



RESOLUTION # 37-9/09

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AMENDED BY COUNTY BOARD

ITEM # 11/9

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 32
Against: 1
Abs/Excd: 1
Vote Req: _____
Other Action: _____
VACANCY: 1

**PLANNING,
RESOURCES &
DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
ACTION**

Adopted:
For: 5
Against: 0
Abs/Excd: 1

**RE: AUTHORIZATION OF A PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION
EASEMENTS (PACE) PROGRAM FOR 2010**

WHEREAS, agriculture and farmland are important to La Crosse County for generating economic revenue, providing important environmental benefits, maintaining our rural character and open spaces, and by contributing to our quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, agricultural land continues to be converted to other uses as the population moves out into the more rural agricultural areas of our community; and,

WHEREAS, at the 4th Annual La Crosse County Collaboration Conference there was support for a County Wide PACE Program; and,

WHEREAS, in March of 2008, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors adopted the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan 2027, which set one of the goals for Comprehensive Planning: "*Develop realistic strategies to protect prime and productive agricultural lands from the encroachment of development. Define and differentiate between lands with high and marginal agricultural value;*" and,

WHEREAS, one of the action items of the Comprehensive Plan was to "*Develop a Purchase of Development Rights road show for countywide education and issues collection*" and,

WHEREAS, La Crosse County may qualify to receive all necessary funds from State and Federal programs along with private donations and matched dollars from willing landowners to fully cover the purchase cost of easements under the PACE program; and,

WHEREAS, the County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Draft includes a PACE program that offers a **voluntary** option for owners of farmland outside of planned urban growth areas to protect their farmland by participating in the PACE program; and,

WHEREAS, The State of Wisconsin has adopted funding for a PACE program to provide grants to local units of government and non-profit organizations to purchase agricultural easements from willing sellers in its 2009-2011 Bi-ennial Budget to be administered at the local level; and,

WHEREAS, this PACE program would set a temporary goal of protecting 500 acres within the farmland preservation priority areas, as defined by the appropriate committee; and,

WHEREAS, La Crosse County would administer a Pilot Project with current staff.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board hereby authorizes staff to develop a County-wide PACE program to be approved by the Board.

FISCAL NOTE: No additional local funding is requested for this program in the 2010 budget.

RE: AUTHORIZATION OF A PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS (PACE) PROGRAM FOR 2010

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Date: August 31, 2009

Date: 8/31/09

Mandy A. Pat
PLANNING RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Margaret Jordan
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	<u>SO</u>	_____	_____	Requested By: County Planner
Fin. Director	<u>BT</u>	_____	_____	Date Requested: May 14, 2009
Corp. Counsel	<u>WAS</u>	_____	_____	Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Board Chair	<u>SD/MA</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 17TH Day of SEPTEMBER, 2009

COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
I, Linda A. Stone, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 17th day of September, 2009.

Linda A. Stone
Linda A. Stone, La Crosse County Clerk