

RESOLUTION**ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation Committee
INITIATED BY



9/11/2020
DATE DRAFTED

Recognizing Thomas Sweeney

WHEREAS, Thomas (Tom) Sweeney began his career path in December 1984 after graduating from UW-Green Bay with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science and a Math Minor; and,

WHEREAS, Tom gained experience at the McHenry County, IL, Soil and Water District from January 1985 to August 1985, the Catawba County, N.C., Soil and Water Conservation Department from August 1985 to August 1986 (Conservation Technician) and subsequently the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department (starting as a Conservation Technician and moved up to Unit Leader – Conservation Planning Division) before resigning to come to Rock County; and,

WHEREAS, Lake Michigan Area Representative on the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) from 1996 to 1999; and,

WHEREAS, Tom began his employment with Rock County as County Conservationist on May 10, 1999; and,

WHEREAS, Tom served as the Professional Improvement Conference chair for the WALCE Annual Conference; and,

WHEREAS, Tom was awarded the County Conservationist of the Year in 2003 by WALCE; and,

WHEREAS, Tom served as Treasurer of WALCE from 2004 until 2005; over that time developing the policies and book-keeping methods to fiscally stabilize the organization that were lacking for so many years prior; and,

WHEREAS, Tom played a key role in the successful three-day Farm Progress Days event that was held at Venable Farms in September 2001, which was especially challenging due to mother nature; and,

WHEREAS, Tom served as a subject matter expert for multiple state agencies for the development and revisions of conservation related State Administrative Codes and Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, Tom oversaw four updates to the County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, which serves as a long-term strategic conservation plan for the LCD and county residents. The plan provides guidance to the LCD for collaborating efforts with state and federal agencies on natural resource conservation issues and provides guidance for annual work plans for the LCD; and,

WHEREAS, Tom was a leader in the initiation of a new County Ordinances to protect surface and ground water resources, particularly the Construction Site Erosion Control, Storm Water Management and Animal Waste Storage Ordinances; and,

WHEREAS, Tom oversaw the implementation of the Household Hazardous Waste (Clean Sweep) collection program beginning in 2005 and making it an annual event; and,

WHEREAS, Tom played a key role in the development of the County Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program, one of the only few County programs in the state, which required a successful collaboration of many public and private sector entities; and

WHEREAS, Tom took a lead role in the development and formation of the Ground Water Nitrate Study Work Group, focusing on planning and research to help reduce nitrate levels in the County; and,

WHEREAS, Tom retired from public service on September 5, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 14th day of April, 2022, does hereby recognize Thomas Sweeny for his thirty-four years and eight months in the land conservation field, with over twenty-one years of service to Rock County, and recommend that a sincere expression of appreciation be given to Tom along with best wishes for the future.

Committee Action

Land Conservation Committee

Land Conservation Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote. There was one vacancy.

County Board Staff Committee

County Board Staff Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Yeomans was absent.