

Emergency Resolution

Continuing the Prohibition Against the Use of Stewardship Funds for Golf Courses

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has been a very strong supporter of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Funds for the purchase of public lands for wildlife habitat and hunting, fishing and trapping;

Whereas, state statutes provide that the Stewardship Fund must be used for nature-based outdoor recreational activities and also specifically prohibit the use of such funds for golf courses;

Whereas, in August 2008, the Wildlife Federation supported the Department of Natural Resources purchase of the 970 acre Rainbow Springs property in Waukesha and Walworth counties at a cost of \$10 million;

Whereas, as part of its approval of the purchase of the property, the Natural Resources Board allowed the golf courses to remain in operation for two years and then required that the lands be restored to wetlands;

Whereas, Duck Unlimited has agreed to restore the golf courses to wetlands and is seeking federal North American Waterfowl Conservation Act grants to accomplish the work;

Whereas, there has been serious indications that a legislative bill will be introduced in the State Senate modifying the Stewardship law and granting an exception to the prohibition against use of Stewardship funds for golf courses and thereby preventing the Rainbow Springs golf course from being restored to wildlife habitat;

Now therefore be it resolved: that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting held in Stevens Point, Wisconsin on April 8-10, 2011 states its strongest opposition to a change in the Stewardship law prohibition of Stewardship funds for use for golf courses and further resolves to oppose the bill in the Wisconsin legislature;

Now therefore be it further resolved: that such opposition be forwarded to the Governor, the Legislature, the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources and that the Federation work closely with its affiliates and other conservation groups in advancing its opposition.

Submitted by the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and Jerry Knuth, Chair of the Federations Forestry and Parks Committee