



Shawano County Courthouse
Room 104
311 N. Main St
Shawano WI 54166

Phone: 715-526-9150
Fax: 715-524-5157
Kara.skarlupka@shawanocountywi.gov
www.co.shawano.wi.us

SHAWANO COUNTY CLERK – KARA SKARLUPKA

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF WISCONSIN }
COUNTY OF SHAWANO }

I, Kara Skarlupka, County Clerk, in and for the County of Shawano, State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the following copy of Resolution No. 19-23 is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution 19-23 duly adopted by the Shawano County Board of Supervisors at a meeting held on April 18, 2023.

Resolution No. 19-23

To Call for the Establishment of the Pelican River Forest

Whereas, the Pelican River Forest (the Forest) is a working Forest at the Headwaters of the Wolf River that comprises almost 70,000-acres of diverse forestland in Oneida, Langlade and Forest Counties of Northern Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the Forest contains timber materials that support Wisconsin’s essential Forest Products Industry that provides over 135,000 jobs and \$38-billion in annual economic input; and

Whereas, the Forest has a variety of features that attract residents and visitors that support the rapidly growing Outdoor Recreation Industry sector of the economy that accounts for a \$9-billion annual contribution to Wisconsin’s gross domestic product and employees 89,000 people; and

Whereas, natural outdoor spaces provide unequalled opportunities for family oriented recreational activities, including for family members that have limited and challenging physical mobility issues; and

Whereas, thousands of small businesses in the tourism, hospitality, leisure, and amenity sectors rely upon the necessity to have access to outdoor spaces including forestland, wetlands, rivers, streams, ATV/UTV and snowmobile trail systems, all of which are contained within the Forest; and

Whereas, the Forest contains the headwaters of the 225-mile long National Scenic Wolf River that flows through eight Counties, and the headwaters of the 430-mile long Wisconsin River that flows through fifteen Counties, and tens of thousands of people rely upon these waters for drinking water; and

Whereas, the Forest will continue to contribute to County and State tax collections by being enrolled in Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law Program while ensuring Forest Product Industry Businesses and employees have access to renewable inventories of forest stock; and

Whereas, the Forest will generate revenues from recreational vehicle user fees, fishing and hunting license fees, and hospitality and tourism activity that combine to make the Forest a fiscally responsible enterprise; and

Whereas, Wisconsin lags behind our neighbors Michigan (by 10%) and Minnesota (by 6%) in the amount of public land set aside for outdoor recreation and sustainable working forestland, and Wisconsin should catch up with or exceed our neighbors; and

Whereas, Wisconsin has a once in a lifetime opportunity to establish the largest continuous section of forestland that will connect County Forests with the Nicolet National Forest; and

Whereas, Wisconsin has the enviable opportunity to receive the majority of funding from the U.S. Forest Service and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation for a conservation easement attached to the Forest that will forever preserve all economic and recreational benefits of the Forest; and

Whereas, if Wisconsin were to miss out on accepting funding from the U.S. Forest Service and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, those funds would go to some other State where they would establish a forest and this would be a fiscally irresponsible and regrettable lost opportunity; and

Whereas, Wisconsin's portion of the funding will come from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, a program that is specifically intended to take advantage of opportunities exactly like the Pelican River Forest and an endowment will ensure upkeep and maintenance; and

Whereas, establishing the Pelican River Forest perfectly aligns with the long-term strategic planning objectives of numerous Townships, Villages and Counties in Wisconsin to responsibly preserve outdoor recreational space and working forests to ensure economic opportunities long into the future.

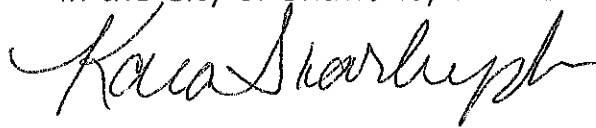
Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Shawano County Board of Supervisors, in session this 18th day of April, 2023, that the Shawano County Board hereby supports and urges the Wisconsin State Legislature and the Governor to fully support and accept all forms of funding to establish the Pelican River Forest, including funding from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Be it further resolved, that the Shawano County Board urges the state Joint Committee on Finance to schedule a meeting to review the Pelican River Forest proposal as required per s. 23.0917 (6m), Stats.

Be it further resolved, this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to Governor Tony Evers, members of the state Joint Committee on Finance, state Senators and state Representatives representing Shawano County, Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Submitted by,
David Heideman
Thomas Kautza
Devin Krizan
Joe Miller
Arlyn Tober
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Given under my hand and official seal, at the Shawano County Courthouse, in the City of Shawano, this 18th day of April, 2023



Kara Skarlupka
Shawano County Clerk

