Pollinator Resolution

The undersigned recognize the critical importance of pollinator habitat both restored and maintained on public and private lands, particularly found within the St. Croix River Watershed and adjacent counties within Minnesota and Wisconsin. Through collaboration and outreach resulting from this Resolution an interconnected mosaic of pollinator habitat with large core areas will be developed to stabilize and/or increase populations of pollinator species throughout this project area.

WHEREAS, Pollinators include butterflies, bees, some birds, bats, and other insects that play a crucial role in flowering plant reproduction and given the breadth, severity and persistence of pollinator losses, it is critical to expand efforts to take new steps to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels;

WHEREAS, Monarch butterfly populations declined to the lowest recorded level in 2013-14, and there is an imminent risk of failed migration.

WHEREAS, Three-Fourths of the world's Flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollination to reproduce.

WHEREAS, The endangered Karner Blue Butterfly population blinked out in eastern Minnesota and Canada, and the western edge of the national population is current anchored within the St. Croix River Watershed.

WHEREAS, For migratory pollinators, such as bats, hummingbirds, and the monarch butterfly, we recognize the importance of identification and protection of our nectar corridor;

THEREFORE, we declare that it is our goal to collaboratively and strategically protect and enhance pollinator species and their habitat on public and private lands throughout the St. Croix River Watershed and adjacent counties within northwest Wisconsin and northeastern Minnesota by:

- *Increase and Improve Pollinator Habitat*: Identify existing pockets of pollinator habitat, and then develop a network of habitat on public and private lands to develop a nectar corridor for migratory and non-migratory pollinator species.
- *Public-Private Partnerships*: Develop strategic partnerships to improve or create habitat for pollinators as well as provide educational opportunities within the scope of the resolution;
- *Education*: Encouraging voluntary, collaborative and locally-led conservation that has proven to be effective in maintaining and enhancing working landscapes, this may include but is not limited to planting pollinator gardens, building bee blocks and avoiding or limiting pesticide use;
- *Education*: Provide educational opportunities (both government and non-government) to those interested in enhancing pollinators and pollinator habitat opportunities
- *Research*: Develop and/or promote citizen science opportunities for tracking key populations of pollinator species and habitat.