

Resolution Calling on the DNR To Reduce Backlog on Pollution Control Permits

Whereas, healthy streams, lakes and wetlands are critically important for sportsmen and women as fish and wildlife habitat and to insure safe consumption of fish and other wildlife by their families;

Whereas, the Federal and State Clean Water Acts were established by Congress and the Wisconsin Legislature to reduce contamination in the nation's waterways and to insure the waterways provide important fish and wildlife habitat and safe fish and wildlife to consume;

Whereas, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has the legal responsibility under the Clean Water Act to issue permits to industries and municipalities to reduce the pollution they discharge so as to meet State and Federal water quality standards assuring safe and healthy waterways in the state;

Whereas, as a result of reduced staffing, the DNR has a 32% backlog in reissuing pollution control permits based on current Federal and State water quality standards, thereby not carrying out its legal responsibilities to protect Wisconsin lakes, streams and wetlands as required under the Federal and State Clean Water Acts.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2013 Annual Meeting on April 12th -14th, 2013 held in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, calls on the Department of Natural Resources to take all necessary measures to attain compliance with the Federal and State Clean Water Acts by promptly reducing the backlog of issuing pollution control permits, such measures to include, if necessary, requesting staff and financial resources from the Governor and the State Legislature to fully implement the law.

Now therefore be it further resolved, that this resolution be sent to the Governor, State Legislature, the Natural Resources Board, the DNR Secretary and other appropriate state and federal officials.

Submitted by Russ Hitz, Chair
WWF Environmental Committee