

MINNESOTA CONSERVATION FEDERATION

QUARTERLY MEETING

September 11, 2016

Resolution #4

Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Need to Fully Fund CREP & RIM Reserve

WHEREAS; the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) has been productively in place since 1986, and

WHEREAS; CREP has partnered with the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program for many successful years, and

WHEREAS; the current goal for CREP is to enroll 100,000 acres in the southern and western parts of the state over five years, and

WHEREAS; lands coming out of expiring 15-year leases under the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be targeted, and

WHEREAS; these lands coming out of CRP could provide a way to prioritize and target strategic water quality practices to improve water quality through wetlands restoration and drinking water wellhead protection, and

WHEREAS, an important mechanism for implementing the new river and stream buffer law is to assist farmers and landowners install buffers and maximize payment and opportunities for producers to put voluntary conservation practices on the ground and next to the water, and

WHEREAS, the program will be coordinated by a highly successful locally lead delivery system, centered on the strengths of Minnesota's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, while also utilizing other local partners, and

WHEREAS; the CREP and Rim Reserve Programs offer multiply benefits included improved water quality and additional habitat for birds and pollinators.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; that the Minnesota Conservation Federation meeting at its quarterly meeting on September 11, 2016 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota strongly urge the 2017 legislative session to invest generously in the CREP and RIM-Reserve Programs using a variety of sources.

Sponsored by United Northern Sportsmen's Club and Steve Maurice