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RESOLUTION #06-2013

Resolution offered by the Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee.

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

WHEREAS, the State Legislature and Governor enacted into law in 1997, a new county-based system to protect our land and water resources from impacts associated with Non-Point Source Pollution that lead to soil loss and polluted runoff; and,

WHEREAS, the County Land Conservation Department is the necessary local delivery mechanism for a wide range of natural resource management programs; and

WHEREAS, Section 92.16(6)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes states that 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 Department's Soil and Water Resource Management program has not met the funding expectations related to this statutory staffing 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 approved agency lapses; and,

WHEREAS, Counties have been asked to pick up the funding shortfalls to maintain necessary program implementation or reduce needed service to clients; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has requested that additional reductions in base staff funding allocations be included in the 2013-15 biennial budget reducing the funding from a 12 year average of \$9.3 million down to \$7.8 million in 2014 & 8 million in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) & the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation have both adopted 2013 statewide policy directives that recognize the value of the work County Land Conservation Departments provide to their membership by supporting directives that support maintaining this base level of funding; and

WHEREAS, County Land Conservation staff play a critical role to our local economy by assisting landowners obtain needed state and federal funds to help implement Non-Point Source Pollution control Best Management Practices for their operations and the proposed cuts will therefore have a rippling negative impact on our county's citizens and its resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 19th day of February, 2013 does hereby urge the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and all elected representatives in the Wisconsin State Legislature to return to the \$9.3 million appropriation for state aid to counties, recognizing the invaluable service that county conservation employees provide in helping Wisconsin farmers and growing our state's agriculture industry.

Vote Required: Majority = _____ 2/3 Majority = _____ ¾ Majority = _____

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

Approved by the Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee this 14th day of January, 2013.

Consent Agenda Item: YES NO

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Offered and passage moved by:

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

_____ Ayes

_____ Nays

_____ Absent

_____ Abstain

_____ Adopted

by the County Board of Supervisors this 19th day February , 2013.

_____ Defeated

Mary Bartelt, County Clerk

Ted Cushing, County Board Chair