

0193-112025

RESOLUTION Supporting the Renewal of the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund

TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, per Wis. Stats Ch. 23.09 1 5 (2c)(d), the Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program in 1989 to preserve natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2026 wherein benefits through the program would expire; and

WHEREAS, Winnebago County has a long-standing and committed interest in its natural areas and wildlife habitats, including Lake Winnebago and its offshoots; and

WHEREAS, Winnebago County believes the Stewardship program to be a valuable asset for county programs and staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby expresses support for the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and requests that sufficient funding be allocated to support projects over the next ten-year period.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors requests that the Winnebago County Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to all counties throughout the State of Wisconsin, the offices of Winnebago County State Legislators, and the Office of the Governor.

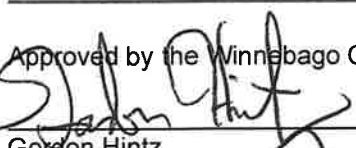
Respectfully submitted by:
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Committee Vote: 12-0

Fiscal Note:

Vote Required for Passage: **THREE-FOURTHS OF MEMBERSHIP**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive on

November 21, 2025


Gordon Hintz
Winnebago County Executive

RESOLUTION #R-16-25

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RENEWAL OF THE KNOWLES NELSON STEWARDSHIP FUND

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State 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; and

WHEREAS, per Ch. 23.0915(2c)(d), Wis. Stats., the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in June 2026; and

WHEREAS, the program has supported land acquisition and capital development by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), local governments including Marathon County, and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas, wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation for public benefit around the state; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County and local units of government within Marathon County has utilized Stewardship grant funds for land acquisition, to develop trails and other public outdoor recreation opportunities, and desires to support the continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon 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

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2025, the Environmental Resources Committee recommended that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors support funding renewal for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors does support funding renewal for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to all Wisconsin Counties, the Legislature and the Governor and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary.

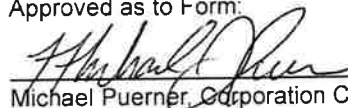
Environmental Resources Committee, Park Commission, and Forestry/Rec Committee

Ayes 24 Nays 7 Abstain 1 Absent 6 [] Voice Vote

☒ Approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 2025

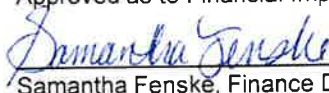
☐ Denied this 25th day of March, 2025

Approved as to Form:


Michael Puerner, Corporation Counsel



Approved as to Financial Impact (if necessary)


Samantha Fenske, Finance Director

Attest:


Kim Trueblood, Marathon County Clerk

Fiscal Impact: None. This resolution does not obligate funds.

Legal Note: This resolution requires a simple majority vote for approval.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 05-2025

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF STATE FUNDING
FOR KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

The County Board of Supervisors of Green Lake County, Green Lake, Wisconsin, duly assembled at its regular meeting begun on the 15th day of April, 2025, does resolve as follows:

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program
2 In 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and
3 fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. Per Ch. 23 .09 1 5(2c)(d), Wis.
4 Stats, and
- 5 **WHEREAS**, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2025. The
6 program has supported land acquisition and capital development by the Wisconsin
7 Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), local governments, and nonprofit
8 conservation organizations, to preserve valuable natural areas, wildlife habitat, water
9 quality and outdoor recreation for public benefit around the state, and
- 10 Fiscal note is not applicable.
- 11 A majority vote is needed to pass.

Roll Call on Resolution No. 05-2025

Submitted by Land, Water, Parks &
Community Committee:

Ayes 15, Nays 1, Absent 2, Abstain 0,
Vacant 1

/s/ Bob Schweder
Bob Schweder, Chair

Passed and Adopted/~~Rejected~~ this
15th day of April, 2025.

/s/ Mike Skivington
Mike Skivington, Vice Chair

/s/ David Abendroth
County Board Chairman

/s/ Nancy Hiestand

/s/ Elizabeth Otto

Nancy Hiestand
/s/ Nita Krenz

ATTEST: County Clerk

Nita Krenz

Approve as to Form:

/s/ Jeffrey Mann

/s/ Bill Boutwell

Corporation Counsel

Bill Boutwell
/s/ David Albright

David Albright

12 **WHEREAS**, Green Lake County has benefited over the years having received
13 Stewardship grant funds that have been used to develop County trails, parks and other
14 public outdoor recreational opportunities, and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Green Lake County Administrator and the Green Lake County Board of
16 Supervisors consider the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program a valuable tool to
17 preserve and restore natural areas, wildlife habitat, and water quality while supporting
18 the development of public nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities that promote
19 economic development and enhance quality of life, and

20 **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of both the Green Lake County Administrator and Green
21 Lake County Board of Supervisors to jointly express our support of the reauthorization
22 of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 2025 with sufficient funding allocated to
23 fund projects over the next 10 years to our State Legislators and the Governor.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Green Lake County Administrator
25 and Green Lake County Board of Supervisors do hereby jointly express to the
26 Wisconsin Legislature and Governor our full support for the reauthorization of the
27 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and request that sufficient funding be allocated
28 to support projects over the next ten year period.

29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors
30 requests that the Green Lake County Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to all
31 counties throughout the State of Wisconsin, each of our State Legislators and the Office
32 of the Governor.

Kaitlyn Bernarde – City Clerk
Kody Hart – Deputy City Clerk



TEL: (715) 261-6620
FAX: (715) 261-4106

OFFICE of the CITY CLERK

March 4, 2025

Honorable Governor Tony Evers
State Capitol, 115 East
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707

Senator Cory Tomczyk
Senate District 29
State Capitol, Room 123 South
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Counties of the State of Wisconsin

Representative Patrick Snyder
Assembly District 85
State Capitol, Room 307 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Karen Hyun, PH.D., Secretary
Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

League of WI Municipalities
316 W. Washington Ave, Suite 600
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Governor Evers, WI county administrators, and all representatives of the Great City of Wausau,

On Tuesday, February 25, 2025, the Common Council of the City of Wausau passed a Resolution supporting the continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The City of Wausau has utilized Stewardship grant funds to develop trails and other public outdoor recreation opportunities to preserve natural areas, water quality, and enhance quality of life. As referenced in the enclosed resolution #25-0207, the City of Wausau is urging the Wisconsin State Legislature to extend the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program that is set to expire in 2026 per Ch. 23.0915(2c) (d), Wis. Stats.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn A. Bernarde
City Clerk

Encl: Resolution of the Common Council
Council Vote

Cc w/o attachments: Wausau City Council
Mayor Doug Diny
City Attorney Anne Jacobson
Parks Department Director Jamie Polley

RECEIVED

APR 25 2025

WINNEBAGO COUNTY
CLERKS OFFICE
WINNEBAGO, WI

CITY OF WAUSAU, 407 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403

RESOLUTION OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE	
Supporting of the Continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.	
Committee Action: Approved 5-0	
Fiscal Impact: \$0	
File Number: 25-0207	Date Introduced: February 25, 2025

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY			
COSTS	<i>Budget Neutral</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>Included in Budget:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Budget Source:</i>
	<i>One-time Costs:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>Recurring Costs:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount:</i>
SOURCE	<i>Fee Financed:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>Grant Financed:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>Debt Financed:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount</i> <i>Annual Retirement</i>
	<i>TID Financed:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>TID Source: Increment Revenue</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Debt</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Funds on Hand</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Interfund Loan</i> <input type="checkbox"/>		

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State 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; and

WHEREAS, per Ch. 23.0915(2c)(d), Wis. Stats., the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2026; and

WHEREAS, the program has supported land acquisition and capital development by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), local governments including the City of Wausau, and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas, wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation for public benefit around the state; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wausau has utilized Stewardship grant funds to develop trails and other public outdoor recreation opportunities, and desires to support the continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wausau City Council 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wausau City Council does support funding renewal for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Wausau Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to all Wisconsin Counties, the Legislature and the Governor and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary.

Approved:


Doug Diny, Mayor

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
Mayor Doug Diny presiding.

Roll Call

02/25/2025

Roll Call indicated 11 members present.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Consent Agenda

02/25/2025

Motion by Watson, seconded by Neal, to adopt all items on the Consent Agenda including:

25-0201 from the Common Council Approve Minutes of a previous meeting(s) (02/11/2025).

25-0205 Joint Resolution from the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee Approving the Adjusted City of Wausau Part-Time, Temporary, and Seasonal Wage Rates.

25-0207 Resolution from the Parks & Recreation Committee Approving Naming of the Amphitheater at Stewart Park in Honor of Madam Waltraud Karkar.

25-0208 Resolution from the Parks & Recreation Committee Supporting of the Continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

25-0209 Resolution from the Human Resources Committee Approving the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan and Amendment to the Employee Handbook Section 1.01 – Equal Employment Opportunity.

25-0210 Resolution from the Human Resources Committee Authorizing Reclassification of Assistant City Planner Position From Grade 15 (\$60,070.40 - \$90,064.00) to Grade 16 (\$58,572.80 - \$81,952.00).

25-0211 Resolution from the Human Resources Committee Approving the Creation of a No Payout Vacation Leave Only Bank and Revision of the Employee Handbook Section 8.04 – Vacation.

25-0215 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Accepting Easement with Wisconsin Public Service for Underground Utility Facilities at 1506 East Cherry Street.

23-1110 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Levying Special Assessments for the 2024 Street Construction Projects.

12-1116 Resolution from the Finance Committee Approval of the Assessment Services Contract Between the City of Wausau and the City of Schofield to Provide Assessment Services to the City of Schofield for the Assessment of Real Property for Contract Years 2026-2030.

Yes Votes: 11

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Result: PASSED

LOCK IN OF RESOLUTION NO. 13—2025-26.

Vote for lock in. ROLL CALL: 27 yes, 2 no (Janke, Clegg), 6 absent, 1 vacant. RESOLUTION NO. 13—2025-26 IS ADOPTED & LOCKED IN.

VOTE RESULTS

27 YES 2 NO 0 ABSTAIN 7 ABSENT

RESOLUTION NO. 13—2025-26 - LOCK IN

Lock in of Resolution No. 13—2025-26

Majority Vote of Members Present



1 THOMPSON	YES	13 WEGAND	YES	25 JANKE	NO
2 JOHNSON	ABSENT	14 HERMES	YES	26 WEINBERG	YES
3 SMITH	YES	15 MacDONALD	ABSENT	27 CULBERTSON	YES
4 PATIENCE	YES	VACANT	ABSENT	28 MONFILS	YES
5 GABRIELSON	YES	17 CROATT	YES	29 WINTERFELDT	YES
6 KOSTELNY	YES	18 SPEARS	YES	30 NEJEDLO	YES
7 HAMMEN	YES	19 HEISER	YES	31 CLEGG	NO
8 LAWRENCE	ABSENT	20 MITCHELL	YES	32 THYSSEN	ABSENT
9 KRUEGER	YES	21 CUFF	YES	33 VANDERHEIDEN	YES
10 LAMERS	ABSENT	22 HAGEN	YES	34 RETTLER	YES
11 FERGUSON	YES	23 KLEMP	YES	35 KOURY	ABSENT
12 McCABE	YES	24 THIEDE	YES	36 LAUTENSCHLAGER	YES



5-13-25 County Board Meeting

5-13-25 CB Meeting

Outagamie County Board of Supervisors

OpenMeeting
TECHNOLOGIES

RECONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 13—2025-26.

Supervisor Spears moved, seconded by Supervisor Hagen, to reconsider the above listed resolution.

Vote for reconsideration. ROLL CALL: 24 yes, 5 no (Ferguson, Klemp, Thiede, Janke, Lautenschlager), 6 absent, 1 vacant. RESOLUTION NO. 13—2025-26 IS RECONSIDERED.

VOTE RESULTS

24 YES

5 NO

0 ABSTAIN

7 ABSENT

RESOLUTION NO. 13—2025-26 - RECONSIDERATION

Reconsideration of Resolution No. 13 2025-26

Majority Vote of Members Present



Passed

1 THOMPSON	YES	13 WEGAND	YES	25 JANKE	NO
2 JOHNSON	ABSENT	14 HERMES	YES	26 WEINBERG	YES
3 SMITH	YES	15 MacDONALD	ABSENT	27 CULBERTSON	YES
4 PATIENCE	YES	VACANT	ABSENT	28 MONFILS	YES
5 GABRIELSON	YES	17 CROATT	YES	29 WINTERFELDT	YES
6 KOSTELNY	YES	18 SPEARS	YES	30 NEJEDLO	YES
7 HAMMEN	YES	19 HEISER	YES	31 CLEGG	YES
8 LAWRENCE	ABSENT	20 MITCHELL	YES	32 THYSSEN	ABSENT
9 KRUEGER	YES	21 CUFF	YES	33 VANDERHEIDEN	YES
10 LAMERS	ABSENT	22 HAGEN	YES	34 RETTLER	YES
11 FERGUSON	NO	23 KLEMP	NO	35 KOURY	ABSENT
12 McCABE	YES	24 THIEDE	NO	36 LAUTENSCHLAGER	NO



5-13-25 County Board Meeting

5-13-25 CB Meeting

San Diego County Board of Supervisors

OpenMeeting

Resolution No. 13—2025-26 – Property, Airport, Recreation and Economic Development Committee. Approve to recognize the significant value the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has brought to Outagamie County through 83 projects totaling \$9,160,200 in investments that 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 strongly support continued and expanded funding for this program to ensure the ongoing protection of Wisconsin's natural resources and the enhancement of outdoor recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors; and approve to urge the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor to prioritize sustainable funding mechanisms for this program in recognition of its demonstrated return on investment for conservation, recreation, tourism, and quality of life throughout Wisconsin.

Supervisor Kostelny moved, seconded by Supervisor Culbertson, for adoption.


ROLL CALL: 28 yes, 1 no (Janke), 6 absent, 1 vacant. **RESOLUTION NO. 13—2025-26 IS ADOPTED.**

VOTE RESULTS

28 YES 1 NO 0 ABSTAIN 7 ABSENT

RESOLUTION NO. 13—2025-26

Majority Vote of Members Present

 **Passed**

1 THOMPSON	YES	13 WEGAND	YES	25 JANKE	NO
2 JOHNSON	ABSENT	14 HERMES	YES	26 WEINBERG	YES
3 SMITH	YES	15 MacDONALD	ABSENT	27 CULBERTSON	YES
4 PATIENCE	YES	VACANT	ABSENT	28 MONFILS	YES
5 GABRIELSON	YES	17 CROATT	YES	29 WINTERFELDT	YES
6 KOSTELNY	YES	18 SPEARS	YES	30 NEJEDLO	YES
7 HAMMEN	YES	19 HEISER	YES	31 CLEGG	YES
8 LAWRENCE	ABSENT	20 MITCHELL	YES	32 THYSSEN	ABSENT
9 KRUEGER	YES	21 CUFF	YES	33 VANDERHEIDEN	YES
10 LAMERS	ABSENT	22 HAGEN	YES	34 RETTLER	YES
11 FERGUSON	YES	23 KLEMP	YES	35 KOURY	ABSENT
12 McCABE	YES	24 THIEDE	YES	36 LAUTENSCHLAGER	YES

5-13-25 County Board Meeting
5-13-25 CB Meeting

OpenMeeting

RESOLUTION NO.: 13—2025-26

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1 The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to
2 preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and
3 expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. The program has supported land acquisition and
4 capital development by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), local
5 governments, and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas,
6 wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation for public benefit throughout the state.
7

8 Outagamie County has significantly benefited from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program,
9 with 83 projects receiving a total of \$9,160,200 in funding to date. These investments have been
10 instrumental in developing trails, parks, natural areas, and other public outdoor recreation
11 opportunities that have enhanced the quality of life for our residents, protected critical
12 environmental resources, and contributed to economic development through tourism and
13 outdoor recreation.
14

15 The continued funding of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is essential to maintain
16 Wisconsin's natural heritage, provide outdoor recreational opportunities for future generations,
17 and ensure sustainable economic development that values our natural resources. Previous
18 County Board action through Resolution No. 110-2020-21 supported reauthorization of this
19 vital program, and this resolution reaffirms and strengthens that support based on the
20 demonstrated benefits to Outagamie County and the State of Wisconsin.
21

22 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Property, Airport, Recreation and Economic

23 Development Committee recommend adoption of the following resolution.

24 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors recognizes the significant
25 value the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has brought to Outagamie County through 83 projects
26 totaling \$9,160,200 in investments that preserve and restore natural areas, wildlife habitat, and water
27 quality while supporting the development of public nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities that
28 promote economic development and enhance quality of life, and


29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors strongly supports
30 continued and expanded funding for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to ensure the ongoing
31 protection of Wisconsin's natural resources and the enhancement of outdoor recreational opportunities for
32 all residents and visitors, and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors urges the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor to prioritize sustainable funding mechanisms for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in recognition of its demonstrated return on investment for conservation, recreation, tourism, and quality of life throughout Wisconsin, and

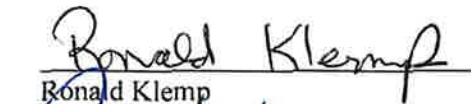
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Outagamie County Executive, the Outagamie County Development and Land Services Director, the Outagamie County Parks Director, the Outagamie County Highway Commissioner, the Outagamie County Greenway Implementation Committee, all Outagamie County Municipalities, all Wisconsin Counties, the Wisconsin State Legislature, the Governor, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702.

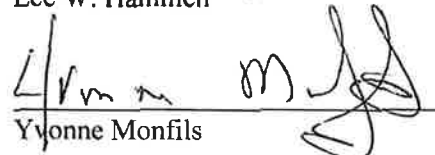
Dated this 13th day of May 2025

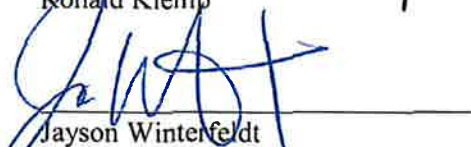
Respectfully submitted,
PROPERTY, AIRPORT, RECREATION &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE


Dean Culbertson


Lee W. Hammen

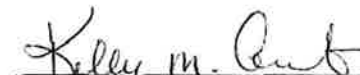

Ronald Klemp


Yvonne Monfils


Jayson Winterfeldt

Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: May 13, 2025

Signed: 
Board Chairperson


County Clerk

Approved: 5-15-25

Vetoed: _____

Signed: 
County Executive