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
2019 Resolution to Support Improving Phosphorus Impaired Waters in Wisconsin

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, economic studies show that blue-green algae blooms in the Red Cedar River Basin cost Dunn and Barron Counties $38 million in lost economic activity; and
WHEREAS, state funding has been substantially reduced for phosphorus monitoring and scientific research efforts that are critical for collecting data used to detect improvements and justify the subsequent delisting of impaired waterbodies; and

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

WHEREAS, half of Wisconsin’s wetlands have already been lost.

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

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

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

FURTHER, let it be resolved the WWF work to pass legislation that requires action taken to reduce phosphorus entering our waterways from non-point sources.
Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association
PO Box 185
Menomonie, WI 54751

Approved by:

[Signature]
Elizabeth Usborne, President
Date 3/1/19

[Signature]
Dick Lamers, Legislative Committee Chair
Date 3/1/19