

Minnesota Conservation Federation

Annual Meeting

September 13, 2015

Resolution #2

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Support of the Upper Pool 4 & Lake Pepin
Habitat Restoration Project

WHEREAS, Lake Pepin, as part of the Upper Mississippi River, has been on Minnesota's Impaired Waters List for turbidity since 2004, and

WHEREAS, the deposit of sediment in Lake Pepin has increased at an alarming rate and threatens the viability of the lake, and

WHEREAS, the highest concentration of migrating Common Mergansers in the world occurs on Lake Pepin in November, with counts of 20,000 – 70,000 each year, designating Lake Pepin as a globally important bird area, and

WHEREAS, Common Mergansers feed on the open water fish species in Lake Pepin, and

WHEREAS, concern over habitat loss and degradation in Upper Pool 4 near the head of Lake Pepin has been discussed off and on by state and federal agencies and stakeholders for over two decades, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Total Maximum Daily Load study calls for a decrease in internal sediment loading from wind and wave resuspension in Lake Pepin by fifty percent to help achieve submersed aquatic vegetation targets, and

WHEREAS, aquatic vegetation provides habitat for fish species and is very important as a food resource for migratory waterfowl, and

WHEREAS, the filling in of Lake Pepin has already limited access to small boats for fishing and recreation, and

WHEREAS, management actions proposed by state and federal agencies through the Environmental Pool Plans and other documents can reduce wind fetch to cut down on sediment re-suspension through the construction of islands, improve water quality, increase coverage of emergent vegetation, stabilize eroding shoreline, improve terrestrial habitat, and increase water depths in selected backwater sites, improving deep-water fish habitat and small boat navigation, and

WHEREAS, without implementation of proposed management actions, the head of Lake Pepin will be completely filled in with sediment by the end of the century, and the entire 26,000 acre lake will be filled within 340 years, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Conservation Federation at its annual meeting in St. Cloud, Minnesota on September 13, 2015 offer strong support for the

Upper Pool 4 & Lake Pepin Habitat Restoration Project by assisting with project education and outreach to MCF members and local, state, and federal elected officials.

Sponsored by Rylee Main and Lake City Sportsman's Club