

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation Comm.
INITIATED BY



Thomas Sweeney
DRAFTED BY

Land Conservation Comm.
SUBMITTED BY

May 7, 2014
DATE DRAFTED

**AMENDING 2014 LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET
TO OFFSET COSTS ASSOCIATED
WITH THE PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department was allocated funding from the ATC Fund account in
2 2009, per Resolution 09-2B-219, to fund various conservation projects; and,
3
4 **WHEREAS**, a portion of the allocation was earmarked for the implementation of the Purchase of
5 Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (PACE); and,
6
7 **WHEREAS**, the major funding component of the PACE program is the USDA-NRCS Agricultural
8 Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) (formerly referred to as the Farm and Ranchland Preservation
9 Program), which pays up to fifty percent (50%) of the Easement value; and,
10
11 **WHEREAS**, the ACEP guidelines require all easements funded must include a title insurance policy
12 valued for the full purchase price and have a comprehensive conservation easement appraisal
13 completed; and,
14
15 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) purchases a preliminary title insurance policy
16 valued at \$15,000 as part of the initial title search early in the PACE application process and purchases
17 the remaining increment, which totals the full easement purchase price, prior to closing on the Easement
18 acquisition; and,
19
20 **WHEREAS**, due to unforeseen delays, two easements that would have closed in 2013 were moved to
21 early 2014, therefore the associated closing costs will also be incurred in 2014; and,
22
23 **WHEREAS**, an anticipated increase in applications in 2014 will cause a funding short fall for the
24 associated appraisal and title insurance fees; and,
25
26 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Committee requests a transfer from the ATC Fund account and to
27 amend it's budget to reflect the costs associated with the aforementioned components of the PACE
28 Program.
29
30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
31 assembled this 10 day of July, 2014, amends the Land Conservation Department's
32 budget as follows:

<u>A/C DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>BUDGET AT 06/01/2014</u>	<u>INCREASE (DECREASE)</u>	<u>AMENDED BUDGET</u>
<u>Source of Funds:</u>			
62-6350-0000-47000 Transfer In	\$244,781	\$14,000	\$258,781
<u>Use of Funds:</u>			
62-6350-0000-65109 Other Insurance	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000
62-6350-0000-62101 Appraisal Fees	\$ 5,000	\$11,000	\$16,000

14-7A-069

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Respectfully submitted:

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Richard Bostwick, Chair

Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

Tom Brien

Wes Davis

Jason Dowd

Dave Rebout, USDA-FSA

Rick Richard

Larry Wiedenfeld

FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

Reviewed and approved on a vote of

4-0

Mary Mawhinney, Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Craig Knutson
County Administrator

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution authorizes the use of \$14,000 in ATC Fees for costs associated with the PACE Program. The Land Conservation ATC available fund balance is \$437,130.

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

As an amendment to the adopted 2014 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.

Jerome A. Long
Deputy Corporation Counsel

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This resolution requests that money be transferred into the Land Conservation PACE budget from the ATC account to cover costs associated with the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program, specifically the cost of title insurance and appraisal fees.

The LCD experienced delays in the closing of two PACE easements in 2013 until 2014. Also, the LCD anticipates a greater number of applications for the program in 2014 than estimated during the development of the 2014 budget, which will create a budget shortfall. The LCD is expecting at least four new applications for the program in 2014.