Resolution No. 01-22

RESOLUTION CONCERNING WISCONSIN WOLF POPULATION AND REQUESTING REVISION TO WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WDNR) WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN

TO THE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, the WDNR established a wolf population goal of 350 animals in 1999 and reaffirmed this population goal in 2007, based upon prey availability and human population density and nothing has happened to increase prey availability or decrease human density in the intervening years; and

WHEREAS, the WDNR plans to review and revise the previous wolf management plans; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau have officially approved a Wisconsin wolf population goal of 350 or less; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) Spring Hearings (2011 & 2013) overwhelmingly supported a Wisconsin wolf population goal of 350 or less (confirmed by the Executive Committee of the WCC in 2021); and

WHEREAS, thirty six (36) county boards from northern to southern Wisconsin have passed resolutions that recommend a Wisconsin wolf population goal of 350 or less; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s residents have experienced depredations and threatening incidents involving wolves, including 104 incidents in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the high predator population, wolves in particular, has reduced the deer population, diminished hunting opportunities, curtailed livestock and pleasure horse activities, and caused danger to pets and people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors urges Wisconsin to approve a wolf population goal of 350 or less in the next revision of the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors encourages the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Towns Association to work with the WDNR to place an elected official from one of the counties with the largest wolf depredation claims to the DNR Wolf Advisory Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors requests that the WDNR and other partners implement meaningful population controls in the next Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan to bring the wolf population to goal levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Polk County Supervisors encourage the expired chair position of the Natural Resources Board to the WDNR step down and let the currently appointed chair resume duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk forward a copy of this Resolution to the offices of Governor Tony Evers; Preston Cole, WDNR Secretary; Randy Romanski, WDATCP Secretary; and the State and Federal legislators who represent the People of Polk County.

SUBMITTED BY:

Brad Olson

Amendment to Resolution 01-22 as approved by the County Board of Supervisors on 1/18/2022, has been incorporated in this document.