2019 WI LAND+WATER RESOLUTION #1

TO RESTORE 3.6 MILLION IN FUNDING TO UW EXTENSION

WHEREAS, the UW Extension budget was cut 3.6 million dollars as part of the 250 million dollar reduction to the University of Wisconsin budget in the 2015-2017 State of Wisconsin budget representing the deepest cut to UW Extension in 103 years; and

WHEREAS, the UW Extension mission is to teach, learn, lead, and serve by connecting the public with the University of Wisconsin and engage with them in transforming lives; and

WHEREAS, over 50 UW Extension educator positions are unfilled in 2018; and

WHEREAS, agriculturally dependent counties throughout the state are without agriculture agents (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sunday, April 22, 2018 article); and

WHEREAS, farmers are stressed with low grain and milk prices; and

WHEREAS, the local county agent is the first point of contact for any questions or concerns regarding agriculture, horticulture, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, cuts to UW Extension have impacted not only agriculture but also family living, community development, youth development, and 4H; and

WHEREAS, the lives of youth need the positive role model provided by Youth Development and 4H programs; and

WHEREAS, the community thread is made stronger by strong youth programs; and

WHEREAS, UW Extension educators know local people, schools, and community’s needs and how to best address those needs; and

WHEREAS, tragedies across the United States call for personalized, powerful, model leadership; and

WHEREAS, state spending on worker recruitment, rebates to families, and economic support for business is necessary, so is this investment in our children, families, and communities – the lifeblood of Wisconsin society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we urge the State of Wisconsin restore the full 3.6 million dollars cut from the UW Extension budget to allow a restoration of all educator positions, including Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science for additional staff to meet the needs of counties and communities undertaking groundwater studies cut from various UW
Extension programs.