

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2018

**AUTHORIZING CONTINUED COUNTY PARTICIPATION IN WILDLIFE DAMAGE
ABATEMENT PROGRAM AND THE WILDLIFE DAMAGE CLAIM PROGRAM**

Background: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is authorized to protect American agriculture and other resources from damage associated with wildlife. The primary authority for Animal Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services (APHIS-WS) is the Act of March 2, 1931 (46 Stat. 1468; 7 U.S.C.426-426b) as amended, and the Act of December 22, 1987 (101 Stat. 1329-331, 7 U.S.C. 426c). The APHIS-WS program was designed to cooperate with states, local jurisdictions, individuals, public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions to conduct a program of wildlife services involving mammal and bird species that are reservoirs for zoonotic diseases or animal species that are injurious and/or a nuisance to, among other things; agriculture, horticulture, forestry, animal husbandry, wildlife, and human health and safety. In 1983, the Wisconsin State Legislature established the Wildlife Damage Abatement Claim Program (WDACP) through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to work in partnership with the USDA on wildlife damage efforts in Wisconsin. Wisconsin Statute 29.889 (4)(a) identifies that in order to be eligible for wildlife damage abatement assistance, the land for which assistance is sought is required to be located in a county which is participating in the administration of the wildlife damage abatement program. Sauk County has participated in the APHIS-WS program since 1984 and is required to sign a five-year Cooperative Service Agreement effective January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2023.

Fiscal Impact: ☐ None ☒ Budgeted Expenditure ☐ Not Budgeted

WHEREAS, the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee feels Sauk County should continue to participate to ensure Sauk County farm owners and operators are eligible for these programs and to provide in Sauk County the maximum services and benefits for which reimbursement can be received; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors, met in regular session, hereby authorizes the Director of Conservation, Planning, and Zoning to sign a Cooperative Agreement (attached) with the WDNR and the USDA to administer the APHIS-WS program from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2023, in partnership with the WDNR and USDA; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sauk County Board of Supervisors designates the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee as the oversight committee per the requirements of Section III of the Cooperative Service Agreement.

For consideration by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on December 18, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

SAUK COUNTY CONSERVATION, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

WILLIAM WENZEL, CHAIR

CHUCK SPENCER, VICE CHAIR

GLEN JOHNSON

JOHN DIETZ

MARTY KRUEGER

JEAN BERLIN

ROBERT NEWPORT

SHARON LAUBSCHER

Fiscal Note: Funds for this program are reimbursed by the WDNR on an annual basis ranging from approximately \$3,000 to \$12,000 annually. Based upon historical figures, the 2019 budget contains \$11,650. Minimal staff time is used in the administration of this program.

MIS Note: No impact.