

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 10 (2014/15)**

Re: **Supporting National Marine Sanctuary in Wisconsin's Mid-Lake Michigan Maritime Trails Region**

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's Great Lakes contain some of the nation's most important natural, cultural, and recreational resources, and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Walker has recognized that tourism is a key component of economic development, and

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), in partnership with the Department of Administration's Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP), recommended that an 875-square mile area within the 2,552-square mile Mid-Lake Michigan region be considered for a national marine sanctuary in Wisconsin, and

**WHEREAS**, the "Mid-Lake region" contains 22 known shipwrecks and holds the best examples of many vessels that sailed Wisconsin waters, including 14 intact shipwreck sites, the two oldest shipwrecks discovered to date, both of which remain intact, and 12 wrecks listed on the National Register of Historic Places including the wreck of the *Phoenix* in 1847 off the coast of Sheboygan, resulting in the loss of as many as 250 lives, and

**WHEREAS**, the WHS, the WCMP, the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, and the citizens of the State have invested a quarter of a century in documenting, preserving, and celebrating Wisconsin's rich maritime heritage, and

**WHEREAS**, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program was established in 1972 under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, and today the program serves as the trustee for a system of 14 marine-protected areas encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of ocean and Great Lakes waters, and

**WHEREAS**, national marine sanctuaries draw regional, national, and international tourism, impact regional and local economies, support a wide variety of educational programs, protect nationally significant resources, and are featured and promoted in countless magazines, journals, books, and films, and

**WHEREAS**, a national marine sanctuary on Wisconsin's Mid-Lake Michigan shore would leverage the investment made by the State and mid-Lake Michigan harbor towns to enhance tourism as a key component of economic development in the State and this region, and

**WHEREAS**, no State or local matching funds on on-going operational support are required in order to establish a national marine sanctuary, and

**WHEREAS**, local resources and infrastructure may be used in partnership with NOAA to complement and enhance national marine sanctuary in the State, and

**WHEREAS**, NOAA re-activated the sanctuary nomination process such that communities can submit nominations for an area to be considered as a national marine sanctuary;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Sheboygan County supports the nomination to NOAA of a national marine sanctuary in this region, the County agrees to partner with our neighboring communities located within the Mid-Lake Region, and requests the Governor and our state representatives in the Senate and Assembly support the nomination of a national marine sanctuary on the western shores of Lake Michigan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk is directed to forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Walker, state and federal legislative representatives having constituencies in Sheboygan County, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and such other public officials as the Clerk may deem appropriate.

Respectfully submitted this 15th day of July, 2014.

Keith Abler  
Keith Abler

Kris Wheeler

Thomas Wegner

Richard C. Bemis

James P. Glavan

William C. Goehring

Brian C. Hoffmann

Charles W. Conrardy

Edward J. Procek

Roger R. Otten

Jack Van Dixhorn

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Al Bosman

Fran Damp

Fay Uraynar

Vernon Koch

Thomas V. Epping

Greg Weggeman

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_