

RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING REAUTHORIZATION OF STATE FUNDING FOR
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 Ch. 23 .09 1 5(2c)(d), Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the current authorization for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2025 and the program has supported land acquisition and capital development by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), local governments, and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and expand outdoor recreation for public benefit around the state; and

WHEREAS, the City of Two Rivers has directly benefited over the years having received more than \$1.5 million since 1993 in Stewardship grant funds, in addition to more than \$3.2 million invested in Point Beach State Forest by the Stewardship Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Two Rivers is a designated Ice Age Trail Community, which understands the importance of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in driving visitation to its community and supports efforts to complete the Trail which will require Stewardship funding; and

WHEREAS, the Two Rivers City Council consider 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, including the Ice Age National Scenic Trail; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Two Rivers City Council to express its support of the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 2025 with sufficient funding allocated to fund projects over the next 10 years in a manner to be determined by the Legislature and the Governor;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Two Rivers City Council does hereby express to the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor our full support for the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and request that sufficient funding be allocated to support projects over the next 10-year period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the offices of each of our State Legislators and the Office of the Governor.

Approved this 7th day of April, 2025.

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