



RESOLUTION # 13-9/25

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 9-13

BOARD ACTION

Adopted: ☒
For: 28
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 2
Vote Req: —
Other Action: —

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

ACTION

Adopted: ☒
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 2

RE: SUPPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State 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, and

WHEREAS, the program has supported land acquisition and capital development projects by local units of governments including La Crosse County, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas, wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation for public benefit around the state, and

WHEREAS, per Ch. 23.0915(2c)(d), Wis. Stats., the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2026, and

WHEREAS, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors considers 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 quality of life, and

WHEREAS, La Crosse County has been a direct beneficiary of this program through receiving approximately 130 grants protecting 3800+ acres and creating a \$9,581,474 investment. This includes \$100,375 to La Crosse County for campground addition, landscaping, well system and trail construction at Veteran's Memorial Park, and additionally grants to Four Corners Snowmobile Trail Rehabilitation, Mississippi Channel Dredging, and Lake Neshonoc South Access Development; \$2.67 million to Mississippi Valley Conservancy to protect 1,100+ acres of land and habitat protection for La Crosse bluff lands; \$417,000 to the City of La Crosse for renovation and development at Grandad Bluff, and; \$183,365 to the City of Onalaska for greenspace and trail development at Green Coulee Community Park, and additionally grants for Great River Landing Trailhead Development Phase 1, Onalaska Feasibility Study, Holiday Heights Canoe Launch Development, Van Riper Park, Zone Two Development; and \$133,775 to the Town of Onalaska for improvements at Fred Funk Boat Landing; Town of Barre for Town Park Acquisition; Village of West Salem for Hwy 16 Bike Development; Town of Campbell for Lower Spillway Public Boat Access; Village of Rockland for Gaylord Memorial Park Development; Village of Holmen for Recreation Area Development; and Lake Neshonoc Protection and Rehabilitation District for Channels Dredging Feasibility Study and Rehabilitation Project.

WHEREAS, these numerous grants and partnerships that have enhanced local parks, protected vital natural areas, expanded trail systems, and improved water quality, contribute to the well-being, health, and enjoyment of our residents and visitors; and align directly with the La Crosse County strategic direction of Environmental Stewardship including its vision and mission that our natural environment is accessible and protected, for present and future generations, and

WHEREAS, continued investment in the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is vital for La Crosse County to meet its vision of building a resilient, sustainable, and connected park and trail system that contributes to the overall quality of life and environmental health of our communities, and

RE: SUPPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, local governments, nonprofit partners, and citizens rely on the stability and availability of Stewardship Program funds to match local investments and maximize community-driven conservation and recreation initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors supports long term funding authorization for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

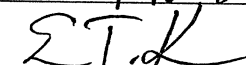
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the La Crosse County Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to each of our elected State legislators, the Wisconsin Governor, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.





FISCAL NOTE: No fiscal impact.

Date: 9/16/25


COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 9-10-25

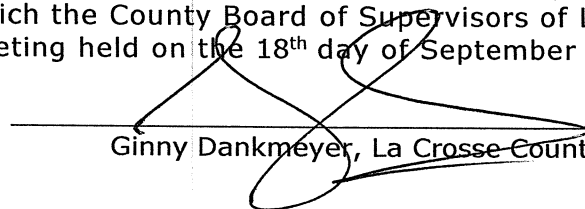

RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u> </u>	Requested By: Supervisors Isola and Freedland
Fin. Director	<u></u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Date Requested: August 28, 2025
Corp. Counsel	<u></u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Board Chair	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 18 Day of September, 2025

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 18th day of September 2025.


Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk