**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 1, 2024**

**Contact: Pete Koch (608)757-5450**

Janesville, Wisconsin… Continuation of HERBICIDE SPRAYING PILOT PROJECT

The Rock County Highway Department has acknowledged a need to initiate a higher level of maintenance regarding rural roadside vegetation management, primarily the eradication of noxious invasive plant species.

Invasive species within the road right-of-way and adjacent properties can pose significant health risks to highway workers, utility workers, emergency responders, and anyone else utilizing the right-of-way. In the coming month, you may notice our crews spraying these areas to help control and eradicate Wild Parsnip and other harmful invasive weed species. Our staff has been trained and certified in applying EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) certified herbicides. These herbicides are plant specific and will not hurt native plants. This means grasses, milkweed, and other native plants will flourish, helping our wildlife and pollinators. Our intention is to spray all county roads this year. We will also be spraying selected areas on State Highways and Rock County Park Trails.

The window of opportunity will be dictated by weather; however, we anticipate three weeks of spraying starting in April or early May.

The following herbicide formula will be used:

**Herbicide EPA Reg # Active Ingredient Application Rate**

TerraVue 62719-738 Aminopyralid-Potassium 2.5 Oz/Acre

Plateau 241-365 Imazapic 4 Oz/Acre

MSO Exempt (Surfactant) 1 Pt/Acre

Compadre 228-386 (Drift Control) 3.5 Oz/Acre

Organic growers are encouraged to contact the Rock County Highway Department with concerns and questions regarding this program. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (608) 757-5450.

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