

RESOLUTION NO: 2025-06
RESOLUTION URGING REAUTHORIZATION OF, AND FUNDING FOR, THE
KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM THROUGH A STAND-ALONE
BILL IN 2025

BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GIBRALTAR:

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature created the bi-partisan Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife and rare plant habitats, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the reauthorization and funding of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program was not included in the recently approved state budget, and the Program will expire if not promptly reauthorized and funded by a stand-alone bill to allow continued development in Door County of expanded and improved recreational facilities, including at state, county, and town parks and marinas, by local governments and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and conservation of ecologically important lands by nonprofit conservation organizations through expansion of valuable natural areas and wildlife and rare plant habitats, and protection of groundwater, streams, and lakes for the benefit of Door County residents, visitors, and our tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gibraltar has directly benefited from Stewardship Program grants that have supported the acquisition and improvement of public lands and recreational facilities within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gibraltar considers the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program a valuable tool to preserve and protect Door County's unique and precious lands and waters and to safeguard County water quality, while greatly enhancing County economic development and the quality of life for County residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to express its full support to the Legislature and the Governor for the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program this fall through passage of a stand-alone bill with sufficient Program funding; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board directs the Chair to forward copies of this resolution to the offices of each of our State Legislators, the Office of the Governor, and the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Towns Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Gibraltar, Door County, Wisconsin, duly assembled this 3rd day of September, 2025, that the Town of Gibraltar hereby supports reauthorization of, and funding for, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program through a stand-alone bill in 2025.


Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Gibraltar this 3rd day of September, 2025.




Steven Sohns, Chair




Jayson Merkel Supervisor



Tom Birmingham Supervisor



John Selenica Supervisor



Vinni Hancock Supervisor

Attested:



Laura M. Reetz
Town of Gibraltar Clerk