

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF STATE FUNDING FOR
KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. Per Ch. 23 .09 1 5(2c)(d), Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2025. The program has supported land acquisition and capital development by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), local governments, and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and expand outdoor recreation for public and economic benefit around the state; and

WHEREAS, the Lodi area has benefited over the years having received \$3 million in Stewardship grant funds for 24 projects including Ice Age National Scenic Trail corridor protection and permanent access and Lodi Marsh Wildlife Area land protection and parking lot/access; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lodi is a designated Ice Age Trail Community, and the School District of Lodi is an Ice Age Trail Campus, which solidifies the importance of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in tourism and economic impact to its community and supports efforts to complete the Trail which will require Stewardship funding; and

WHEREAS, the Lodi Common Council considers the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program a valuable tool to preserve and restore natural areas, wildlife habitat, and water quality while supporting the development of public nature-based activities including hunting, fishing, boating, hiking and other outdoor recreation opportunities that promote economic development and enhance quality of life; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Lodi Common Council to express its support to our State Legislators and the Governor of the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 2025 to fully fund projects over the next 10 years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lodi Common Council does hereby express to the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor our full support for the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and request it be fully funded to support projects over the next 10-year period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lodi Common Council directs that the City Administrator to forward a copy of this resolution to the offices of each of our State Legislators and the Office of the Governor.