

Village of Cross Plains

Resolution No. 2021-06

A Resolution supporting the Renewal and Funding of the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program

WHEREAS, the Act creating the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (KNSP), named for Republican Governor Warren Knowles and Democratic Governor Gaylord Nelson, was signed into law in 1989 by Governor Tommy Thompson; and

WHEREAS, the KNSP was created to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, expand outdoor recreation, and support Wisconsin's timber and tourism and industries; and

WHEREAS, because of the KNSP, the Wisconsin DNR, local governments, and nonprofit conservation organizations have received state funds which are matched with federal, local, and private funds to purchase public land and easements for conservation and to support the maintenance of Wisconsin's waterways, parks, forests, and trails; and

WHEREAS, the KNSP has significantly benefited Wisconsin both environmentally and economically, by forests which sequester carbon and clean our air, wetlands which filter water and buffer against floods, by allowing its residents to enjoy the outdoors and nature, which is shown to improve health, and

WHEREAS, a conservative estimate of the value of "natural infrastructure" on lands protected by the KNSP is more than two billion dollars a year; and

WHEREAS, even with the known benefits of the KNSP, that over the past three decades, KNSP has been underfunded, especially when compared to other State investments and when compared to similar outdoor investments by other states (Wisconsin invests less money in parks and outdoor recreation than any other state with the exception of Alabama.); and

WHEREAS, planning and executing Stewardship projects may take years, and, as such, landowners, donors, nonprofits, and government agencies need certainty about the long-term future of the KNSP program in order for projects to be as strategic and successful as possible; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of 58 groups representing environmental conservation, business interests, local governments, hunting, fishing, forestry, agriculture, and recreation recognize the positive impact that the KNSP program has on Wisconsin's health, economy, and its priceless landscapes; and

Whereas, surveys have shown that 93 percent of Wisconsin voters want to see KNSP program continued; and

Whereas, the Village of Cross Plains has benefited from KNSP funds for list facilities such as the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and improvements to the H.M. Zander Community Nature Park.

Whereas, the Governor's 2021-23 Budget includes a ten-year reauthorization of the Stewardship Program and that it be funded at seventy million dollars a year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Cross Plains that, State Senator John Erpenbach and Assembly Representative Dianne Hesselbein, representing the Village of Cross

Plains, be requested to support the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program by reauthorizing it for ten years and funding the program at seventy million dollars a year.

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that all State elected officials representing the Village of Cross Plains be sent a copy of this Resolution and request their person commitment to support the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program reauthorization for the ten years as stated in the Governor's proposed budget.


This resolution shall take effect upon its passage and publication or posting as provided by Law.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2021.

Village of Cross Plains:

Attest:

By:  _____

By:  _____

Jay Lengfeld

Bobbi Zauner

Village President

Finance Director/Clerk