to meet with each claimant at their farm a minimum of every four years to verify that all conservation compliance issues identified in their conservation plans are being maintained.

An internal analysis identifies a staffing shortfall to plan and provide the technical support needed to update the 753 conservation plans with the new program requirements for current enrollees by the deadline of December 31, 2015. Also, the LCD is required to provide assistance to new program participants by the end of any given program year in which the request was made. The analysis identifies a minimum of 2.65 FTE to meet the goals of the redesigned program. Currently the LCD allocates 0.75 FTE to service this program.

Currently, the LCD and P&D Agency share one Planner II FTE on a 50/50 basis. This resolution will reallocate this position to an 80/20 basis. Noting that this reallocation will not fully support the needs of the redesigned FPP, the LCD will be reevaluating the fee structure currently applied to this program in 2010.