

RESOLUTION 2016-0412

TOWN OF LA POINTE, WI

SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF A NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY IN THE GREATER CHEQUAMEGON BAY REGION OF LAKE SUPERIOR

WHEREAS: Lake Superior contains 10% of the world's freshwater and some of the nation's most significant and unspoiled marine natural and cultural resources and scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS: The Greater Chequamegon Bay Region, an area between Port Wing and the mouth of the Montreal River, contains a significant concentration of these cultural and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Lake Superior marine resources first brought the Lake Superior Ojibwe Nation (Anishinaabe) to the Greater Chequamegon Bay Region, and later attracted fur traders, subsistence and commercial fishermen, loggers, and farmers, thereby creating a rich cross-cultural marine heritage that continues to connect and support communities today; and

WHEREAS: the Greater Chequamegon Bay Region contains unprecedented submerged natural and ecological resources with sacred meaning to Anishinaabe indigenous people that continue to provide subsistence and support traditional uses that have spanned thousands of years and have supported maritime travel and commerce by indigenous and non-indigenous people; and

WHEREAS: the Greater Chequamegon Bay Region contains as many as 21 shipwrecks, including 9 on the National Register of Historic Places, and is recognized by the Wisconsin Historical Society's Maritime Trail Initiative as having the greatest concentration of these sites within Wisconsin's Lake Superior waters; and

WHEREAS: The Greater Chequamegon Bay Region encompasses critical marine habitats that sustain marine species that are culturally, biologically, and commercially important not only to this area but all of Lake Superior, and to both the U.S. and Canada; and

WHEREAS: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently initiated a process for communities to nominate their most treasured places in the marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS); and

WHEREAS: NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries preserve extraordinary scenic beauty, biodiversity, historic connections, and economic productivity of the nation's most precious underwater treasures for future generations, and foster an understanding of our country's maritime heritage and landscape; and

WHEREAS: the establishment of the Greater Chequamegon Bay Region NMS will recognize Lake Superior's extraordinary marine cultural and natural resources and leverage investments made by local, state, and federal agencies, tribal governments, private and non-profit entities, and educational institutions through development and promotion of educational programs, historic maritime museums, parks, and cultural monuments, lighthouses, and marine-based recreation thereby enhancing tourism as a key component of economic development for this region and the state; and

WHEREAS: the Greater Chequamegon Bay Region NMS will create opportunities for marine science research and public educational outreach thereby enhancing understanding of the cultural and environmental importance of Great Lakes marine environments through application of science, technology, engineering, and traditional ecological knowledge; and

WHEREAS: the Greater Chequamegon Bay Region NMS will become a tourist destination, contributing to the local economy by attracting fishermen, divers, snorkelers, boaters, maritime enthusiasts, and tourists who enjoy its diverse natural and cultural maritime resources; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Chequamegon Bay Region NMS offers unique opportunities for partnership and collaborations among state and federal agencies and tribal governments, for maritime research, education outreach, and conservation; and

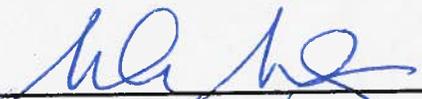
WHEREAS: local resources and infrastructure may be offered in partnership with NOAA to complement and enhance an NMS, but no state or local matching funds or on-going operational support are required in order to nominate or establish a NMS;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of La Pointe agrees to partner with our neighboring counties and communities to support the nomination of the Greater Chequamegon Bay Region NMS along the shores and waters of Bayfield, Ashland, and Iron Counties.

Dated this 12th day of April, 2016



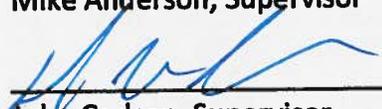
James Patterson, Chairman



Attest, Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk



Mike Anderson, Supervisor

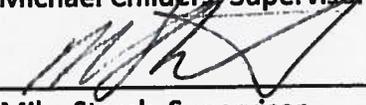


John Carlson, Supervisor

Posted on April 13, 2016



Michael Childers, Supervisor



Mike Starck, Supervisor