

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Public Works Committee
Initiated by

Public Works Committee
& Parks Advisory Committee
Submitted by



John Traynor, Parks Manager
Drafted by

September 6, 2018
Date Drafted

SUPPORTING THE PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

1 WHEREAS, for the past fifty-two years the Federal Land and Water Conservation
2 Fund (LWCF) has been our nation's most important program for meeting communities'
3 conservation and recreation needs, from national parks and wildlife refuges, to sacred
4 battlefields and historic sites, to working forests and critical habitat, to neighborhood
5 playgrounds and recreational facilities; and
6

7 WHEREAS, this is a critical investment not only in our quality of life, but in supporting
8 over nine million American jobs in recreation, conservation and historic activities which
9 contribute more than a trillion dollars to the U.S. economy; and
10

11 WHEREAS, in Wisconsin, the LWCF has invested more than \$215 million to protect the
12 State's open spaces to include Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Ice Age
13 National Scenic Trail, Devil's Lake State Park, High Cliff State Park, and Central Sands
14 Pine Forest, in addition to many community parks and recreation facilities; and
15

16 WHEREAS, LWCF supported programs have resulted in the most extensive network
17 of open spaces in the world to camp, hunt, fish, hike, swim and play, but much remains
18 to be done to both preserve and expand these areas and programs for current and
19 future Americans; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the LWCF does not receive taxpayer dollars, but rather, is funded with
22 revenues paid to the government from offshore oil and gas drilling; and
23

24 WHEREAS, unlike many issues in Congress, LWCF brings people together and enjoys
25 strong bipartisan support; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the LWCF will expire on September 30, 2018 if Congress does not take
28 action to continue it; and
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30 WHEREAS, the LWCF needs long-term stability and, therefore, should be
31 reauthorized permanently.
32

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
34 assembled this 27th day of September, 2018, **does hereby urge Congress**
35 **to support the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.**
36

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk be authorized and directed to**
38 **send a copy of this Resolution to President Donald Trump, Rock County's federal**
39 **congressional delegation and the National Association of Counties.**

18-9B-088

Page Two Resolution
Supporting the Permanent Reauthorization of the Federal Land and Water
Conservation Fund

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Betty Jo Bussie
Betty Jo Bussie, Chair

Brent Fox
Brent Fox, Vice-Chair

Brenton Driscoll
Brenton Driscoll

Rick Richard
Rick Richard

Absent
Jeremy Zajac

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

/s/Floyd Finney
Floyd Finney

/s/Dean Paynter
Dean Paynter

/s/Tom Presny
Tom Presny

Page Three Resolution

Supporting the Permanent Reauthorization of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund

FISCAL NOTE:

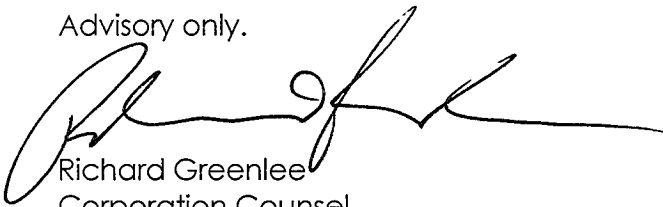
This resolution is advisory only and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.



Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Matter of policy.



Josh Smith
Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
FOR
Supporting the Permanent Reauthorization of the Federal Land and Water
Conservation Fund

For 52 years the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has been the country's most important tool for meeting communities' conservation and recreation needs, from national parks and wildlife refuges, to scared battlefields and historic sites, to working forests and critical habitat, to neighborhood playgrounds and recreational facilities

In Wisconsin, LWCF has invested more than \$215 million to protect the State's open spaces to include Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Devil's Lake State Park, High Cliff State Park, and Central Sands Pine Forest, in addition to many community parks and recreation facilities.

The LWCF does not receive taxpayer dollars. It is funded with revenues paid to the government from offshore oil and gas drilling. Outdoor recreation, conservation and historic activities contribute more than a trillion dollars to the US. Economy, supporting over nine million jobs. Wisconsin's \$17.9 billion outdoor recreation industry supports 168,000 jobs which generate over \$5 billion in wages and produces over one billion dollars in tax revenue. For example, during the past 10 years \$12 million of LWCF money has been matched by \$22 million in State and local funds to preserve 57 additional miles of the Ice Age Trail. The Trail is used by over 1,200,000 people each year and provides nearly \$114,000,000 in tourist revenue. Sixty-five Wisconsin Cities and Villages are within five miles of the Trail.

This Resolution Supporting the Permanent Reauthorization of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund is to have Congress permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) before it expires on September 30, 2018. Without it, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) may become history.