

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Planning & Development Agency
INITIATED BY



Paul Benjamin
DRAFTED BY

Planning & Development Agency
SUBMITTED BY

August 17, 2010
DATE DRAFTED

**AUTHORIZING RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROD NILSESTUEN,
LATE SECRETARY OF THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE,
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

1 **WHEREAS**, Rod Nilsestuen was the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer
2 Protection from 2003 until his untimely death on July 21, 2010; and,

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Rod provided outstanding leadership to agriculture through his work as Secretary of the
5 Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection for seven years and with the Wisconsin
6 Federation of Cooperatives for twenty-four years; and,

7
8 **WHEREAS**, through Rod's leadership during his tenure at the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and
9 Consumer Protection agriculture saw advances in bioenergy, organic agriculture, grazing, the dairy
10 industry, consumer protection, and food safety; and,

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Rod resurrected the Farmland Preservation Program through his Working Lands Initiative
13 and brought into the program new features such as Farmland Preservation Planning grants, Agricultural
14 Enterprise Areas, and Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements, all of which will benefit Rock
15 County; and,

16
17 **WHEREAS**, Rod addressed difficult public issues by inviting all stakeholders to the table with the
18 message to "come with your most honorable intentions to the table and let's explore honestly the best
19 solutions for your interests and for the state."

20
21 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by The Rock County Board Of Supervisors on this 9th day
22 of September, 2010 that sincerest thanks be given for the life and service of Rod Nilsestuen to the
23 State of Wisconsin and our heartfelt condolences be given to his family.

24
25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the County Clerk be authorized and directed to furnish copies of
26 this Resolution to the Nilsestuen Family and to ~~Deputy~~ Secretary Randy Romanski, Department of
27 Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718.
28

Planning & Development Committee

Alan Sweeney, Chair

Mary Mawhinney, Vice-Chair

Wayne Gustina

Marilynn Jensen

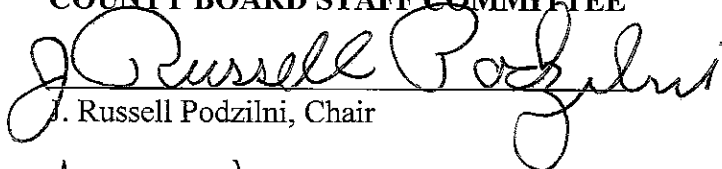
Phillip Owens

10-9A-140

RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROD NILSESTUEN, LATE SECRETARY OF THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Page 2

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

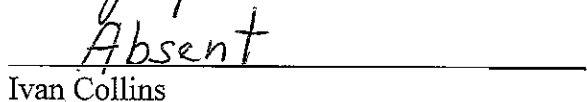

J. Russell Podzilni, Chair


Sandra Kraft

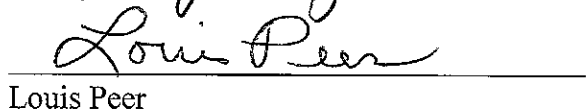

Eva Arnold

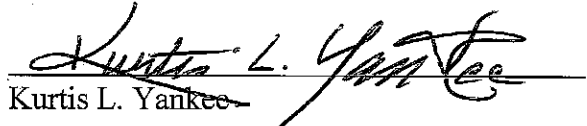

Henry Brill


Betty Jo Bussie


Ivan Collins


Marilynn Jensen


Louis Peer


Kurtis L. Yankee



Executive Summary

On July 21, 2010, Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, died while swimming in Lake Superior. We grieve his passing and will miss his guidance and leadership.

Rod provided outstanding leadership to agriculture through his work as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection for seven years and with the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives for twenty-four years, building it into one of the most respected cooperative trade associations in the nation. Through Rod's leadership during his tenure at the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection agriculture saw advances in bioenergy, organic agriculture, grazing, the dairy industry, consumer protection, and food safety.

Rod resurrected the Farmland Preservation Program through his Working Lands Initiative and brought into the program new features such as Farmland Preservation Planning Grants, Agricultural Enterprise Areas, and Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements, all of which will benefit Rock County.

Rod addressed difficult public issues by inviting all stakeholders to the table with the message to "come with your most honorable intentions to the table and let's explore honestly the best solutions for your interests and for the state."

We wish to give sincerest thanks for the life and service of Rod Nilsestuen to the State of Wisconsin and to give our heartfelt condolences to his family.