

2 **RESOLUTION: Support a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Designation for**
3 **Northeast Wisconsin**

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6 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

7 **WHEREAS**, the designation of Wisconsin's Lake Superior Estuarine Research Reserve in 2010 provides an
8 outstanding example of the broader impacts National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) sites provide to local
9 communities; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the University of Wisconsin—Green Bay is currently exploring the feasibility of developing a
11 National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) in Northeast Wisconsin; and

12 **WHEREAS**, our region's ecosystem is home to the largest freshwater estuary in the world, the vitality of
13 which is critical to the current and future prosperity of ecological sustainability and the broader region impacted by
14 the Great Lakes; and

15 **WHEREAS**, research activities associated with a Door County-based NERR will attract scholars on both the
16 national and international stage, providing employment opportunities to the region, stronger connectivity to the
17 University of Wisconsin—Green Bay, and ultimately inject money into local economies; and

18 **WHEREAS**, many individuals currently enrolled in local school districts value Wisconsin's natural resources
19 for the quality of life opportunities these resources provide, by shaping decisions about where they live, seek
20 employment, further their education, and raise their families; and

21 **WHEREAS**, eco-tourism is an established and growing industry in Northeast Wisconsin, and a research
22 reserve would fit well with Door County's five state parks and natural features such as the Niagara Escarpment; and

23 **WHEREAS**, a locally-based NERR will enhance place-based identity, contributing directly to talent
24 recruitment and retention efforts; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Sturgeon Bay is the Door County Seat and home to Door County's infrastructure, airport,
26 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Office, and high-speed internet.

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28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
29 supports the efforts of the University of Wisconsin—Green Bay as it seeks a letter from the US Department of
30 Commerce's National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Coastal Management Office (NOAA) requesting their
31 assistance in exploring the feasibility of an NERR designation for Northeast Wisconsin.

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33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that should the NERR
34 designation be incurred for Northeast Wisconsin, Winnebago County supports Door County's enthusiastic desire to
35 host an NERR site.

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37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby directs the
38 Winnebago County Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to all Wisconsin County Clerks, the Wisconsin Counties
39 Association, each state and federal legislator representing Winnebago County constituents, the Office of the
40 Governor for the State of Wisconsin, and Chancellor Gary Miller and Vice-Chancellor Matthew Dornbush of the
41 University of Wisconsin—Green Bay.

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Respectfully submitted by:
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: **6-0**

Respectfully submitted by:
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: **9-0**

Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Those Present**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this 21st day of June, 2019.

Mark L. Harris
Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive