

# **POLLINATOR PROTECTION RESOLUTION**

**A model for communities, cities, counties, state agencies, school districts**

*Promoting a healthy environment for pollinators, wildlife and people.*

**WHEREAS:** The importance of honey bees, wild bees and other pollinators for food, agriculture and ecosystem services cannot be understated; pollinators affect 35% of global agricultural land, supporting three out of four crops producing fruits or seeds for human use as food. Pollination services also provide food for other animals including wildlife; and are responsible for the pollination of key crops contributing over \$19 billion worth of services to U.S. agriculture; and

**WHEREAS:** Native pollinators internationally and in Minnesota are imperiled including federally endangered Poweshiek skipperling butterfly, Karner blue butterfly, Rusty-patched bumble bee, and federally threatened Dakota skipper butterfly, Yellow-banded bumble bee, and Monarch butterfly. In addition to federally listed species, Minnesota has 8 state-listed endangered pollinators species, 1 threatened, 10 species of special concern, and additional 19 non-listed species in greatest conservation need; and

**WHEREAS:** Research shows multiple interacting causes are contributors to the severe decline of pollinator populations including pathogens, habitat and biodiversity loss, climate change, exposure to pesticides, and synergistic effects of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides; and

**WHEREAS:** Bees and other pollinators became weakened due to lack of nutrition and loss of habitat since WWII when industrial agriculture mono-cropping and prolific use of pesticides became prominent; and

**WHEREAS:** Turf lawns dominate urban landscapes and provide no food or habitat for pollinators, and both urban and rural habitats are crucial for pollinator survival; and

**WHEREAS:** *The Worldwide Integrated Assessment*, a review of 1,121 studies conducted by the *Task Force on Systemic Pesticides*, plus the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's *Special Registration Review of Neonicotinoids*, both found that bees and other pollinators are threatened by exposure to pesticides, in particular systemic insecticides especially neonicotinoids; and

**WHEREAS:** The *Task Force on Systemic Pesticides* is comprised of 29 independent scientists commissioned by the *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)* and after four years of analysis of 800 peer reviewed reports (not industry funded) of systemic pesticides, neonicotinoids and fipronil found clear evidence of harm sufficient to call on all governments around the world to immediately regulate and restrict the use of the systemic insecticides especially neonicotinoids; and

**WHEREAS:** There is concern about the new systemic insecticides the pesticide industry will continue to develop that may be as dangerous or more dangerous than the current systemic insecticides such as neonicotinoids; and

**WHEREAS:** The *Task Force on Systemic Pesticides* in their *Worldwide Integrated Assessment Report* encourages farmers and land managers to replace pesticide use with sustainable growing techniques which can reduce risk to pollinators by helping to diversify the landscape and make use of ecological processes as part of food production and land management; and

**WHEREAS:** The United States EPA and Minnesota Department of Agriculture recommends increased use of *Integrated Pest Management* (IPM), an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests to mitigate harmful environmental impacts and protects pollinator and human health on private and government managed lands; and

**WHEREAS:** We find these actions to be in the public interest and demonstrates the City's commitment to a healthy environment for people and pollinators.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: (fill in your organization's title where "city" appears)**

The City shall promote healthy environments including food sources, clean water and habitat for pollinators through existing programs and new opportunities, on private and government managed lands.

The City shall conduct an inventory of all pesticides being used by the city and its contractors. This inventory will be reviewed and updated regularly.

The City shall develop and implement an *Integrated Pest Management* (IPM) plan to foster sustainable and least toxic methods and pose the least possible risk to pollinators, people, resources and the environment. IPM principles include: Inspection and monitoring for pests and plant health, forecasting and timing weather, setting reasonable thresholds that allow for some plant damage and pests, cultural controls, biological controls, and bio rational controls. Sustainable land management embraces: building soil health, conserving biodiversity, restoring native vegetation, and promoting composting.

The City, including its contractors, shall take immediate steps to eliminate the use of systemic insecticides, including neonicotinoids on trees, public property, green spaces and parks including the plants and plant products they purchase. The city shall also encourage citizens, community and businesses to do the same on public and private lands.

The City shall make special accommodations for endangered species such as the Poweshiek skipperling butterfly, Karner blue butterfly and Rusty-patched bumble bee according to the *Endangered Species Act* including prohibition of significant habitat modification or degradation that results in the direct killing or injury to listed animal species.

The City shall restore, enhance or plant new habitat using native plants that have not been treated with systemic insecticides and that provide succession blooming, aiming for pollen and nectar sources for pollinators throughout growing seasons.

The city shall encourage and allow citizens and community to participate in pollinator conservation programs and gardening on public and private lands.

The City shall appoint a person to coordinate actions of this resolution to include public awareness program, habitat enhancement plan, Integrated Pest Management plan, communication across departments, and a brief annual report.

The City shall support efforts to educate the broader community about the pollinator protection actions it has taken, and the importance of creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitat.

The City shall transmit copies of this resolution to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, The Governor

of Minnesota, Local State Representatives and Senators, U.S. Representatives and Senators, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Contributors: Humming for Bees, Pesticide Action Network, Pollinate Minnesota, Pollinator Friendly Alliance 4/2017.  
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