

SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. Per Wis. Stat. § 23.0915(2c)(d) the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the program has supported land acquisition and capital development by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), local governments, and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas, wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation for public benefit around the state. Eau Claire County has utilized Stewardship grant funds to develop trails and other public outdoor recreation opportunities., and,

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has utilized Stewardship grant funds to develop trails and other public outdoor recreation opportunities as listed below:

- to acquire land for Pinter Pines/Coon Gut,
- the Meteor Timber property,
- the Brown property, and
- Kiwanis Acquisition in the Town of Union

WHEREAS, whereas Eau Claire County recognizes the need to balance debt burden with conservation benefits, the County urges the State to renew the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program with funding to perpetuate the Program while continuing to retire existing bond debt, with the goal to stabilize debt at current levels or gradually reduce some.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors considers the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program a valuable tool to preserve and restore natural areas, wildlife habitat, and water quality while supporting the development of public nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities that promote economic development and enhance quality of life, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors does recommend and support funding renewal for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors directs the county clerk to forward this resolution to the governor, assembly members and senators representing Eau Claire County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Adopted: April 20, 2021

Sue McDonald
County Clerk