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FISH KILL ON THE EAU PLEINE FLOWAGE

The Problem: The Eau Pleine Flowage is a reservoir on the ^{Eau Pleine}~~Wisconsin River~~ with a dam operated by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company. Water levels behind the dam are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, (FERC).

WHERE AS: During the last year, there have been three fish kills on the Eau Pleine Flowage, the last one estimated by the DNR as killing 70 to 80% of the fish in the lake.

WHERE AS: The fish kills result from low oxygen levels in the flowage that are a combination of contaminated runoff into the lake, the draw down of the flowage under the FERC operating order and inadequate maintenance and operation of aerators in the flowage.

WHERE AS: Local landowners and citizens are greatly concerned about the continued low water quality, water levels in the flowage and fish kills.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in **PORTAGE** County on April 13, 2009 recommends (1) that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission modify its order for the operation of the Eau Pleine Flowage to keep more water in the flowage over winter, (2) that the DNR and the Marathon County Land and Water Conservation Department increase their efforts to work with landowners to reduce contaminated runoff into the flowage and (3) that the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company and the DNR repair and better operate the aerators in the Eau Pleine Flowage.

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