

RESOLUTION

2014 - __

REGARDING: The Future Direction of Staffing and Support Funding to Wisconsin Counties as proposed by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

WHEREAS: The Wisconsin legislature declares it to be the policy of this state (Chapter 92.02) "...to halt and reverse the depletion of the state's soil resources and pollution of its waters;" and,

WHEREAS: each county shall submit for DATCP approval, a *Land and Water Resource Management Plan* with contents that include: water quality and soil erosion assessments; state and local regulations; water quality objectives for watersheds; water quality and soil erosion problem areas and their conservation practices to address them; plans to identify priority farms and those subject to WDNR "Notice of Intent" or "Notice of Discharge;" farms located in watersheds draining to "impaired waters;" local strategies to encourage voluntary implementation of conservation practices; compliance procedures; information and education strategy; and, a multi-year work plan for implementation with federal, state, and local coordination, listing measurable benchmarks and responsibilities; and,

WHEREAS: The department (DATCP) is charged through ATCP 50 to reimburse 100% of every Wisconsin county's Land Conservation Department first position, along with additional staffing and support costs, to implement locally led conservation as identified in individual county *Land and Water Resource Management Plans*, as recommended by the state Land and Water Conservation Board and approved by DATCP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florence County Land Conservation Committee members are strongly opposed to DATCP "qualifying conservation activities" through modifying the funding formula, offering greater priority and support to agricultural conservation practices only; not in accordance with approved *Land and Water Resource Management Plans*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, DATCP Secretary, all Wisconsin Legislators and local officials and County Conservationists representing the 72 counties of the state of Wisconsin, multi-county, state, and federal conservation partner organizations, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and to riparian landowners and lake associations interested in maintaining the soil and water quality in the state of Wisconsin as the expressed intent of Chapter 92 of the State Statutes.