

RESOLUTION NO. 11786

CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING "POLLINATOR SAFE" POLICIES AND PRACTICES,
PROMOTING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR PEOPLE AND POLLINATORS**

WHEREAS, threats to pollinators concern the entire food system, where pollination provided by honey bees and other essential pollinators account for one in every three bites of food, responsible for the pollination of key crops, including fruits, nuts, berries, melons and many others, and contributing over \$19 billion worth of services to U.S. agriculture; and

WHEREAS, pollinators including butterflies, honeybees, bumblebees, and native bees are facing annual declines in excess of what is considered normal due to habitat loss, pesticide use, pathogens and parasites; and

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

WHEREAS, scientific evidence around neonicotinoid insecticides including clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid is especially compelling and deserves action; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoid insecticides that are harmful to pollinators are harmful to other invertebrates, birds, and aquatic animals.

WHEREAS, we find these actions to be in the public interest and demonstrates the city's commitment to a healthy community environment for people as well as pollinators.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of White Bear Lake:

- 1) The City of White Bear Lake encourages healthy environments including food sources, clean water and shelter for pollinators through existing programs and new opportunities.
- 2) The City of White Bear Lake, including its contractors, will preferentially use safe alternatives to pollinator-harming pesticides, and in particular shall cease the use of neonicotinoid and systemic insecticides where possible on city property; and will consider the use of plants or plant seeds that have not been treated with neonicotinoids or systemic insecticides in its new plantings.
- 3) The City of White Bear Lake will preferentially use plants and seeds favorable to pollinators and free of systemic insecticides on city properties and land, and enable citizens to contribute to the efforts of the White Bear Lake Public Works Department by planting and maintaining pollinator plantings on city property.

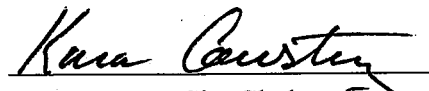
- 4) The City of White Bear Lake will support efforts to educate the broader community about the action it has taken, the importance of creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitat and encourage residents and businesses to use similar pollinator friendly practices.
- 5) The City of White Bear Lake will post copies of this resolution on the city's website and will periodically publish a Pollinator Friendly Activities Report.
- 6) The City of White Bear Lake will transmit copies of this resolution to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Governor, Local Senators and Representatives, Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The foregoing resolution, offered by Councilmember **Jones** and supported by Councilmember **Biehn**, was declared carried on the following vote:

Ayes: Biehn, Edberg, Engstran, Jones, Walsh
Nays: None
Passed: April 12, 2016


Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kara Coustry, City Clerk

Definitions:

1. **Pollinators**
Including native bees, bumblebees, honey bees, birds, bats, butterflies, moths, beetles, and many beneficial insects, tree frogs, and small mammals.
2. **Pollination**
Pollination occurs when pollen is moved within flowers or carried from flower to flower to fertilize and produce fruit and seed in flowers, vegetables, shrubs, and trees.
3. **Pollinator friendly**
Practices that support and increase the pollinator population.
4. **Pollinator friendly plants and seeds**
A plant or seed with attributes that attract pollinators and has not been treated with pesticides.
5. **Pesticides**
An umbrella term for insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides.
6. **Systemic Insecticides**
Systemic insecticides, including neonicotinoids and fipronil, are chemicals that are absorbed by a plant when applied to seeds, soil, or leaves. The chemicals then circulate through the plant's tissues, making the leaves, roots, stems, nectar, and pollen toxic to the insects that feed on them.
7. **Neonicotinoids (include but not limited to acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, sulfoxaflor, thiamethoxam)**
A class of neonicotinoidal systemic insecticides that are taken up by a plant and transported to its leaves, flowers, roots, stems, pollen and nectar and remain active and accumulate in the soil or plant for up to three years. Neonicotinoids are neurotoxins that cause damage to bees and other beneficial insects that also cause impaired memory, altered feeding behavior, difficulty in flight, and death. They impact pollinators and a wide range of beneficial species in soil, vegetation, aquatic and marine habitats.
8. **Fipronil**
A chemical widely used for turf pest control incorporated in more than 50 pest-killing products and is highly toxic to bees.