



Wisconsin Wildlife
Federation

RESOLUTIONS

To be presented at the

2017 WWF Annual Meeting

Hotel Mead; Wisconsin Rapids, WI

April 22, 2017

Resolution to Support Pollinator-friendly Solar Electricity Awareness and Production in Wisconsin

Whereas, Wisconsin is reliant on imported non-renewable sources of electricity which pollute the land, air, and water and negatively impact Wisconsin's wildlife habitat and economics; and

Whereas, solar electricity is beneficial as a source that does not create emissions, and therefore does not pollute the environment, which allows animal populations and habitats to thrive and remain; and

Whereas, Wisconsin is far short of meeting its solar energy production potential, with only one-tenth of one percent of Wisconsin's electricity coming from solar energy; and

Whereas, Wisconsin spends approximately \$1.8 billion annually on imported coal and natural gas for electricity usage, and redirecting 10% towards in-state solar energy production would equate to \$180 million remaining within Wisconsin's state economy and

Whereas, the cost of solar has been on the decline since 2010 and the prices are projected to continue to decline, making solar energy a cost effective electricity generation option; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation board passed the "Resolution to Support Pollinator Education and Awareness in Wisconsin in 2015", that describes numerous ways to "promote the increase of native pollinators in Wisconsin"; and

Whereas, pollinator gardens would be a beneficial addition to the land underneath and between the rows of solar panels which could be planted with native pollinator-friendly plants that would provide habitat for more than 300 song and game bird species, butterflies, and honeybees; and

Whereas, generating 10% of our state's electricity from solar would provide the opportunity to create up to 40,000 acres of pollinator-friendly habitat to be developed, which is approximately 0.2% of Wisconsin's agricultural land, more than tripling the amount of prairies and grasslands in the state today.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting assembled April 21-22, 2017 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin requests the implementation of public outreach programs to educate farmers and citizens on the benefits of pollinator-friendly solar electricity, creating pilot programs, publicizing the results, and building partnerships between farmers, farm organizations, and utility companies; and

Now therefore be it further resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation urges the collaboration between the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Wisconsin Legislators to support the development of pollinator-friendly solar electricity production; and

Now therefore be it further resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation supports a goal of 10% of all Wisconsin's electricity be produced by solar energy by 2040 to restore habitat and bring economic benefits to the state of Wisconsin.

Submitted by the Conservation Leadership Corps:

Sawyer Boldt

Logan Lowery

Katie Nolan

Advisor: Tyler Huebner---RENEW Wisconsin

Resources:

- Energy Information Administration Wisconsin Electricity Statistics 2015:
<http://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/Wisconsin/>
- RENEW Wisconsin Estimate: 60 Megawatts (MW) of solar today, produces 70,135 MWh of Electricity
- EIA says Wisconsin "Total Retail Sales" of 68,698,932 MWh
- Therefore Solar provides about 0.1% of WI electricity sales
- 10% of Wisconsin's electricity from solar would be approximately 5,725 MW of solar
- "Solar Power in Wisconsin: All You Need to Know!" *Solar Power in Wisconsin: All You Need to Know!* N.p., n.d. Web. < <http://www.solar-nation.org/wisconsin> >.
- Wisconsin State Energy Office Energy Statistics Book:
<http://www.stateenergyoffice.wi.gov/subcategory.asp?linksubcatid=3691&linkcatid=2847&linkid=1451&locid=160> , helped us realize 21.7% of natural gas expenditures go towards creating electricity (via this specific page:
<http://www.stateenergyoffice.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=27232&locid=160>)
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/ee/nature/habitat/prairie1.htm>
- Amount of prairies and grasslands still present in Wisconsin
- <http://www.eia.gov/state/data.cfm?sid=WI#ConsumptionExpenditures>
- Location of dollar amount of electricity usage.
- RENEW Wisconsin estimate / rule of thumb that 1 megawatt (MW) of solar uses approximately 7 acres of land

Resolution to Create Recycling and Composting Education Kit for K-12 Schools

Whereas, as of January 2016, over 85,000 acres of Wisconsin land has been converted into landfills, permanently altering the native wildlife and ecosystems (Wisconsin DNR); and

Whereas, in 2015, over 8.2 million tons of waste were disposed amongst 63 landfills in Wisconsin (Wisconsin DNR); and

Whereas, environmental and recycling education are very important at an early age to establish environmental knowledge and habits (Semrau 2017); and

Whereas, education and advocacy is a critical component to the mission statement of the Air, Waste, and Remediation & Redevelopment (AWaRe) Division of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation has 30 education trunks and kits while none include a recycling and composting component. (Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation 2017); and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has four wildlife education trunks currently that are actively used 10 months out of the year by many schools and educational camps; and

Whereas, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Chapter PI 8 legislative mandate states "Environmental education objectives and activities shall be integrated into the kindergarten through grade 12 sequential curriculum plans" (Third page 6.b);

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting April 21st and 22nd, 2017, in Wisconsin Rapids requests that the staff of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation collaborate with Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation and the Air, Water, and Remediation & Redevelopment (AWaRe) Division of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to establish an education kit focusing on recycling and composting for K-12 education and make the kit available to K-12 schools and camps in the same manner as WWF's current wildlife education trunks.

Submitted by the Conservation Leadership Corps:

Jeffrey Williams

Rachel Terracina

Maegan Loka

Lexi Worden

Advisor: Jennifer Semrau

Resolution on Increased Urban Angler Recruitment

WHEREAS, less Wisconsin residents are participating in angling and hunting, particularly in urban areas; *and*

WHEREAS, there is a high priority and focus at the national and state level to increase angling and hunting recruitment; *and*

WHEREAS, the annual impact of hunters, recreational shooters, and anglers in Wisconsin contributes over \$100 million for conservation of fish and wildlife, over 53,000 jobs, and over \$8 billion to the state economy; *and*

WHEREAS, sustained participation in angling and hunting is vital to conservation and to the membership of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF); *and*

WHEREAS, urban populations continue to grow, especially young adults, and recruitment strategies are increasingly being focused in urban areas; *and*

WHEREAS, food is an increasing motivating factor for angling and hunting among young adults (16-26) and the barriers to starting angling are lower than hunting; *and*

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has developed and piloted an effective program called "Fishing for Dinner," which targets the recruitment and training of young adults to become anglers; *and*

WHEREAS, the WWF has the infrastructure to work in cooperation with the Fishing for Dinner program to focus on recruiting new anglers; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the WWF seek financial assistance through grant funding available through the WDNR and the national Recreation of Boating and Fishing Foundation; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the WWF, at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, on April 22nd, 2017, in cooperation with WDNR coordinate and expand the existing Fishing for Dinner Program implementation in urban areas.

Submitted by Alumni of the Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps,

Brewster Johnson

Molly O'Grady

Monica Banaszak

Advisor: Keith Warnke, WDNR

Resolution on Increasing the Implementation of Sustainable Practices in the Built Environment

Whereas, compared to conventional practices, sustainable practices have the ability to increase viable wildlife habitat, increase groundwater infiltration, decrease erosion, decrease water pollution and positively influence people's quality of life;

Whereas, the general public is losing touch with the natural environment as a result of conventional practices that: harm the natural environment, eliminate viable habitat by displacing native ecosystems, and contribute to water runoff, water pollution, and soil erosion;

Whereas, conventional building practices have contributed to the reduction of wildlife biodiversity in the built environment by creating habitat fragmentation and loss;

Whereas, humans have an innate affinity to the natural world that is being compromised by the built environment;

Whereas, sustainable practices promote pervious surfaces that decrease water runoff, increase groundwater infiltration, and decrease soil erosion;

Whereas, sustainable practices, including planting of appropriate native plants will attract wildlife by offering covering and possible nest sites, as well as sources of food;

Whereas, current landscape practices utilize excessive fertilizer that runs off and contaminates local bodies of water and contribute to eutrophication, which negatively affects fisheries and impacts wild food sources;

Whereas, the increase in wildlife and wildland habitat in built spaces has the ability to improve public health by offering a place where humans can connect with the natural environment;

Whereas, groundwater depletion causes the drying up of wells, lowering of water table, and increased pumping cost;

Whereas, conventional landscaping requires more maintenance and expense, such as lawn equipment, fertilizer application, regular trimming, mowing, and sprinkler irrigation, which consumes 50 gallons per day in an average US household, contributing to 30-60% of municipal fresh water use;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids on April 21st and 22nd collaborate with the Wisconsin Department of

Administration, the Wisconsin Builders' Association, municipal governments, public and private universities, and local school districts, including the WI Green Schools Network, to promote:

- a. Conserving and preserving existing native landscapes in building spaces and future building development sites.
- b. Replacing existing conventional landscaping practices, specifically by planting native plant species such as prairie grasses and flowers, in spaces currently occupied by turf and lawns.
- c. Using green spaces in the built environment to restore the human-nature relationships in urban areas.

Submitted by the Conservation Leadership Corps

Nicole Loeffler

Samantha Wendt

Michaela MacDonald

Advisor: Rex Loker---U.S. Green Building Council

Resolution to support increased funding in Wisconsin State Parks

Whereas there is currently a \$1.4 million annual deficit in the State Parks Fund, resulting in a 20-25% vacancy in park staffing, and

Whereas the vacancies in park staffing results in a serious maintenance deficiency of park infrastructure and natural resources including trails, buildings, interpretive programs, signage, camper safety and security, and fish and wildlife habitat management, and

Whereas currently nonprofit Friends Group organizations are burdened with providing funds for necessary park related programs and expenses, and

Whereas the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has a dual mission to engage in conservation education and to advocate for sound conservation policies, and

Whereas Wisconsin state parks and wildlife are held in the public trust for all citizens under the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation, and;

Whereas park admission fees were raised significantly by the Legislature in 2015-2016, and;

Whereas recent budget proposals have outlined further park admission fee increases for 2017, and;

Whereas increased admission fees create barriers for families and low income visitors to enjoy Wisconsin state parks and outdoor resources in the state, and;

Whereas aging demographics and increased use of electronic devices by campers cause an increased demand for electrified campsites in state parks, and that currently state law limits statewide campsites in state parks to 30% electrified campsites, and

Whereas Wisconsin's state parks provide outstanding outdoor nature and recreational opportunity for all Wisconsin citizens regardless of economic means, and

Whereas the proposed Governor's 2017-2018 state budget once again increases entrance and camping fees raising \$700,000 of the current \$1.4 million park fund, leaving a remaining \$700,000 deficit; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting on April 21st and 22nd, 2017, in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin requests that the Wisconsin Legislature modestly increase the cap on electrified campsites in state parks,

Now let it be further resolved that the Wisconsin State Legislature provide additional funding for the State Parks Fund without further increases of admission fees, thereby allowing all citizens to enjoy the recreational, educational and aesthetic value of Wisconsin State Parks.

Submitted by the Conservation Leadership Corps:

Marco Mascitti

Savanna Harmon

Cody Kamrowski

Advisor: George Meyer-WWF

Resolution to Reduce Water Consumption Through Use of Sustainable Residential Technology

WHEREAS, modern resource saving technology is more efficient than outdated models, excessive water usage greatly increases residential water bills, and water is a finite resource and its overuse can greatly impact the environment including fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, residents who own wells may encounter lowered water tables from excessive water usage thereby reducing and sometime eliminating their wells use as water supplies; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's annual water usage consists of 42% municipal usage and 5% agricultural irrigation usage with agricultural usage increasing significantly in certain areas of the state, (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources); and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recognizes that the density and intensity of withdrawals in Wisconsin depends on the condition of the source water and the demand for water (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources); and

WHEREAS, renewable and sustainable household technologies can significantly reduce home water consumption; benefiting the environment and generating cost savings for households; and

WHEREAS, the average American household spends \$2,200 annually on utilities and could save significant amounts of money by reducing energy and water consumption (The NEED Project); and

WHEREAS, low flow toilets save approximately \$110 annually by using 1.5-5 gallons less than the outdated toilets (Poplar Network), efficient showerheads use less than 2 gallons of water per minute instead of 2.5 gallons per minute, efficient washing machines reduce the water usage by 25 gallons per use (Home Water Works), and garden rain barrels provide an additional water source.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2017 Annual Meeting held April 21st and 22nd in Wisconsin Rapids, calls on the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor to extend tax rebates for residential water saving technologies; and

Now therefore be it further resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation work with the Wisconsin Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Wisconsin, to promote and fund cost-effective water-saving solutions for homes and residential buildings.

Submitted by Conservation Leadership Corps:

Jennifer Ruth Pantelios

Brittany Lyons

Jayden Schmitz

Ryan Bell

Advisor Ruth Ann Lee, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Sources:

"Electricity and the Environment." *Electricity and the Environment - Energy Explained, Your Guide To Understanding Energy - Energy Information Administration*. Web. 17 Apr. 2017.

"Energy Efficiency." *www.NEED.org*. The NEED Project, 2016. Web.

"National Water Quality Initiative Wisconsin." Natural Resources Conservation Service Wisconsin, United States Department of Agriculture,

"Payback Period for Low Flow Toilets: Is the Cost Offset by the Water Savings?" *Payback Period for Low Flow Toilets: Is the Cost Offset by the Water Savings? | Poplar Network*. Web. 17 Apr. 2017.

"Saving Water - Tips for Residential Use." Water Conservation and Saving Tips for Home | Home Water Works. Web. 18 Apr. 2017.

"Wisconsin Water Use 2015 Withdrawal Summary." *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*. Web. www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/programs/landscape/?cid=nrcs142p2_0207634.

"Saving Water - Tips for Residential Use." Home Water Works, Alliance for Water Efficiency, www.home-water-works.org/water-conservation-tips/home. Accessed 18 Apr. 2017.

Maintenance Endowment Initiative for Wisconsin Barrier-Free Cabins

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation supports the provision of conservation education and outdoor recreation for challenged individuals; and
- Whereas, The existing eight barrier-free cabins provide a challenged camper and up to five others the opportunity to experience Wisconsin's natural resources; and
- Whereas, The ongoing state/ DNR budget challenges has reduced and delayed needed repairs such as exterior staining, replacement of exterior windows/ doors and interior furnishings of the cabins; and
- Whereas, Baby- boomer population has increased demand for barrier-free cabin use, resulting in many eligible campers not getting a reservation each year; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, at its Annual Meeting held on April 22, 2017 in Wisconsin Rapids, undertake an initiative to establish a \$10,000 "WWF Maintenance Endowment" Fund for each existing barrier-free cabin; be it further
- RESOLVED, That upon completion of raising necessary funds and establishment of the eight Endowment Funds described above, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation coordinate a state-wide grass roots campaign to construct a new barrier-free cabin in a state park or recreational area.
- Submitted by: WWF Forest Parks and Recreation Committee
April 22, 2017

Resolution to Support Current Forestry Account Property Tax Financing

Whereas, the Wisconsin Forestry Account funds all state forestry programs to restore and maintain Wisconsin's healthy forests; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Forestry Account besides restoring the Northern Wisconsin forests from the cutover of the late 19th and 20th centuries, the fund supports the State Forests, the County Forests, the management of the private Managed Forest Land program, State Tree Nurseries, Forest Pest prevention and treatment program and the Forest Fire fighting and prevention programs; and

Whereas the forests that have been restored and maintained by the Wisconsin Forestry Account provide tens of thousands of jobs in the state through the logging, lumber mill, paper and printing industries, which make up a major portion of Wisconsin's economy; and

Whereas, specifically, the Wisconsin Forestry Account, supports 64,000 jobs in Wisconsin with total wages of \$3.4 billion for Wisconsin's economy with each of those jobs supporting 1.7 million jobs in the state and a total forestry industry output of \$24.7 billion in forest products a year; and

Whereas, the forests that have been restored and maintained by the Wisconsin Forestry Account provide a major role in the state's \$12 tourism economy and the habitat provided by the forests creates excellent fish and wildlife populations that are critically important for hunting, angling and trapping in the state; and

Whereas the Wisconsin Forestry Account has been funded since 1924 through a Wisconsin Constitutional Amendment by a one-twentieth of a cent mill rate mill rate on the state property tax and thereby is a stable funding source for the reforestation and maintenance of all the mentioned forestry programs mentioned above; and

Whereas the Governor's budget has called for the removal of the funding of the Forestry Account from the property tax and instead funding all the forestry programs through the state income and sales tax (GPR); and

Whereas, it is critically important that there be a very stable funding source for the Forestry Account because of the nature of forest management being a very long term management enterprise and the Forest Mill Tax has provided such a stable funding source since 1924; and

Whereas, General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funding is used for funding many other educational, health, welfare and other critical state programs and GPR funding can change significantly due to major changes in the state and national economies and such fluctuations would likely lead to instability in the Forestry Account.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2017 Annual Meeting held April 21st and 22nd in Wisconsin Rapids, calls on the Wisconsin Legislature to restore funding for the Forestry Account and all state forestry program to the Constitutionally approved Forest Mill Tax thereby assuring stable funding for forestry in Wisconsin.

Submitted by the WWF Forest and Parks Committee, Jerry Knuth, Chair and by the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association

Resolution to Restore Funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Whereas, the Great Lakes are one of the world's most important natural resources and are the largest surface water freshwater systems on the planet with 20% of the earth's freshwater; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes provide invaluable ecosystem habitat for all animals including fish and wildlife, are a valuable resource as a water supply for municipalities and industry and are also valuable for navigation and public recreation; and

Whereas, over the last two centuries human use of the Great Lakes has significantly harmed the Great Lakes ecosystem through municipal and industrial discharges, urban and rural runoff, deposit of toxic air emissions and destruction of fish and wildlife habitat in and adjacent to the lakes; and

Whereas, twelve years ago, the Healing Our Waters---Great Lakes Coalition (HOW) was formed consisting of more than 145 environmental, conservation, and outdoor recreation organizations and zoos, aquariums, and museums, including the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and created the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) for the purpose of restoring and protecting North America's greatest freshwater resource: the Great Lakes; and

Whereas the HOW Coalition has been extremely successful in obtaining up to \$300 million dollars annually for the GLRI from the US Congress for the purposes of removal of legacy pollutants from the lakes and their contaminated harbors and tributaries, repairing municipal sewerage treatment plants and sewers, reducing urban and rural contaminated runoff; restoring fish and wildlife habitat and preventing the introduction of aquatic invasive species such as Asian Carp into the Great Lakes system; and

Whereas, despite significant funding decreases in the Federal domestic budget over the last several years, the US Congress, in a highly bipartisan manner, has continually funded the GLRI at a very high funding level up to and including \$300 million annually; and

Whereas, the current President's proposed budget reduced the funding level for the GLRI from \$300 million to \$9 million, a 97% reduction.

Now therefore be it resolved that, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids on April 21st and 22nd, 2017 calls on the US Congress and the President of the United States to restore funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for the next fiscal year to \$300 million in order to protect and enhance the Great Lakes; and

Now therefore be it further resolved that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation encourage the Governor and the Wisconsin Congressional delegation to support the restoration of the GLRI funding to \$300 million.

Submitted by the WWF Great Lakes Committee by Committee Chair Keith Pamperin and by the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sports Fishing Clubs by its President Bob Wincek

Resolution to Obtain Public Information for All Wolf Depredations and Harassments

Whereas, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has not provided complete information in a consistent and timely manner about wolf-related incidents in Wisconsin, including threats to human health and safety, livestock harassment and depredation, harassment and depredation of horses and other pets; and

Whereas, the public has a right to know about such incidents involving wolves; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has an obligation to its citizens to fully inform them of wolf incidents that might threaten their safety or the safety of their pets and livestock; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation supports the full disclosure of wolf depredation and harassment incidents in Wisconsin by the DNR and other state agencies.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2017 Annual Meeting held April 21st and 22nd in Wisconsin Rapids, requests that the Department of Natural Resources provide information in a timely manner in one location of the DNR website of all incidents probable or verified of wolf depredations, harassment and threats to humans and domestic animals; and

Now therefore be it further resolved that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation further requests that the Department of Natural Resources establish and post on their web site all wolf depredation and harassment warning areas and provide instant email notifications for all such incidents in the same manner now done for hunting dog incidents.

Submitted by the WWF Wildlife Committee:

Gary Dieck, Chair

Kevyn Quamme, Vice-Chair

**Resolution to Allow Raccoon Hunting Statewide During the Nine-Day
November Gun Deer Season**

Whereas, prior to the 2015 deer season, there was a statewide prohibition for night hunting of raccoon during the traditional November 9-day gun deer season; and

Whereas, the Natural Resources Board approved night hunting of raccoon during the 2015 and 2016 traditional November 9-day gun deer season for the Southern Farmland Deer Management Units; and

Whereas, there have been no reported hunting conflicts or law enforcement concerns raised during the 2015 or 2016 November 9-day gun deer season hunt in the Southern Farmland Deer Management Units.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2017 Annual Meeting held on April 21st and 22nd requests that the Natural Resources Board authorize the night hunting of raccoon during the traditional November 9-day gun deer season on a statewide basis.

Submitted by the WWF Wildlife Committee:
Gary Dieck, Chair
Kevyn Quamme, Vice-Chair

Resolution

Wolf Population Goal

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin may soon have wolf management responsibilities restored with Congress prohibiting court interference with decisions by the USFWS to declare wolves no longer endangered in Wisconsin, and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin needs to responsibly manage wolves once management is restored including maintaining a stable population above the trigger level for determining endangered species status, and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation needs to be a responsible party in wolf management, and

Whereas, landowners will again have the ability to control problem wolves once management is restored to the state, and

Whereas, the state's wolf plan will soon be updated which can include the wolf management population goal, and

Whereas, a single point population goal is not only impossible to achieve but will be in continuous dispute among interest groups, and

Whereas, a population range is a much better management goal that can be maintained without continuous conflict, and

Whereas, it will take a number of years to reduce the current high wolf population to the state's goal,

Therefore, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting on April 22, 2017 adopts a wolf population goal of 350 to 450 for the period 2017 to 2020 and will work with the DNR to try and achieve this goal by 2020 and, then, reassess the wolf population goal utilizing new information concerning the results of a dramatically reduced wolf population.

John Wetzel
Director, District 6

**Resolution calling for removal of abandoned railroad grade culvert on
Nebagamon Creek**

Whereas, the South Shore Railroad abandoned operation in the late 1800's or early 1900's and as a result, ended maintenance of their railroad culvert on Nebagamon Creek; and

Whereas, there is a danger of the culvert collapsing or becoming completely blocked with the wing-wall supports on the downside of the culvert having already collapsed; and

Whereas, Nebagamon Creek drains about 28 square miles and carries, on average about a 16 cubic feet per second flow and if the culvert collapses will back up very quickly; and

Whereas, weather patterns are showing more frequent extremes increasing the danger of flood events.

Whereas, the Nebagamon Creek Watershed already has had one such major precipitation event about 10 years ago in which a culvert failed resulting in a large silt deposit at the mouth of an unnamed creek entering Lake Nebagamon; and

Whereas, if the culvert collapses, the South Shore Railroad grade will act as a dam and fill the entire valley upstream to a point where either the grade collapses or eventually overtops and washes it away; and

Whereas, the extent or threat to the Bois Brule River will depend on how much water is impounded upstream and how quickly that impounded water washes away the grade; and

Whereas, a catastrophic failure will create the largest flood that the Nebagamon Creek valley has ever experienced; and

Whereas, the flood will quickly erode a larger stream channel by washing away the sand laden stream banks and at many points along the way from there to the Brule will cause severe erosion and collapse of the sandy valley walls; and

Whereas, the flood would wash away the Afterhours town road crossing; and

Whereas, beside the water volume dumping into the Bois Brule an even larger concern is the huge volume of sand that will create an extremely large sand deposit. This sand deposit will be a major threat to the river's trout fishery as it slowly creeps downstream; and

Whereas, this sand deposit may take decades to move down the river while filling holes, causing channel widening (bank erosion) and sequentially burying trout habitat and spawning areas.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids on April 21st and 22nd, 2017 goes on record supporting the removal of the culvert on Nebagamon Creek under the abandoned South Shore Railroad grade.

Submitted by: WWF Fisheries Committee,
Gordy Merz, Chair
Ken Lundberg, Vice-Chair

Resolution to Continue the Publication of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine

Whereas, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and its predecessor, the Wisconsin Conservation Department, has published the Natural Resources Magazine for ninety-eight years; and

Whereas, the Natural Resources Magazine has been a coveted and highly popular publication providing valuable information to subscribers on DNR conservation and environmental programs, information about the diverse natural resources of this state, methods of outdoor recreation and activities private citizens, non-profit organization, local units of government and businesses to manage and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources; and

Whereas, the production and distribution of the Natural Resources Magazine is fully funded by its subscribers with the only cost to the DNR being that DNR program staff write a handful of articles every two months showcasing their conservation and environmental programs, with the majority of the magazine articles contributed by outside writers; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation believes that it is part of the core mission and duty of the DNR to provide information to Wisconsin citizens about its programs and the management of the natural resources under its responsibilities; and

Whereas, publishers of other Wisconsin outdoor natural resource and outdoor recreation publications have publicly stated that they do not feel that the Natural Resources Magazine is unfair competition to their privately-owned publications.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2017 Annual Meeting held April 21st and 22nd in Wisconsin Rapids, requests that the Legislature and the Governor in their budget deliberations retain the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine published by the Department of Natural Resources.

Submitted by the WWF Executive Committee:
George Borchert, President

Resolution Opposing Major Reductions in the USEPA 2017-2018 Budget

Whereas the United States Environmental Protection Agency plays a fundamental role in protecting, restoring and enhancing the Nation's land, water and air resources by providing overall oversight to the 50 States in their implementation of the laws enacted by the Congress to protect our land, air and water; and

Whereas, EPA oversight assures that there is an even regulatory playing field between the states implementing Congress's laws such as the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air and the Safe Drinking Water Act, etc.; and

Whereas, Wisconsin citizens and non-profit conservation and environmental organizations, like the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, have had to petition the USEPA to come into Wisconsin and require the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to carry out its responsibilities in carrying out the Federal environmental regulatory programs delegated to it such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

Whereas, the President's budget eliminates 19% of USEPA employees and overall is a 31% cut in the USEPA budget and includes, among others, the following specific budget cuts:

1. A 50% reduction of the budget for EPA's Office of Research and Development, which does most of agency's science work;
2. A 45% reduction of environmental protection grants to local units of government;
3. A 24% reduction in EPA's environmental enforcement funding;
4. A 30% reduction in Super Fund site cleanup funding;
5. A 97% reduction in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding;
6. A 100% reduction in EPA's Climate Change programs;

Whereas, these drastic cuts to the proposed USEPA budget will seriously undermine the land, air and water resources of Wisconsin and the Nation.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2017 Annual Meeting held April 21st and 22nd in Wisconsin Rapids, calls on the US Congress and the President to restore these drastic cuts in the USEPA budget so as to protect the land, air and water resources of Wisconsin and the Nation.

Submitted by the WWF Environmental Committee:
Jim Swanson, Chair