

AMENDED
RESOLUTION NO. 21-5

SUPPORTING STATE REAUTHORIZATION OF, AND FUNDING FOR, THE KNOWLES-
NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 as a bipartisan effort, named for two Wisconsin Governors--Republican Warren Knowles and Democrat Gaylord Nelson to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, after several re-authorizations and fluctuations in funding appropriations, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2022, this resolution supports the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for ten years and recommends funding the program at a level that meets the growing natural resource protection and recreational needs of our State and County; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that protected lands in Wisconsin provide more than \$2 billion in natural services annually, such as air and water filtration, carbon sequestration, and flood mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors has found the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to be a valuable financial resource to preserve and restore county natural areas, wildlife habitat, and water quality while supporting the development of public nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities that promote economic sustainability and enhance quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Ozaukee County government has received over \$2.1 million from this program in the last two decades to purchase, preserve, protect, or enhance county parks and outdoor recreational opportunities in this county, including signature county landmarks like the Interurban Bike Trail and Lion's Den Gorge Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, when including municipal governments and conservation organizations, Ozaukee County has received over \$16 Million in Knowles-Nelson investment for over 100 projects within 12 miles of where this resolution is being considered, all of which benefit Ozaukee county residents directly through recreational opportunities and improved ecological services, and indirectly through the economic benefits that attend these outdoor features of the county; and

WHEREAS, the public demand for outdoor recreation opportunities close to home has increased dramatically in the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the need to conserve land and water resources is increasingly urgent in the face of a changing climate and expected significant Ozaukee County population growth in the next 25 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors commends to the State Legislators the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program in the State 2021-2023 budget for a period of at least 10 years, and to provide a mechanism to fund the program at a level that meets the growing natural resource protection and recreational needs of our State and County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ozaukee County Clerk shall send a copy of this

resolution to all of the State of Wisconsin Legislators representing Ozaukee County, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702.

Dated at Port Washington, Wisconsin, this 5th day of May, 2021.

SUMMARY: The resolution seeks the 10-year reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program at a level that meets the growing natural resource protection and recreational needs of our State and County.

VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

Resolution brought forth by Supervisor Ross to the committee.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

MOVER: B. Ross, Supervisor District 19

SECONDER: R. Holyoke, Supervisor District 22

AYES: D. Korinek, B. Jobs, R. Holyoke, B. Ross

EXCUSED: N. Minkel-Dumit

RES. 21-5 As Amended

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 **Passed By Majority Vote**

Winker		ABSENT
Haas		NO
Jobs		YES
Schlenvogt		YES
Clark		YES
Nelson		YES
Becker		YES
Larson		YES
Grabow		YES
Melotik		YES
Wolf		ABSTAIN
Richart		YES
Korinek		YES

Rishel		YES
Geracie		YES
Duecker		NO
Irish		EXCUSED
Wirth		YES
Ross	M	YES
Marchese	S	YES
Strom		YES
Holyoke		YES
Henrichs		YES
Braverman		YES
Read		YES
Minkel-Dumit		YES