

**Resolution to Reduce Political Decision-making and Increasing Scientific, Professional Natural Resource Management In the Wisconsin DNR**

Whereas, Wisconsin sportsmen and women in 1928 successfully fought to establish a citizen governing board to oversee natural resource management in Wisconsin and to authorize that citizen board to appoint professional natural resources managers to oversee the agency managing the state's natural resources;

Whereas, the purpose of that creation of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission (now the Natural Resources Board) was to reduce political interference in the long term management of natural resources to assure sound long term protection and management of the state's natural resources;

Whereas, in 1995, the Governor and the Legislature, while retaining the Natural Resources Board as the decision-making body for the agency, made the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and the top managers of the DNR political appointees of the Governor;

Whereas, in the current state budget, the Governor proposes to remove natural resource decision-making from the citizen Natural Resources Board making all natural resource management decisions strictly made by political appointees;

Whereas, in the past 20 years politics has become increasingly more pervasive in natural resource decision-making within the Department of Natural Resources;

Whereas, in recent years, the Natural Resources Board, has on several occasions indicated to the senior management of the DNR, their major lapses of scientific professional management of natural resources and deviations from the principles of wildlife management as stated in the North American Model of Wildlife Management;

Whereas, in the past twenty years, under Administrations of both parties, many senior agency managers have been appointed that do not have significant or any education or experience in natural resource management.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting on April 10 and 11, 2015 in Wisconsin Rapids, hereby calls on the Legislature and the Governor to retain the Natural Resource Board as the decision-making body overseeing the Department of Natural Resources and to restore their authority to appoint the DNR Secretary and other senior managers of the agency;

Now therefore be it further resolved that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at it April 10 and 11, 2015 Annual Meeting hereby calls on the Legislature, the Governor and the Natural Resources Board to require that the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, the Assistant Deputy

Secretary and the respective DNR Division Administrators each have either an educational degree in natural resources management and five years of applied natural resources management or ten years of applied natural resource management before they are appointed to such position.

Submitted by the WWF Executive Committee, John Wagner, President