

RESOLUTION NO. 7-0209
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AGENT STATUS

TO THE HONORABLE IOWA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, Iowa County receives Environmental Health services for approximately 20 years as a partner in the Southwest Wisconsin Environmental Health Consortium with Grant, Lafayette, Richland and Vernon counties and recently added Crawford County due to the need to increase funding to maintain the program, and

WHEREAS, the Consortium has been funded with state and federal grants and most recently with funds from the Public Health Preparedness and Response Program with the Counties providing in-kind funds, and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin requires local health departments to provide Environmental Health services including services addressing human health hazards and services related to animals as unfunded mandates, and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin requires local health departments to provide follow up on lead poisoned children including lead hazard investigations to identify lead hazards and assure that these hazards are corrected, and

WHEREAS, in 2008, over 1,800 contacts were made to or by our Environmental Health Consortium regarding issues including human health hazards, public health nuisances, water and air quality, asbestos, radiation, hazardous materials, animals, and housing, and

WHEREAS, in 2008, 325 contacts and 46 home visits were conducted by the Environmental Health Consultant and

WHEREAS, specialized training or certifications are required to provide most Environmental Health services such as Radon services, Lead inspections, Asbestos inspections and sampling and

WHEREAS, funding sources that support this program have declined dramatically and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health (BEOH) currently licenses and performs inspections on Department of Health Services licensed facilities in Iowa County and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services BEOH inspectors have workloads of more than double and sometimes triple the recommended number of establishments as determined by the Food and Drug Administration causing establishments to be inspected infrequently and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services BEOH is aware of the inability to inspect establishments as frequently as recommended and is attempting to correct

it through encouraging additional agent status counties in Wisconsin and increasing license fees to support the licensing and inspection activities of establishments and

WHEREAS, food and water security and safety have become forefront concerns as contaminated food and water have been identified and linked with major outbreaks of illnesses including outbreaks associated with e.coli, cryptosporidium, salmonella, and other organisms and

WHEREAS, food recalls are occurring at a frequent and regular pace and

WHEREAS, a rapid and coordinated environmental health and nursing response is required to control the spread of food borne illnesses and

WHEREAS, Iowa County relies heavily on, and takes pride in its tourism industry, and has a strong desire to ensure the safety of its pools, recreational waters, hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, tourist rooming houses, and restaurants and

WHEREAS, Iowa County has an opportunity to procure stable funding, improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the Environmental Health program, expand services, and shorten response times, as well as maintain capacity for public health emergencies, and

WHEREAS, Iowa County has allocated \$6,000 in 2009 for start up of the Agent Status Program in the County, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Health Agent Status program can revert to the state at any time,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa County Health Committee approves of the Iowa County Health Department becoming an agent of the Department of Health starting in July of 2009, which involves the inspection and licensing of establishments such as: restaurants, hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, campgrounds, pools and school lunch programs.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa County Health Committee approves of the Iowa County Health Department becoming an agent for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the Transient Non-community well program and/or agents for Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection for retail food establishments starting in July of 2009.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa County Health Committee approves of the Health Department to enter into an agreement with Grant Co as the fiscal agent and employer for the Environmental Health Consortia and Agent Status Program for Southwestern Wisconsin.

Dated this 17th day of February 2009.

Respectfully submitted by the Iowa County Health Committee