

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-128

RESOLUTION BY THE RACINE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE REQUESTING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO FULFILL STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS TO ADEQUATELY FUND THE RACINE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION TO IMPLEMENT STATE MANDATED PROGRAMS

To the Honorable Members of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

WHEREAS, protecting land and water resources is critical to maintaining the quality of life and economic strength of Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, throughout Wisconsin, Land Conservation staff have demonstrated a successful conservation program delivery and reporting system that currently oversees a growing number of programs that support the core of Wisconsin's economic vitality; and,

WHEREAS, county Land and Water Resource Management plans derived from public input, professional partnerships, and elected officials are utilized to address Chapter 92 State Statutes added in 1997 as a method to implement local natural resource priorities, state standards, and state mandates; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 92.14(6)(b), the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) shall attempt to provide funding for an average of three staff persons per county with full funding for the first staff person, 70% for the second staff person and 50% funding for any additional staff persons and provide an average of \$100,000 per county for cost-sharing grants; and,

WHEREAS, this allocation is not meeting its statutory obligation for maintaining Racine County Land Conservation Division staff and support as directed in ATCP 50, Wis. Adm. Code; and,

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) program was \$73,606 short of meeting its statutory staffing grant goal for Racine County; and,

WHEREAS, the statewide reduction of general purpose revenue used for county conservation staffing grants has decreased by 29% in addition to \$1,000,000 in cuts in the 2011-2013 biennial budget; and,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association unanimously approved a resolution (10-4-2012) requesting the State to fulfill its statutory funding allocation to County Land Conservation Departments and the Wisconsin Counties Association passed a similar resolution; and,

WHEREAS, the 2013-2015 state budget and beyond should provide an allocation to all 72 counties to fully fund comprehensive conservation programs as directed by statute and provide mandated services to all landowners requesting assistance with state programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Racine County Board of Supervisors to call on their legislators to fund Wisconsin Statute 92.14(6)(b) to the statutory levels identified and require the state agencies designated by statute to provide the Racine County Land Conservation Division, and all Wisconsin Counties, funding levels identified in 92.14(6)(b) needed to implement State Mandated Programs.

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5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Racine County will forward this resolution to the
6 Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, the Wisconsin Counties Association, state
7 legislators, the Office of the Governor, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
8 Trade and Consumer Protection, and the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural
9 Resources.

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11 Respectfully submitted,

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13 1st Reading _____

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

14
15 2nd Reading _____

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18 **BOARD ACTION**

Mark M. Gleason, Chairman

19 Adopted _____

20 For _____

21 Against _____

22 Absent _____

David J. Cooke, Vice-Chairman

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24 **VOTE REQUIRED:** Majority

Robert D. Grove, Secretary

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26 Prepared by:
27 Corporation Counsel

Thomas Pringle

Kenneth Lumpkin

Monte G. Osterman

Pamela Richard-Zenners

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40 **The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of Racine County,**
41 **Wisconsin, is hereby:**

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43 **Approved:** _____

44 **Vetoed:** _____

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46 **Date:** _____,

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49 **James A. Ladwig, County Executive**

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51 **The Certificate of Publication, in compliance with State Statutes, is available at the Racine**
52 **County Public Works and Development Services Department.**