

**Conservation Federation of Missouri
2013 Resolutions**

Committee: Waterfowl and Wetlands

#16

Resolution's Author: David Graber and Mark Flaspohler

Appropriating funds for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act

1 **WHEREAS**, The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) was enacted
2 in 1989 as a way to incentivize non-federal contributions to wetland wildlife habitat in
3 North America; and,

4 **WHEREAS**, NAWCA program funding expired in September 2012, jeopardizing
5 22 years of progress restoring waterfowl and wetland habitat; and,

6 **WHEREAS**, Since enactment, NAWCA grants have leveraged more than \$3.5
7 billion in matching funds to deliver a total of over \$4.6 billion on 26.5 million acres of
8 on-the-ground conservation; and,

9 **WHEREAS**, These expenditures have created, on average, nearly 7,500 new jobs
10 annually in the United States, generating nearly \$200 million in worker earnings each
11 year; and,

12 **WHEREAS**, Wetlands store water and recharge aquifers, thus securing future
13 water supplies, purify water, remove high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, and in some
14 cases, remove toxic chemicals before entering the water supply; and,

15 **WHEREAS**, NAWCA projects also benefit other fish and wildlife species,
16 including rare, threatened, and endangered species that are dependent on wetland
17 ecosystems; and,

18 **WHEREAS**, The abundance of wildlife including many species of waterfowl, other

19 migratory birds, fish, and mammals supported by wetlands translates into multi-billion
20 dollar activities for Americans who enjoy hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and
21 photography; and,

22 **WHEREAS**, 23 NAWCA projects have either been completed or are underway in
23 Missouri, conserving more than 91,000 acres of wildlife habitat; and

24 **WHEREAS**, In Missouri NAWCA funding of over \$17.8 million stimulated
25 partner contributions of over \$88.1 million to protect and restore wetland habitat in
26 Missouri: now, therefore, be it

27 **RESOLVED**, That the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol
28 Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO this 24th day of February, 2013, urges the appropriate
29 members of the United States Congress to support appropriating the NAWCA Program at
30 a minimum of the FY13 enacted appropriation of \$35.5 million. As recently as FY10
31 NAWCA received \$47.6 million dollars.