

RESOLUTION NO. 5-0716

**EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED
BIG HOLLOW WETLAND BANK LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO
THE TRI-COUNTY AIRPORT**

WHEREAS, Iowa, Sauk and Richland counties jointly operate and maintain the Tri-County Regional Airport in cooperation with guidance provided by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Bureau of Aeronautics to assure the protection and promotion of the health, safety, general welfare, and safety of the public and property in connection with the use and operation of the Airport; and,

WHEREAS, Sauk County received public notice from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, reference number 2016-00537-KJH, regarding a proposed wetland mitigation bank project titled, the Big Hollow Wetland Bank; and,

WHEREAS, this proposed project is located 3 miles east of the Tri-County Regional Airport, and is directly in the flight line for the approach and departure airspace for the main runway; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration has issued Advisory Circular No. 150/5200-33A titled, Hazardous Wildlife Attractants on or Near Airports which provides that for all airports, the Federal Aviation Administration recommends a distance of 5 statute miles between the farthest edge of the airport's air operations area and a hazardous wildlife attractant if the attractant could cause hazardous wildlife movement into or across the approach or departure airspace; and,

WHEREAS, the Advisory Circular recommends that synergistic effects of surrounding land uses be considered as a change in land use, such as the proposed wetland mitigation bank, may not, by itself, be considered a hazard, however the proximity of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway and associated waterfowl habitat must be evaluated to assesses potential flyways of waterfowl between the Riverway and the mitigation project; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to protecting and promoting human health, safety, and welfare relative to aeronautical safety, wetland mitigation projects should be evaluated and designed based upon watershed management planning to assure an ecologically and economically sound approach to protecting and improving existing and desired future land uses and property; and,

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Spring Green area experienced a flood that resulted in an estimated loss of over \$20 million in agricultural, residential, and business losses and in 2009 the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved the buyout and removal of 28 homes in the Town of Spring Green that were damaged by the flood which cost approximately \$20 million; and,

WHEREAS, in response to the 2008 flooding, the Town of Spring Green, Village of Spring Green, and Sauk County jointly funded a study to address future flood events and to secure an HMPG Section 404 grant from FEMA to construct a flood mitigation project referred to as the Big Hollow Drainage Ditch which commences on the same property as the mitigation project; and,

WHEREAS, prior to the commencement of the wetland mitigation project, a study should be completed to assure the integrity of the flood mitigation project and the continued protection of previously flood prone properties; and,

WHEREAS, the wetland mitigation project site does not include listed hydric soils or documented wetlands by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wetland Inventory, however the mitigation project proposal delineates 1.1 acres of wetlands; and,

WHEREAS, the wetland mitigation project recommends the construction of 26.1 acres of sedge meadow, one of the most difficult types of wetland community types to establish, and according to the Guidelines for Wetland Compensatory Mitigation in Wisconsin creation of wetlands are not preferred because they have proven to be less successful than rehabilitating or restoring degraded wetland sites; and,

WHEREAS, Sauk County has reviewed the possible extension of the Big Hollow Drainage Ditch and has concluded that the extension may provide additional protection of property from flood damage; and,

WHEREAS, these projects require complex planning and performance standards that are both objective and measureable; they further require financial assurances that the system will be correctly installed and maintained as well as a long term maintenance plan to include long term care and a funding mechanism for maintenance and repair; they require an as-built report when completed and annual monitoring reports; and, the current plan does not sufficiently contemplate these requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors, met in regular session, that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors, hereby expresses its opposition to the Wetland Compensatory Bank Proposal 2016-00537-KJ and requests that this project be disapproved based upon its negative impact upon the Tri-County Regional Airport and for failure to comply with regulatory requirements.

Adopted by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors this 19th day of July, 2016