



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Ben Brancel, Secretary

DATE: March 7, 2017

TO: Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

FROM: Ben Brancel, Secretary *Ben Brancel*
John Petty, Administrator, Division of Agricultural Resource Management *John Petty*

SUBJECT: Report on Conservation Funding From DATCP

PRESENTED BY: Keith Foye, Bureau of Land and Water Resources

REQUESTED ACTION: For Informational Purposes Only

This report is provided as an update to the board related to conservation funding from the department. Governor Walker recently released the 2017-19 Biennial Budget. The budget includes an increase of \$825,000 in segregated (SEG) funding from the Nonpoint Source Account of the SEG Environmental Fund. The statutory language included with the budget would make changes to Chapter 92 that: “the department and the department of natural resources shall consider the existence and location of impaired water bodies that the department of natural resources has identified to the federal environmental protection agency under 33 USC 1313 (d) (1) (A) and agricultural enterprise areas designated under s. 91.84, and shall give priority to projects that are in or near, or that affect, those areas.”

The governor’s budget also proposes to switch the \$250,000 in funding allocated for the Producer Led Watershed Protection grant program from the SEG fund to general purpose revenue (GPR) funding. The governor’s budget continues funding available over the past several budgets to enable cost sharing of “structural” conservation practices through \$7 million in bond revenue authority through the biennium.

The report will include the sources of conservation funding and information of how the current funding is used.

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