

MINNESOTA CONSERVATION FEDERATION

QUARTERLY MEETING

September 11, 2016

Resolution #3

Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Water Pollution in Minnesota: Impaired waters everywhere

WHEREAS; the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 2016 added 318 lakes, rivers, and streams to the Impaired Waters list for failing to meet water quality standards, and

WHEREAS; the Impaired Waters list for the state now totals more than 4,600 impairments in lakes, rivers, and streams across minnesota, and

WHEREAS; 40 percent of all waters tested by the MPCA over the last decade are now considered “impaired”, and

WHEREAS; 304 stream sections and nine lakes are too polluted to fully support adequate fish and other aquatic life, and

WHEREAS; 87 bodies of water have heightened levels of phosphorous and associated imbalances that cause algae, and

WHEREAS, 83 water bodies are too contaminated with bacteria that are hazardous to human health and limit or prohibit swimming in these waters, and

WHEREAS, 78 bodies of water have elevated levels of mercury, a contaminant that can be harmful to humans and limit or prohibit consumption of fish from these impaired waters, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota’s ever growing impaired water list is being driven by agriculture runoff, septic system failures, urban storm water run-off, and numerous point source pollution producers, and

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Water Act, passed in 1972, says water should be drinkable, fishable, and swimmable, and

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; that the Minnesota Conservation Federation meeting at its annual meeting on September 11, 2016 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota strongly urge the 2017 Legislature and Governor to priority spending and bonding toward clean water projects and programs.

Sponsored by Bryan Sportman’s Club