



Tainter Menomin Lake
Improvement Association
PO Box 185
Menomonie, WI 54751

RESOLVED

March 1, 2019

MAR - 4 2019

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Attn: Resolutions
PO Box 460
Poynette, WI 53955-0460

Dear Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Board of Directors,

Please accept the following resolution to be presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) on behalf of the Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association (TMLIA).

We share your values of clean water for the benefit of Wisconsin's fish, wildlife, and citizens, and appreciate your partnership in working towards our unified goals.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Usborne, President
TMLIA.org
TMLIAPresident@gmail.com
224-612-1758

TMLIA is a 501(c)(3) NFP organization and member in good standing with WWF

cc: Dick Lamers, Jim Swanson, TMLIA Board of Directors



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1 **2019 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT IMPROVING PHOSPHORUS IMPAIRED WATERS IN WISCONSIN**

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3 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) added 240
4 waterbodies to the federally impaired waters list in 2018 and of those, 76 % were due to excess
5 phosphorus; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, excess phosphorus feeds excessive blue-green algae (cyanobacteria)
8 growth; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, blue-green algae blooms shade out sunlight from reaching other aquatic
11 plants that fish and waterfowl need for food and shelter; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the decomposition that takes place after large blue-green algae blooms die
14 takes dissolved oxygen out of the water, and can lead to fish kills; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, blue-green algae are capable of producing toxins that are fatal to hunting
17 dogs, even in very small amounts, and dogs can be exposed by drinking, swimming in, retrieving
18 birds from, or licking their fur after coming in contact with, contaminated water.

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin River and in particular Petenwell and Castle Rock Lake have
21 massive algal blooms which negatively impact outdoor recreation and vacationing; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, the Red Cedar River System was listed as some of the most phosphorus
24 impaired water in the US by the EPA in 1998 and phosphorus induced blue-green algal blooms
25 have increased since the listing; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, Dunn County, Wisconsin passed comprehensive and effective
28 local zoning ordinances to combat phosphorus pollution in the Red Cedar River System and in
29 2015 the Wisconsin Legislature subsequently abrogated local control on lakeshore zoning so the
30 phosphorus contamination continues in the Red Cedar River System; and

31
32 **WHEREAS**, economic studies show that blue-green algae blooms in the Red Cedar
33 River Basin cost Dunn and Barron Counties \$38 million in lost economic activity; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, state funding has been substantially reduced for phosphorus monitoring and
36 scientific research efforts that are critical for collecting data used to detect improvements and
37 justify the subsequent delisting of impaired waterbodies; and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, such research in the past has revealed the extreme value wetlands offer to
40 wildlife and phosphorus reduction, such as providing essential habitat for migrating waterfowl,
41 spawning grounds for northern pike, nurseries for fish and ducklings, and filtration of pollutants;
42 and

43
44 **WHEREAS**, half of Wisconsin's wetlands have already been lost.

45
46 **THEREFORE**, let it be resolved at the 2019 Annual meeting of the Wisconsin Wildlife
47 Federation (WWF) that the WWF work with the Wisconsin Governor, Legislature and the DNR
48 to rescind restrictions on local governments so zoning can be done to protect waters and to
49 curtail phosphorus pollution; and

50
51 **FURTHER**, let it be resolved that the WWF support partner agencies and organizations
52 that also aim to improve wildlife habitat and water quality (such as county Land and Water
53 Conservation Departments, Natural Resource Conservation Service [NRCS], University of
54 Wisconsin-Extension service, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer
55 Protection [DATCP], and DNR) through promoting policy that prioritizes funding directed
56 towards staff who administer conservation programs (e.g. Wetland Reserve Program [WRP],
57 Conservation Reserve Program [CRP], Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program [CREP],
58 Conservation Stewardship Program [CSP], Soil and Water Resource Management grants
59 [SWRM], and Land and Water Conservation Fund); and

60
61 **FURTHER**, let it be resolved that the WWF use its vast networks to inform their members and
62 other Wisconsin citizens of the above-mentioned opportunities and encourage them to participate
63 in programs that help them restore wetlands, establish buffer strips, and install other best
64 management practices to reduce phosphorus runoff on their own land; and

65
66 **FURTHER**, let it be resolved the WWF work to pass legislation that requires action
67 taken to reduce phosphorus entering our waterways from non-point sources.



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Approved by:

Elizabeth Usborne, President

3/1/19

Date

Dick Lamers, Legislative Committee Chair

3/1/19

Date