

RESOLUTION # 89-2011

Resolution offered by Supervisor Thomas Rudolph.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, County Land and Water Resource Management Plans were added to Chapter 92 State Statutes in 1997 as a new method of addressing nonpoint pollution and other land conservation efforts in Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 92.16(6)(b) Wis. Statutes, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection shall attempt to provide funding for an average of 3 staff persons per county, with an average of \$100,000 per county for cost-sharing grants; and,

WHEREAS, the Soil and Water Resource Management program is currently approximately \$4 million short of meeting its statutory staffing grant goal; and,

WHEREAS, County Land Conservation staff supported by state grants have consistently decreased since the program began, from 219 in 1997 to 97 in 2012, under the 2011-2013 biennial budget and corresponding agency lapse proposal; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection proposes to further reduce soil and water general purpose revenue funds, which are used for staffing of county conservation departments by 29 percent, resulting in a statewide reduction of \$1,100,400; and,

WHEREAS, this comes in addition to the \$1 million in cuts already approved in the 2011-2013 biennial budget; and,

WHEREAS, County Land Conservation staff play a critical role to our state's economy by assisting landowners obtain state and federal funds to help pay for their operations and the proposed cuts will therefore have a rippling negative impact on our county's citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 14th day of December, 2011 does hereby urge the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and all elected representatives in the Wisconsin State Legislature to reject further cuts to county land conservation staffing grants, recognizing the invaluable service that county conservation employees provide in managing and protecting the county's natural resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Scott Walker, Senator Jim Holperin, and Representatives Tom Tiffany and Dan Meyer.

Vote Required: Majority = _____ 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes _____ No _____ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date:

Approved by Tom Rudolph this 7th day of December, 2011.

Offered and passage moved by: _____
Supervisor

Seconded By: _____
Supervisor

52 _____ Ayes

53
54 _____ Nays

55
56 _____ Absent

57
58 _____ Abstain

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60 _____ Adopted

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62 by the County Board of Supervisors this _____ day _____, 2011.

63
64 _____ Defeated

65
66 _____
67 Mary Bartelt, County Clerk

Ted Cushing, County Board Chair