

(Model) POLLINATOR PROTECTION RESOLUTION

for city, county, township, school district, agency

Promoting a healthy environment for bees, pollinators, beneficial insects and people too.

WHEREAS: Globally, bees and other pollinators are responsible for at least a third of the food humans eat and their 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: *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 including neonicotinoids and fipronil; 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: *The Task Force on Systemic Pesticides* is comprised by 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, neonicotinoids and fipronil; and

WHEREAS: There is concern that the pesticide industry will continue to develop new systemic pesticides that might be as dangerous or more dangerous than the current systemic pesticides; and

WHEREAS: Bees and other pollinators have become weakened due to lack of nutrition since WWII when mono-cropping and herbicide use became prominent; and

WHEREAS: *The Task Force on Systemic Pesticides* in their WIA report encourages farmers and other stewards of the land to replace pesticide use with sustainable growing techniques such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic practices instead of pesticides; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- The (county, city, township, school district, agency) promotes healthy environments including food sources, clean water and habitat for pollinators through existing programs and new opportunities.
- The City, including its contractors, shall take immediate steps to eliminate the use of systemic insecticides, including neonicotinoids and fipronil on trees, public property and parks including the plants and plant products they purchase. The city shall encourage citizens and businesses to do the same on their property.
- The City will immediately conduct an inventory of all pesticides being used by the city and its contractors. This inventory will be reviewed and updated with the least toxic methods as part of the Integrated Pest Management System plan.
- The City shall restore and increase habitat to include native plants with succession blooming, aiming for pollen and nectar sources throughout pollinator seasons. The city shall encourage and allow citizens and residents to participate in pollinator programs and gardening.
- The City shall take immediate steps to learn or improve and implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan and sustainable land management practices. IMP is a land management strategy that emphasizes least possible disruption to ecosystems and controlling pests with chemical use as a last resort. Practices and principles include: Inspection and monitoring plant health and pests, forecasting and timing weather, pest trapping, reasonable thresholds that allow for plant damage and pests, cultural controls, biological controls, and organic chemical controls. Sustainable land management embraces: building soil health, conserving biodiversity, restoring native vegetation, and promoting composting.
- The City shall assign or appoint a person to oversee and encourage actions of this resolution to include an annual report, public awareness, habitat installation and communication across departments.
- The City shall publish a yearly report, during the anniversary month of this resolution, to its citizens and staff regarding the city's progress during the past year and goals for the upcoming year.
- The City 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 protection practices.
- The City shall transmit copies of this resolution to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, The Governor of Minnesota, 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.