

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING 40% OF THE LWCF APPROPRIATED FUNDS BE
DIRECTED TO THE STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1965 to preserve, develop and assure accessibility to quality outdoor recreation resources “to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States”, and

WHEREAS, the LWCF is principally funded by revenue received from off-shore energy extraction, and is authorized to receive \$900 million annually through the annual appropriations process; and

WHEREAS the LWCF funds a federal land acquisition program and provides matching grants to states and localities for capital projects through the State Assistance program; and

WHEREAS, investments from the LWCF State Assistance program support the creation of public parks in rural and urban communities throughout America, protect green space and local water supplies, guarantee outdoor recreation opportunities, spur economic development, create jobs and significantly aid national efforts to promote health, connect youth to nature and the outdoors, combat childhood obesity and protect the environment; and

WHEREAS in the original authorizing legislation, Congress recognized the important role of state and local parks in achieving its intended purpose by requiring the allocation of 60% of LWCF annual funding to the State Assistance program and 40% to the federal program; and

WHEREAS the language protecting the State Assistance program was removed in the mid 1970s resulting in a disproportional amount (84%) of LWCF funding going to the federal side of the program over the past 25 years; and

WHEREAS no language exists to protect the State Assistance funding allocations, and Congress appropriated a total of approximately \$304 million to LWCF in FY 2009 but allocated only \$19 million (6%) to the State Assistance program, and in FY 2010 appropriated a total of approximately \$479 million to LWCF with a mere \$40 million (8%) going to the State Assistance program; and

WHEREAS Wisconsin received only \$495,242 in FY2009 and \$679,682 in FY2010;

WHEREAS the disproportional allocation of LWCF funding between the two programs has severely limited state and local governments in their capacity to develop parks and open spaces and protect green space and local water supplies in light of rapidly increasing populations; and

WHEREAS, LWCF provides one-time funding for state and local capital projects and state and local governments equally match the federal dollars, then assume all costs of management and maintenance; and

WHEREAS the state of Wisconsin has \$50,000,000 in unmet need for LWCF State Assistance projects, and the City of Menasha currently has projects that would qualify for LWCF State Assistance funding; and

WHEREAS requiring 40% of LWCF funds to be annually allocated to the State Assistance program would not increase the national debt, but would ensure a more balanced allocation of

resources between federal land acquisition and state and local community conservation efforts, as intended by the authorizing legislation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Menasha Parks and Recreation Board calls on Congress to implement legislation specifying an annual allocation of at least 40% of LWCF funds to the State Assistance program.

City of Menasha, Wisconsin

Dick Sturm
Chairman Menasha Parks and Recreation Board

Passed: December 8, 2010