



Robert Bohmann, Chair
1105 Melvin Avenue
Racine, WI 53402
608-235-5825

Larry Bonde, Vice-Chair
22514 Rockville Road
Kiel, WI 53042
920-286-3327

Joe Weiss, Secretary
Lee Fahrney, Public Relations
Alan Suchla, Historian

May 14, 2013

The Honorable Senator Alberta Darling
Joint Committee on Finance, Co-Chair
Room 317 East
State Capitol

The Honorable Representative John Nygren
Joint Committee on Finance, Co-Chair
Room 309 East
State Capitol

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund is the main source of funding to buy public land and easements for public access for hunting, fishing, and trapping. At our Annual Convention held in Eau Claire on May 10-11, 2013, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress reaffirmed its support of the Stewardship Program, as stated in the 2007 resolution, which required that the following conditions be met:

1. Expand hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunity on all Stewardship funded lands by reviewing current and future properties to see which can be safely opened to hunting, fishing, and trapping.
2. Create a review process to increase public input on Stewardship land purchases.
3. Restore wildlife habitat on lands the state already owns using Stewardship Funds.
4. Post signs and publish a directory of all Stewardship funded lands including all public access information.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress would like to reiterate its commitment to the 2007 resolution through continued work supporting the completion of wildlife habitat restoration and creation of signage and a public directory of all Stewardship funded lands including all public access information.

While we have seen success and movement toward completion of the first two conditions, the restoration of wildlife habitat and creation of a directory of all Stewardship funded lands including public access information had not been completed.

As established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Their mission is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

In addition on May 11, 2013, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress unanimously opposed any further cuts to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and requested the Executive Committee notify the Joint Finance Committee prior to their vote on this issue.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rob Bohmann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Bohmann, Chair
Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Cc: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance
Wisconsin Conservation Congress Executive Committee