

CITY OF ALGOMA
COUNTY OF KEWAUNEE
STATE OF WISCONSIN

COMMON COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 995 – 2019

**A RESOLUTION RELATING TO SUPPORTING INCLUSION
OF KEWAUNEE COUNTY'S COASTAL AREAS AS PART OF A
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY IN WISCONSIN'S MID-LAKE REGION**

WHEREAS, The *Daniel Lyons*, a schooner built at a cost of \$27,000 at Oswego, New York in 1873, departed from Chicago, Illinois on October 17, 1878, bound for Black Rock, New York, and in the early morning hours of the next day off from the coast of Algoma, Wisconsin, the *Daniel Lyons* spotted the running lights of the *Kate Gillett*, a schooner that was carrying fence posts from Cedar River, Michigan to Chicago, when the *Kate Gillett* began moving erratically, and it became apparent that the vessels were about to collide, the *Daniel Lyons* made a desperate, but unsuccessful evasive move, permitting the *Kate Gillett* to strike the *Daniel Lyons* in the side, pushing her stem nearly halfway through the hull, with the two vessels remained locked together for around fifteen minutes, when crew members from the foundering *Daniel Lyons* finally boarded the other ship, the two ships broke apart; and

WHEREAS, Despite being badly damaged, the *Kate Gillett* began her journey to Chicago again with both crews working at a vigorous pace to keep the ship afloat, making it to port the next day, while the *Daniel Lyons* sank bow first, into Lake Michigan off the coast of Algoma, Wisconsin, and now forms a shipwreck site that was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2007; and

WHEREAS, The Mid-Lake region of Lake Michigan, commonly referred to as the "Schooner Coast," contains an extraordinary collection of nationally significant shipwrecks, including 15 of these shipwrecks listed on the National Register of Historic Places, along with 30 other documented shipwrecks, which lie in waters off the coast of Kewaunee County, 2 of which are on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, Nearly one-quarter of the documented shipwrecks lie in less than 20 feet of water making them popular with scuba divers because of their structural integrity and accessibility, as their remains are clearly visible on the lake bottom, thus making the Mid-Lake region of Lake Michigan an outstanding choice for a new National Marine Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, A new Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary would be invaluable in telling the cultural history of the Mid-Lake region of Lake Michigan including human settlement patterns, commercial fishing, lumbering, mining, shipbuilding, and maritime transportation that still serves agricultural and industrial entities today; and

WHEREAS, A National Marine Sanctuary that includes Kewaunee County would build upon the historically significant Algoma Pierhead Light, that is in close proximity to Algoma's highly popular Crescent Beach and Boardwalk, the Ahnapee Trail a unit of the Wisconsin State Park System, and the world class sport fishing industry in Algoma; and

WHEREAS, The Mid-Lake region of Lake Michigan, including Kewaunee County, is comprised of sand beaches, freshwater sand dunes, steep bluffs, Niagara limestone formations, prairies, and wetlands that support a wide variety of life; and

WHEREAS, The City of Algoma understands that the natural resources in the Mid-Lake region of Lake Michigan, including Kewaunee County, are part of a rich, bio-diverse ecosystem that supports one of the largest spawning populations of indigenous lake trout and serves as an important flyway for migratory birds that traverse Canada, the U.S., Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, A new Lake Michigan Marine Sanctuary would support and promote a wide range of youth and adult educational activities that will enhance the cultural and historical understanding of this region; and

WHEREAS, Tourism in Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Counties constitutes more than \$400 million per year in visitor spending and supports more than 7,400 full-time equivalent jobs generating more than \$675 million, and \$50 million in state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS, A new Lake Michigan Marine Sanctuary would further enhance local, state, national and international tourism; and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Historical Society, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, and the citizens of the State have invested a quarter of a century in documenting, preserving, and celebrating Wisconsin's maritime heritage; and


WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Historical Society, in partnership with the Department of Administration's Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, recommended that an 875-square mile area within the 2,552-square mile Mid-Lake Michigan region be considered for a national marine sanctuary in Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Algoma, duly assembled on this 2nd day of December, 2019, enthusiastically supports: (1) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) nominating a national marine sanctuary in the Mid-Lake region of Lake Michigan, and (2) encourages the inclusion of Kewaunee County's coastal areas in this marine sanctuary designation.

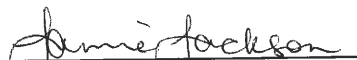
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to forward copies of this resolution to the United States Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Members of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation, Governor Evers, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the Director of Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Legislators having constituencies in Kewaunee County, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, and such others as may be deemed appropriate.

ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF ON THE 2ND DAY OF DECEMBER, 2019, BY A VOTE OF 7 FOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

Approved:


Wayne R. Schmidt,
Mayor of the City of Algoma

Attest:


Jamie Jackson,
Clerk of the City of Algoma