

1 **WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

2  
3 Date of enactment: \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Date of publication: \_\_\_\_\_

5  
6 **2006 RESOLUTION 44**

7  
8 **Creation of Land Preservation Program Upon**  
9 **Approval by Public Referendum**

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11 **WHEREAS**, agriculture and natural areas are integral to local water supplies, the econ-  
12 omy and quality of life in Washington County; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, urban pressures have caused the loss of farmland and natural areas in the  
15 county and made it difficult to purchase land for farming, especially for young farmers; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, Purchase of Development Rights programs have been successful in many  
18 other states at preserving farmland and natural areas; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the Washington County Board of Supervisors adopted a Park and Open  
21 Space Plan in March of 2004 that emphasizes preserving prime farmland and natural areas and  
22 targets limited resources to those areas of the county needing the most protection; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the opportunity to preserve local prime farmland and natural areas dimin-  
25 ishes with each passing year, causing the issue to be of immediate concern;

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27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Washington County Board of  
28 Supervisors that a Land Preservation Program and an associated fund shall be created and used  
29 for the purpose of preserving prime farmland, water resources and natural areas in Washington  
30 County through purchase of development rights, land acquisition or similar programs, in accor-  
31 dance with plans and procedures to be approved by the Board;

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33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that starting in the 2008 budget, the County Board shall  
34 allocate, through the capital planning process, at least eight hundred thousand dollars  
35 (\$800,000.00) per year for 10 years funded by either sales tax, long-term debt obligations and  
36 property tax, or a combination thereof, for the purpose stated herein with the condition that all  
37 expenditures from the fund shall be at least equally matched by non-county funding sources, in-  
38 cluding donations by local landowners;

39  
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Land Preservation Program and associated  
41 fund shall be operated and administered by the Washington County Planning and Parks Depart-  
42 ment, in accordance with plans and procedures to be approved by the Board;

1           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board shall authorize a public referendum for  
2 placement on the April 2007 ballot asking for approval of the program and funding stated in this  
3 resolution, which shall not become effective unless approved by public referendum (binding ref-  
4 erendum).  
5  
6 \_\_\_\_\_  
7

8 VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE: Majority

9  
10 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ Introduced by members of the EXECUTIVE  
11 \_\_\_\_\_ COMMITTEE as filed with the County

12 Clerk.

13 Kimberly A. Nass, County Attorney

14 Dated \_\_\_\_\_

15  
16 Considered \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Thomas J. Sackett, Chairperson

17 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Committee

18 Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Noes \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_  
19  
20

21 (This resolution will result in spending at least \$8 million over the next ten years, depending on  
22 the addition of any interest costs resulting from long-term debt.)