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Maintain Stewardship Fund Resolution

Problem: recent Governor's budget and other law proposals have sought to end the stewardship fund and discontinue the state helping local governments with taxes on new stewadship land. Funding has been greatly reduced in recent years and the DNR is in a required process of selling 10,000 acres.

Solution: The stewardship program remains the best tool to help make Wisconsin a better place to live even as Wisconsin population increases, more wetlands and open spaces are developed, frac mines and roads are built, and groundwater and runoff problems are increasing. We still have the opportunity with the stewardship fund to do some outstanding things for future generations.

Things the stewardship fund could do are protect sensitive waterways, increase lake and stream access, improve and enlarge high demand state parks, continue purchasing easements for public hunting and fishing on large blocks of paper company land as they are sold, partner with local units of governments and other conservation groups to preserve unique and sensitive parcels of land and protect the Wolf River here locally.

Economically we can afford this if we make it a priority. Many benefits such timber harvest, outdoor recreation, water quality, tourism with low infrastructure costs can be had from stewardship properties.

Be it resovled that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Outagamie Co. April 11, 2016 recommnend continued adequate funding and wise use of the Stewardship in future years.

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