

440316

**CHANGE IN FUNDING FOR STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is a mechanism by which the Natural Resources Board (NRB) can buy land in Wisconsin that will forever remain in public hands. The legislature oversees funding allocation on a biannual basis. This provides the NRB and the department money needed to purchase the land up to the allocated amount. At the present time this program has accumulated \$930 million dollars in debt. This type of debt cannot continue. The following states have found a better way to fund the same and in many cases many more projects.

Missouri: Program is called "Wild Missouri" and is funded by a 1/8 of 1% from sales tax revenue. That's 1 penny for every \$8.00 in items purchased in the state. The fund is due to bring in \$97 million dollars in 2016.

Minnesota: "The Legacy Fund" has been in operation since 2000 and is funded by 3/8 of 1% added to sales tax and has accounted for millions of dollars in cash revenue.

Michigan: "The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund". Funding is derived from royalties on the sale and lease of State-owned mineral rights.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its April 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 spring hearing meetings recommend that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to find a way to change the fund from a Bonding Authority fund (borrowing fund) to a cash fund similar to what other states has been successful with.

Dave Blunk  
Private Citizen  
8567 West Squaw Lake Road  
Lac Du Flambeau WI. 54538  
Oneida County

2016 vote

61 yes

4 no