

## RESOLUTION #1

### CALLING FOR THE FORMATION OF A STATE-WIDE TASK FORCE TO RESEARCH AND IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE ON-FARM LIQUID MANURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ON WISCONSIN LIVESTOCK FARMS

**WHEREAS**, certain land use practices are known to provide contaminants (i.e. bacteria, nitrates, pathogens, etc.) that percolate down through the soil during the process referred to as “groundwater recharge”; and,

**WHEREAS**, an increasing volume of liquid manure that is generated, stored and land applied by expanding livestock farming operations across the state of Wisconsin can be reasonably regarded as a major source of bacteria, nitrates and pathogens to surface waters and groundwater aquifers; and,

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, various surface waters and private wells across the state of Wisconsin, are known or suspected to have been contaminated by the application of liquid manure to adjacent cropland fields; and,

**WHEREAS**, although the percolation of water and waterborne materials through suitable soil material can minimize the amount of contaminants that ultimately reach groundwater, once percolating contaminants reach fractured bedrock, very little, if any, contaminant attenuation takes place, due to rapid transport down to, and into, the underlying groundwater aquifer; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are areas in Wisconsin where either sandy soils or soils shallow over fractured bedrock exist which can allow for the rapid transport of surface applied contaminants down to, and into, the underlying groundwater aquifer; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education has analyzed thousands of private well water samples from across the state of Wisconsin; and,

**WHEREAS**, test results of these private well water samples have shown elevated levels of nitrate and bacteria from private wells that are located in areas that have environmentally sensitive soil conditions and where liquid manure is commonly land applied; and,

**WHEREAS**, although farmers and other manure applicators often follow proper procedures when land applying liquid manure to cropland, undesirable weather, unfit soil conditions, and unfortunate accidents that occur during the movement and land application of liquid manure to cropland can lead to the unintended discharge of liquid manure contaminants to surface waters and groundwater aquifers; and,

**WHEREAS**, action and assistance is needed from leadership of the Governor’s Office, the Wisconsin State Legislature, the University of Wisconsin System, various Wisconsin state agencies, and Wisconsin’s agricultural industry to help protect the quality of surface waters and groundwater throughout Wisconsin, and to safeguard the health of all those who reside or recreate in Wisconsin;

**SO, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Southern Area Land and Water Conservation Association earnestly urges that, under the leadership of the Office of the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, a state-wide task force comprised of representatives from the Wisconsin State Legislature, the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the University of Wisconsin System, the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, the Dairy Business Association, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, and the Wisconsin Farmers Union be formed to:

1. Consider the merits, feasibility and procedural steps needed for implementing alternative on-farm liquid manure management systems on Wisconsin livestock farms; and,
2. Prepare and implement an action plan to begin moving Wisconsin's animal agriculture industry toward the implementation of alternative on-farm liquid manure management systems; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in the interim, enforcement staff of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources be urged and directed to effectively enforce the statutes and administrative rules that are currently in place to prevent the runoff and discharge of nonpoint sources of pollution to waters of the state; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, the Wisconsin Assembly Majority and Minority Leaders, the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the University of Wisconsin, the Dairy Business Association, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, the Wisconsin Farmers Union, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards, and the Wisconsin Towns Association.

Adopted by the Southern Area Land & Water Conservation Association on October 22, 2014.

Approved by the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association at its annual business meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

## RESOLUTION #2

### 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;" 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 directed 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 North Central Land and Water Conservation Association is strongly opposed to DATCP "qualifying conservation activities" through modifying the funding formula to Wisconsin counties. Proposing to offer priority and greater 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 Governor Scott Walker, the DATCP Secretary, Wisconsin Legislators, and local officials and County Conservationists, along with their regional, state, and federal conservation partner organizations and others interested in maintaining the soil and water quality in the state of Wisconsin as the expressed intent of Chapter 92 of the State Statutes.

Adopted by the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association members on March 9, 2015.

Approved by the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association at its annual business meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

### RESOLUTION #3

#### **WISCONSIN LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (WI LAND+WATER) SUPPORTS A COMPLETE AND THOROUGH STRATEGIC ANALYSIS OF INDUSTRIAL FRAC SAND MINING**

**WHEREAS**, Frac sand mining, otherwise known as large scale or industrial sand mining, is a relatively new industry with little known about the impacts of the industry; and

**WHEREAS**, to date no comprehensive environmental review of frac sand mining has been conducted; and

**WHEREAS**, Midwest Environmental Advocates has drafted and filed a petition with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board entitled “Petition for a Strategic Analysis of Industrial Sand Mining” to request the Department to “...exercise its discretion under NR 150.10 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code to conduct a strategic analysis of frac sand mining”;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that WI LAND+WATER supports the action of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board in adopting the above-referenced petition; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that WI LAND+WATER advocates for sufficient funding to be allocated to the Department of Natural Resources in order to conduct a complete and thorough Strategic Analysis of Industrial Sand Mining; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that WI LAND+WATER requests the publication of a timeline for the DNR to complete the Strategic Analysis; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor of Wisconsin, the Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and all members of the state legislature as well as the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Adopted by the West Central Area Land and Water Conservation Association on March 9, 2015.

Approved by the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association at its annual business meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

## **RESOLUTION #4**

### **WISCONSIN LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (WI LAND+WATER) RECOMMENDS REVIEW OF HIGH CAPACITY WELL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO PROTECT SURFACE AND GROUND WATER RESOURCES AND ENSURE CITIZEN ACCESS TO THESE SHARED PUBLIC WATER RESOURCES**

**WHEREAS**, the number of high capacity wells in the state of Wisconsin continues to grow; and

**WHEREAS**, frac sand mines are expanding in terms of numbers and size of operations in the state and are using high capacity wells as part of their mining operations; and,

**WHEREAS**, a large number of high capacity wells used for irrigation of crops and dairy CAFOs are concentrated in the Central Sands of Wisconsin and historic floodplain terraces which are typically characterized by sandy soils and an unconfined aquifer; and

**WHEREAS**, some regional parts of aquifers are unable to regenerate themselves with increased use of high capacity wells and incite disputes in shared water usage by local residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin state law recognizes that every citizen has the right to a reasonable use of water, and

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Land+Water recognizes the connection between ground and surface water, and

**WHEREAS**, the agriculture industry's need for water now must be balanced with the needs of future generations of farmers;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that WI Land+Water is opposed to passage and implementation of any new legislation related to High Capacity Well permitting prior to the time where court decisions and current scientific studies come to fruition; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Wisconsin Land+Water supports the use of groundwater in each locally based aquifer provided that the aquifer maintains its ability to regenerate annually so that all local residents maintain access to locally generated water without undue burden; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Wisconsin Land+Water supports an active, multi-stakeholder Groundwater Advisory Committee to establish meaningful groundwater protections and planning in the state; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, WI Land+Water supports the following provisions for implementation of groundwater policy:

- 1) When evaluating a high capacity well permit, the DNR shall account for the cumulative impacts of all high capacity wells in the area to ensure no adverse impacts on the surrounding water resources.
- 2) The DNR shall consider the surface water impacts of groundwater withdrawals by high capacity wells.
- 3) All water withdrawals from high capacity wells shall be electronically monitored and reported to the DNR on an annual basis.

- 4) The DNR shall conduct a periodic review of permitted withdrawals from high capacity wells to ensure no adverse impacts are occurring on surrounding water resources.
- 5) Permits for the reconstruction, repair, or replacement of a high capacity well in the same general location of the original well that do not result in additional withdrawal of groundwater need not be obtained from the DNR.
- 6) Upon ownership change of a property with a high capacity well, the new owner is not required to apply for a new permit to the existing well if the usage remains the same.
- 7) The DNR shall review high capacity well permits in a timely manner, but no high capacity well shall be approved without a thorough review.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor of Wisconsin, the Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and all members of the state legislature as well as the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Adopted by the West Central Area Land and Water Conservation Association on February 19, 2015.

Approved by the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association at its annual business meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

**RESOLUTION #5**

**WISCONSIN LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (WI LAND+WATER)  
OPPOSING ANY ATTEMPT TO LIMIT LOCAL CONTROL OR AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS**, for over 100 years, the state of Wisconsin has empowered town, village, city, and county boards to regulate various activities for the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and,

**WHEREAS**, the expansion of industrial sand mining and processing in western Wisconsin raises significant local public health, economic, environmental, and quality of life issues; and,

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 349 and Assembly Bill 476 were introduced in the Wisconsin legislature in 2013 and were intended to restrict local governmental authority to regulate nonmetallic mining and limit certain governmental powers; and,

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, economic, environmental, and quality of life impacts of these operations are primarily issues of local concern due to both unique physical features and particular citizen concerns in each area; and,

**WHEREAS**, local governments have worked side by side with industry to develop and implement reasonable ordinances that are mutually beneficial to private developers, industry, and local citizens;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that WI LAND+WATER does hereby support local control of nonmetallic mining and opposes any state legislation that would limit the ability of County governments to enact ordinances that protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to craft their own regulations within existing authority; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that WI LAND+WATER does hereby support protection of our local resources as well as the health and safety of our citizens through the authority defined in Wisconsin Statute 92; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Wisconsin, the Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, and all members of the state legislature.

Adopted by the West Central Area Land and Water Conservation Association on March 9, 2015.

Approved by the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association at its annual business meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.