

RESOLUTION #R-65-16

**EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR COUNTY FOREST ADMINISTRATION GRANT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, Marathon County has land entered into the Wisconsin County Forest Law (County Forest Law), ss. 28.10 and 28.11 Stats. and is a member of the Wisconsin County Forest Association (WCFA); and

**WHEREAS**, the WCFA is a nonprofit organization that represents the forestry interests of 29 counties with 2.4 million acres of forest lands entered into the County Forest Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the WCFA also provides leadership and counsel to each county's forest administrator and functions as an organizational liaison to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (department); and

**WHEREAS**, s. 28.11(5m)(am). Stats., authorizes the department to make grants, from the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5)(bw), Stats., to counties having lands entered under the County Forest Law in order to fund up to 50 percent of the costs of a county's annual dues to the WCFA; and

**WHEREAS**, historically, the total amount that the department could award in grants under this provision in any fiscal year could not exceed \$50,000; and

**WHEREAS**, while the statutory language remains in place, the State's 2015-17 biennial budget eliminated the \$50,000 grant for organizational dues payment; and

**WHEREAS**, Marathon County depends on the funds from the County Forest Administration Grant to assist in the operations and funding of the Marathon County Forest for the public's benefit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin forestry mil tax (segregated funds) provides the funding for the County Forest Administration Grant.

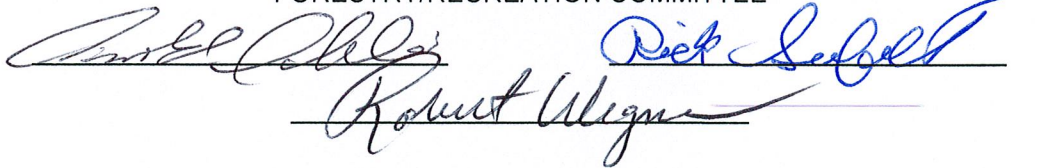
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does hereby resolve that the County requests that the legislature restore the County Forest Administration Grant Program to its previous funding level in the next State Biennial Budget; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the proper County officials, including the Forest Administrator, are authorized to contact the State legislators for Marathon County requesting their support for restoration of this grant;

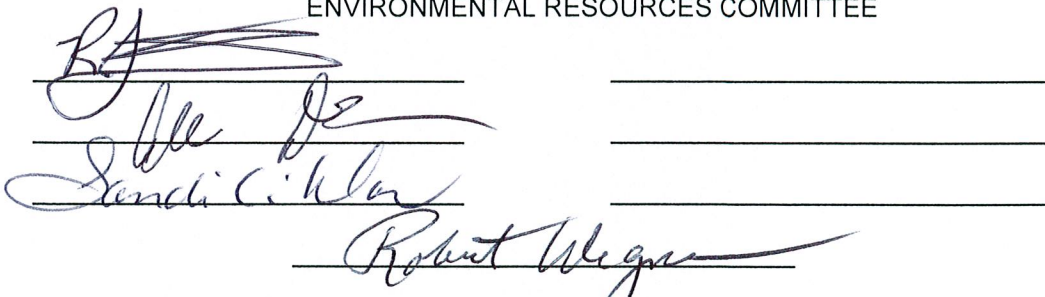
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Walker, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature, the state legislators for Marathon County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and WDNR Secretary Cathy Stepp.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016.

FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE

  
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ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

  
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Fiscal Impact Estimate: \$955.00 Estimated increase in State Grant Funds.

