

Citizen Resolution # 060521

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Knowles-Nelson funding approval for Lower Chippewa River Parcels

Certain Land parcels along the Lower Chippewa River and owned by Xcel Energy have been open to public hunting and recreation for decades. These parcels total approximately 1000 acres and have been offered for sale to Landmark Conservancy. Under Landmark's ownership parcels would remain open to/for public use. These parcels adjoin other public lands and have provided key access points to Tiffany Wildlife Area. The parcels also include rare habitats critical to certain species. Habitat types include oxbow floodplains, forest, riparian and upland barrens, grasslands, and a sand prairie remnant.

Half of the purchase cost has been available to Wisconsin from a federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant. The remaining half must come from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program as has been requested by WDNR in 2018. Public support for described purchase has been widespread and inclusive of The Wisconsin Conservation Congress, The Lower Chippewa River Alliance, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Dairyland Power Cooperative, the Prairie Enthusiasts, the Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership, Alma R&G Club, Buffalo County Conservation Alliance, Dunn County Fish & Game Association, Alliance of Dunn County Conservation Clubs, plus county and township boards. Still, members of Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee have withheld funding approval with rejecting committee members attempting to remain anonymous. BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Buffalo County on April 12, 2021 recommends that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress continue to formally support purchase of described land parcels. Forms of support may include reaffirming letters to the Natural Resources Board, DNR Secretary Cole, Governor Evers, and directly to the Wisconsin Legislative Joint Committee on Finance.

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.