

R E S O L U T I O N

IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF THE 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 I 5(2c) (d), Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2026, and 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 benefit around the state; and

WHEREAS, the City of Manitowoc has directly benefited over the years having received Stewardship grant funds totaling over \$500,000 to provide much needed and necessary improvements and access to Camp Vits Park and Bayshore Trail; and

WHEREAS, the elected officials of the City of Manitowoc consider 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 outdoor recreation opportunities that promote economic development and enhance the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Manitowoc does hereby express to the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor our full support for the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and request that sufficient funding annually be allocated to support projects over the next 10-year period; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Manitowoc directs that the Mayor forward a copy of this resolution to the offices of each of our State Legislators and the Office of the Governor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Manitowoc, duly assembled this 16th day of February 2026, hereby supports the reauthorization of state funding for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

INTRODUCED _____ ADOPTED _____

Justin M. Nickels, Mayor APPROVED _____

Fiscal Impact: Anticipated \$0
Funding Source: Not Applicable
Finance Director Approval: /SMA
Approved as to form: /EGN