



RESOLUTION # 6-5/25

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 5-11

**BOARD ACTION**

Adopted: ☒  
For: 2  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 4  
Vote Req: 1  
Other Action: 1

**PLANNING,  
RESOURCE AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE**

**ACTION**  
Adopted: ☒  
For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 2

**RE: SUPPORT FOR INCREASING STATE BASE FUNDING FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFFING TO \$20.2 MILLION**

**WHEREAS**, County Land Conservation Department (LCD) staff are relied upon to carry out a range of Wisconsin's state agricultural and urban best management programs that reduce non-point pollution, preserve farmland, protect water, reclaim non-metallic mines, limit aquatic invasive species control, manage forests, promote infiltration and reduce floods; and,

**WHEREAS**, LCDs assist Wisconsin's farmers in many ways, including supporting producer-led watershed groups, developing nutrient management plans, engineering conservation systems, and applying best management practices that promote soil health and build profitability; and,

**WHEREAS**, the shared conservation work of LCD professionals and landowners has major water quality benefits, including preventing soil erosion, protecting surface and groundwater, increasing infiltration, building healthy soils and restoring sustainable land use systems; and,

**WHEREAS**, LCD experts are trusted, technical advisors that consult with landowners to understand their land management goals and then propose customized solutions that includes project planning and contracting, engineering, quality control, and securing of cost-share funding to reduce project expenses; and,

**WHEREAS**, building a partnership based on trust and understanding with farmer and landowner clients cannot happen instantly, but rather, requires a sustained commitment over time from LCD professionals; and,

**WHEREAS**, LCDs leverage cost-share funding from federal and private sources, providing a 2:1 (or greater) return on the state investment, and spurring local economic growth in industries including agriculture, construction, tourism, forestry, and recreation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin codifies LCDs' role in carrying out state conservation standards via Wis. Stats Chap. 92, defining a goal that the State fund staff positions in every LCD at 100% of the first, 70% of the second, and 50% of each additional staff position; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin has not ensured baseline support of LCDs by meeting this funding goal since its inception, and in the 18-year period from 2006 to 2024, base funding relative to LCD staffing needs has decreased by 24%; and,

**WHEREAS**, supporting county LCDs is widely promoted and accepted by conservation, government, environmental and other local groups alike;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that La Crosse County, does hereby urge the Wisconsin State Legislature to strengthen the viability of the State's County Land and Water Conservation Staffing program by increasing base funding for the program by \$11,035,900 on an annual basis to a total of \$20.2 million annually.

**RE: SUPPORT FOR INCREASING STATE BASE FUNDING FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFFING TO \$20.2 MILLION**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of the resolution be sent to WI Land+Water Conservation Association, all State Legislators, the Governor, DATCP Secretary, DNR Secretary, DOA Secretary, Joint Finance Committee, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Wisconsin Towns Association.

**FISCAL NOTE:** Staff time is budgeted in Land Conservation division 100.205.1000 within the County financial system. There is no direct fiscal impact to La Crosse County at this time.

Date: 4/28/2025

[Signature]  
**COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Date: 04/28/25

[Signature]  
**RECORDING CLERK**

Reviewed  
Only

Recommended

Not  
Recommended

Co. Admin.

Fin. Director

Corp. Counsel

Board Chair

[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]

OK

Requested By: Land Conservation

Date Requested: March 12, 2025

Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 15 Day of May, 2025

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

[Signature]  
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk