

RESOLUTION #2023-__

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF A MIDWEST CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the future of fish and wildlife populations and their myriad of associated outdoor recreational opportunities and important public benefits hinges upon the success of state fish and wildlife agencies and partners to individually and collectively protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats across the Midwest landscape; and

WHEREAS, the capacity of state fish and wildlife agencies and partners to accomplish these goals rests in large part on the development of capable and effective professionals that can engage and build trust with others inside and outside of their organizations; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the National Conservation Leadership Institute has proven to be an effective leadership training model for the natural resource conservation management community at the national and executive-level; and

WHEREAS, through the development of the National Conservation Leadership Institute, participating natural resource professionals are better equipped to provide effective leadership and belong to a network that can engage on complex issues; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to continue their efforts to foster and support the development and enhancement of critical leadership skills amongst all levels of fish and wildlife management professionals across their member agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies endorses an effort to establish a team consisting of employees of member states to perform a needs assessment of a regional leadership program, in cooperation with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency's Management Assistance Team, National Conservation Leadership Institute staff, and/or US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center. The needs assessment will include identification and prioritization of the types of leadership skills that are needed for mid-level professionals in member agencies. The team will also provide examples of other existing programs that are similar in nature, including sample curriculum and cost for program implementation and maintenance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, once the needs assessment and accompanying information is completed and submitted, the Board of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will consider whether to move this initiative forward, and if so will determine next steps.