

**RESOLUTION****ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Bostwick and Andrew  
Baker, Director  
INITIATED BY



5/31/2023  
DATE DRAFTED

**Recognizing Norman J. Tadt Jr. for Service to Rock County**

**WHEREAS**, Norman J. Tadt Jr (Norm) began his career path in December 1978 after first attending UW-LaCrosse for a year and graduating from UW-Stevens Point with a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Forestry; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm gained field experience in the landscape industry in Janesville as a landscape foreman from June 1979 to March 1987; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm refined his communication skills as a part-time instructor at Blackhawk Technical College for courses in soils and fertilizers, landscape construction and arboriculture, teaching students ranging from recent high school grads to retired individuals; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm began his employment with Rock County Land Conservation Department (LCD) as a Conservation Technician on March 19, 1987 and was promoted to Senior Conservation Specialist in April 2002; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm was a contributor to hundreds of projects in the county over the course of his tenure, leading to direct improvements to soil health, water quality, wildlife habitat, etc; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm was a principal contributor to the Spring Creek Priority Watershed Project in northwestern Rock County (1993-1994), working with landowners to install conservation practices that ultimately lead to the Creek being removed from the impaired waters list and restore use as a trout fishery; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm played a key role in the successful three-day Farm Progress Days event that was held at Venable Farms in September 2001, which was especially challenging due to mother nature; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm has served as a subject matter expert for state agencies and federal partners for the development and revisions of conservation related State Administrative Codes and Statutes and federal conservation practice standards; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm assisted with the original work and four updates to the County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, which serves as a long-term strategic conservation plan for the LCD and county residents. The plan provides guidance to the LCD for collaborating efforts with state and federal agencies on natural resource conservation issues and provides guidance for annual work plans for the LCD; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm was a key contributor in the initiation of new County Ordinances to protect surface and ground water resources, particularly the Construction Site Erosion Control, Storm Water Management and Animal Waste Storage Ordinances; and,

**WHEREAS**, over the course of his career, Norm saw dozens of changes and additions to the federal, state and local conservation programs administered in the County, many of which were indicative of the changing in farming practices and farming operations as a whole; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm took great pride in staying up to date with changes in technical hardware and software that allow staff to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively, always pushing to make sure the County stayed up to date while others in the same position often do not; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm was considered the go to person when it came to assisting with solutions to soil or water related concerns, using his technical expertise and people skills to resolve issues while often working through challenges between neighboring landowners or landusers; and,

**WHEREAS**, it was not uncommon for other county departments, the Rock County Drainage Board, towns, cities, villages and the general public to seek guidance and Norm was willing to help out regardless of the location; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm was highly successful at building a trust between conservation staff, landowners and contractors through his knowledge, personality and general ability to build working relationships, which is a key component to getting practices on the ground; and,

**WHEREAS**, Norm retired from public service on June 2, 2023 as a Senior Conservation Specialist.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 8th day of June, 2023, does hereby recognize Norman J. Tadt Jr for his thirty-six years and two months of service to Rock County, along with the conservation field as a whole in Wisconsin, and recommend that a sincere expression of appreciation be given to Norm along with best wishes for the future.

**Committee Action**

Land Conservation Committee

Land Conservation Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote. Supervisors Stevens and Schneider were absent.

County Board Staff Committee

County Board Staff Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Brien was absent.