

RESOLUTION – R2017-02-15

TO: The Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

RE: SUPPORT FOR RESTORING FUNDING FOR COUNTY FOREST ADMINISTRATION GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Oconto County has land entered into the Wisconsin County Forest Law (State Statutes 28.10 and 28.11) 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 Wisconsin 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, State Statute 28.11 (5m)(am) 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 count'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, Oconto County depends on the funds from the County Forest Administration Grant to assist in the operations and funding of the Oconto County Forest for the public's benefit; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin forestry mill tax (segregated funds) provides the funding for the County Forest Administrator Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oconto County Board of Supervisors 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 Oconto County requesting their support for restoration of this grant, and

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

Submitted this 23rd day of February, 2017.

BY: Forest, Parks, & Recreation/Land Information Systems Subcommittee

Gregory Sekela, Chairperson  
Robert Pott  
Al Stranz  
Judy Buhrandt  
Vernon Zoeller

Reviewed by Corporation Counsel:

Adopted by Vote:

CAM  
Initials of  
Corp. Counsel

02.16.2017  
Date  
Reviewe

Ayes: 28 Nays: 1 Absent: 2

STATE OF WISCONSIN } I, Kim Pytleski  
County Oconto } do hereby certify  
that the above is a true and correct copy of the  
original now on file in the office of the County Clerk and  
that it was adopted by the Oconto County Board of  
Supervisors on this date.  
Date: 02/23/17 Kim Pytleski  
(Seal) } County Clerk