



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Rep. John Nygren, Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee
Rep. Amy Loudenbeck, Member, Joint Finance Committee

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JFC REPUBLICANS CONTINUE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

MADISON—On Friday, Republican leaders on the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) announced their plan to continue the land acquisition authority of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. Assembly Co-chair of the state’s budget-writing Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette) and Rep. Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton) unveiled a plan to modify the program to continue land purchases and sales, and improve the program’s overall sustainability.

Under the governor’s budget recommendation, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wouldn’t have been able to continue land purchases through Wisconsin’s Stewardship Program for 13 years. This proposal drew a lot of attention from stakeholders, conservationists, and sportsmen and women statewide.

Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) made it a priority to continue the Stewardship program’s land acquisition authority while implementing a conservative plan for financial sustainability. Now, the program’s overall debt will be reduced by about \$140 million over the next 20 years.

“Our plan for the DNR maintains the department’s ability to use our state’s Stewardship program to acquire land while remaining fiscally responsible,” said Rep. Nygren. “This is great news for Wisconsin’s sportsmen and women. Hunting, fishing, and other outdoor sports are an important piece of our state’s economy. It’s essential that we continue this program for the benefit of Wisconsin’s sporting tradition.”

“I am confident that our proposal will allow for the purchase of the “best of the best” land and easements to further the original intent of the Stewardship program,” added Rep. Loudenbeck.

When the JFC is finished with their portion of the budget process, the entire budget bill is taken up by both Houses in the Legislature. Once the bill is passed by the Assembly and the Senate, the budget is delivered to the governor for his signature.

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