RESOLUTION #

Resolution Authorizing a Cropland Lease Agreement at the Sauk County Farm.

Resolution offered by the Land Resources and Environment Committee

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

**BACKGROUND:**

Sauk County owns approximately 280 acres of cropland and pasture, known as the Sauk County Farm in the town of Reedsburg. An additional 11.4 acres of cropland are located adjacent to the Sauk County Health Care Center in the City of Reedsburg. In March 2022, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors adopted the Sauk County Farm Property Master Plan outlining how the farm will showcase new and innovative conservation practices that prevent soil erosion and reduce agricultural runoff to protect groundwater and surface water resources. Cropland and pasture are leased to local farmers every five years and a competitive bidding procedure is used to solicit bids. Upon award of the bid, the farmer adheres to conditions outlined in the lease agreement that support soil health practices including no till, cover crops, and diverse crop rotations. Additionally, they work closely with the Land Resources and Environment Department to share planting and harvest data to evaluate the economics and efficacy of conservation practices implemented on the farm.

**WHEREAS,** to solicit bids for leasing cropland and pasture at the Sauk County Farm and cropland at the Sauk County Healthcare Center, a Request for Bids (RFB) was advertised on September 1, 2022; and,

**WHEREAS,** three (3) bids were received by the deadline and reviewed to ensure the submittals came from responsible bidders in combination with the highest bid; and,

**WHEREAS,** Echo-Y, Inc. of Loganville, Wisconsin is a responsible bidder and submitted a bid of $200.00 per acre ($44,000 per year) and should be awarded an agreement for renting the cropland at the Sauk County Farm for a period of five years beginning January 2023 and ending December 2027.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors, met in regular session, that Sauk County supports leasing of the Sauk County farm for the purpose of growing agricultural crops and demonstrating conservation practices.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Land Resources and Environment Committee, this 20th day of December 2022.

Consent Agenda Item: [ ] YES [ ] NO

Fiscal Impact: [ ] None [X] Budgeted Expenditure [ ] Not Budgeted

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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Offered and passage moved by: Land Resources and Environment Committee

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MARTY KRUEGER, Chair

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PETER KINSMAN, Vice Chair

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DENNIS POLIVKA

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ROSS CURRY

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ROB NELSON

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VALERIE MCAULIFFE

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BRANDON LOHR

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RANDALL PUTTKAMER

Fiscal Note: The proposed LRE 2023 Budget includes $46,657 in County Farm Revenues. This includes rental payments from the Sauk County Farm cropland, pasture, and the Sauk County Health Care Center Cropland.

MIS Note: No Impact