RESOLUTION #1

REQUEST TO REQUIRE A 590 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN or PHOSPHORUS-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL LAND APPLICATIONS OF DOMESTIC SEWAGE SLUDGE AND INDUSTRIAL WASTES/BY-PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, Wisconsin surface waters are increasingly degraded by excess phosphorus runoff from all lands; and

WHEREAS, best management practices that reduce phosphorus runoff need to be implemented the same between agricultural, domestic, and industrial nutrient sources; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Conservation Practice Standard 590 - Nutrient Management (590) was changed in 2005 from a nitrogen-based nutrient application recommendation to a phosphorus-based nutrient application recommendation for varying soil test phosphorus levels; and

WHEREAS, current State of Wisconsin regulation, Chapter NR 204 and Chapter NR214, Wisconsin Administrative Code, requires domestic sewage sludge and industrial wastes/by-products be land applied using nitrogen-based recommendations, and does not require a 590 Nutrient Management Plan for any applications of domestic sewage sludge or industrial wastes/by-products to agricultural land; which results in land applications that often increase soil test phosphorus levels to the excessively high range; and

WHEREAS, agricultural land that has excessively high soil test phosphorus levels due to domestic sewage sludge or industrial waste/by-product applications at nitrogen-based recommendations has the potential to become a significant source of phosphorus runoff, and

WHEREAS, there should not be this inconsistency in State of Wisconsin regulation of nutrient applications to agricultural land based solely on nutrient source, i.e. agricultural vs. domestic and industrial.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that North Central Land and Water Conservation Association hereby requests that the State of Wisconsin amend Chapters NR 204 and NR 214 to require all land applications of domestic sewage sludge and industrial wastes/by-products, be made according to the 590 Nutrient Management standard, or be made according to phosphorus-based nutrient application recommendations if no 590 Nutrient Management Plan is required, so as to limit excessive phosphorus applications and reduce potential phosphorus runoff to Wisconsin surface waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we request the state to formulate a process to assembly the geospatial information for use in nutrient management planning. It is generally accepted that Geospatial information of permitted land application sites pursuant to Chapter NR 204, and Chapter NR214 is not readily available for planning purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to WI Land+Water Conservation Association, all State Legislators, the Governor, DATCP Secretary, DNR Secretary, WI Towns Association, and the WI Counties Association.

Adopted by the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association, David Solin, President, January 24, 2020