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4 **AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**

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6 requesting the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture provide an
7 informational report with an update on the implementation of the adopted Milwaukee
8 County Coastline Management Guidelines, plans to address bluff maintenance and
9 erosion, and requesting the development of a framework for using goats for landscaping
10 in Milwaukee County Parks
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13 WHEREAS, in February 2021, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 21-92, the
14 Milwaukee County Coastline Management Guidelines, with the goals of:
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- 16 • Protecting Milwaukee County’s financial investment in County-owned
17 assets within the Lake Michigan Coastline Management Zone
- 18 • Protecting the ecology, resources, and natural character of County-owned
19 lands within the Lake Michigan Coastline Management Zone
- 20 • Providing efficiency and consistency when reviewing proposals for a
21 scope of work to be completed within the Lake Michigan Coastline
22 Management Zone

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24 ; and
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26 WHEREAS, implementation of the Coastline Management Guidelines helps to
27 prevent the risk of slope failure and erosion on coastal bluffs; and
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29 WHEREAS, in May 2021, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 21-434 requesting
30 the State of Wisconsin include the Great Lakes Erosion Control loan program in the
31 2021-2023 biannual budget to help property owners and municipalities combat the
32 devastating effects of coastal erosion; and
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34 WHEREAS, coastal erosion control and prevention continues to be a priority for
35 Milwaukee County and protecting our Lake Michigan coastline is crucial; therefore, it is
36 important that the public and policymakers are kept updated on the implementation of
37 the Coastline Management Guidelines; and
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39 WHEREAS, as both financial and staffing resources are becoming more scarce,
40 creative ideas for increasing efficiency are necessary to facilitate the function of the
41 Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture; and
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43 WHEREAS, one way to maintain landscaping is through the use of goats; in
44 2019, the Washington Post published a piece about businesses and municipalities
45 using goats to manage properties because their normal diet is broad leaved and woody
46 stemmed plants, which are commonly weeds and invasive species; and

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48 WHEREAS, over the past several years, more businesses and municipalities
49 have employed goats to manage landscaping as an alternative to mowing or weed-
50 whacking ~~because goats will not eat or harm desirable vegetation~~; and

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52 WHEREAS, in June 2020, Mequon started their own goat landscaping project in
53 the Pukaite Woods section of Rotary Park, which is owned by the City of Mequon, but
54 managed by the Mequon-Theinsville Sunrise Rotary in coordination with the Ozaukee
55 Washington Land Trust; and

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57 WHEREAS, over two weeks, 38 goats ~~removed all~~ **defoliated and suppressed**
58 the buckthorn and honeysuckle in approximately five acres of park land; the Rotary will
59 fundraise to continue the program in future years; and

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61 WHEREAS, the City of Madison Parks Department also hired a herd of 40 goats
62 in June 2020 to clear out buckthorn and honeysuckle on a two-acre park, which is
63 normally difficult to manage due to its steep inclines and small size; and

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65 WHEREAS, staff from the City of Madison Parks Department said the benefits of
66 using the goats were “that we don't have to use chemicals and there isn't as much of an
67 erosion risk because we don't have to bring in large equipment”; and

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69 WHEREAS, in general, once the goats clear a portion of land, they can return
70 months or even a year later to remove the same invasive species again and, over time,
71 the invasive species are less likely to continue to grow back; and

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73 **WHEREAS, a minimum of 3-years intensive grazing, twice per year, is**
74 **essential for suppressing woody invasive species population; and**

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76 **WHEREAS, goats may be best used in the most vegetatively degraded sites**
77 **with minimal potential for collateral damage to desirable varieties and species of**
78 **plants; and**

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80 WHEREAS, municipalities that have employed the use of goats in their parks
81 have also reported that it has brought communities together over a shared enjoyment of
82 watching the goats work and play; and

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84 WHEREAS, exploration of alternative landscaping methods allows staff to also
85 investigate potential cost savings and environmental benefits that traditional methods
86 lack; and

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WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors supports those methods by which we continue to protect our coastline, prevent erosion, and support environmentally friendly methods of managing park land; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment (PE&E), at its meeting of October 26, 2021, laid over File No. 21-873 for one meeting (vote 5-0); and

WHEREAS, the Committee on PE&E, at its meeting of December 7, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-873 as amended (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby requests the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture provide an informational report with an update on the implementation of the Milwaukee County Coastline Management Guidelines, as adopted in File No. 21-92; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the report shall also include short and long-term plans to address erosion, bluff maintenance, and tree and foliage trimming throughout Milwaukee County, including opportunities for partnership with the Department of Administrative Services, Grants and Special Projects Division to seek out State and Federal funding for such projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the report shall also include a framework for using goats for landscaping in Milwaukee County Parks and the framework shall include, but is not limited to:

- Locations in Milwaukee County Parks best suited for their use
- Invasive species present in Milwaukee County Parks
- Other municipalities that currently use, or have used in the past, goats for landscaping needs that are comparable to Milwaukee County
- Overall costs associated with the project, both financial and staffing
- Overall feasibility of the project
- Timeline to implement the project

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the report shall be provided to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for the ~~January~~ **March** 2022 standing committee cycle.

12/07/21
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