



**Kinnickinnic  
River Land Trust**  
Conservation  
Community  
Education

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 2, 2015**

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### **KINNICKINNIC RIVER LAND TRUST SUPPORTS PROCESS LEADING TO REMOVAL OF RIVER FALLS DAMS** Land Trust Submits Resolution to City Council

**(January 2, 2015 – River Falls, WI)** – The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) recently adopted a resolution regarding the River Falls hydroelectric dams that encourages the City of River Falls to “pursue a process leading to the removal of the dams for the health of the river, for the benefit of the River Falls community, and to help ensure a free-flowing cold water natural resource for years to come.” The resolution was unanimously approved by the KRLT Board of Directors on December 3<sup>rd</sup> as part of its participation in the City’s ongoing application process to relicense the hydroelectric dams. The resolution was shared with Mayor Dan Toland and the City Council following a December 9<sup>th</sup> City Council workshop to evaluate options to the current relicensing process.

KRLT Conservation Committee Chair Hal Watson emphasizes that *“the spirit and content of the resolution are based on KRLT’s longstanding mission to work with the community to conserve and protect the beauty and health of the Kinnickinnic River and its watershed.”* The KRLT Strategic Plan also includes an organizational vision whereby *“we see a cold, clean and free-flowing river”*. Watson added that, *“existing information reviewed as part of the relicensing process thus far suggests that the dams and their impoundments compromise a cold, clean and free-flowing river in many ways.”*

In his comments and transmittal letter to Mayor Toland and the City Council, KRLT Executive Director Dave Fodroczi stated that *“we offer this resolution as a partner in community conservation. We have historically cooperated with the City of River Falls on land protection, KinniRiverCleanUp, stormwater management policy and environmental education. We look forward to serving as one of many conservation partners with you to carefully plan and implement the removal of the dams and the restoration of the Kinni through the City of River Falls. The outcomes could be nothing short of a renaissance for the Kinni and the heart of River Falls.”*

The **Kinnickinnic River** is a nationally recognized *Class I* Trout Stream located in Pierce and St. Croix counties in west-central Wisconsin. The river is 22 miles long, its watershed covers 170 square miles, and it drains into the St. Croix River, a federally designated wild and scenic river.

The **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust** is a membership organization whose mission is to work with the community to conserve and protect the beauty and health of the Kinnickinnic River and its watershed. Learn more at [www.kinniriver.org](http://www.kinniriver.org) or visit KRLT’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/kinniriver>.



KINNICKINNIC  
River Land Trust

We work with the community to conserve and protect the beauty  
and health of the Kinnickinnic River and its watershed.

December 12, 2014

Mayor Dan Toland  
City Council Members  
222 Lewis Street  
River Falls, WI 54022

RE: Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) Resolution Number 20141203-1  
To Support a Process Leading to the Removal of the River Falls Dams

Dear Mayor Toland and City Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to observe your Council Workshop on hydroelectric relicensing and participate in the Public Comment portion of your City Council meeting this past Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. As I mentioned during my comments, I am submitting the attached resolution that was unanimously adopted by the KRLT Board of Directors on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for your consideration as you proceed with your ongoing review and consideration of hydroelectric facility options.

Our Board's unanimous approval of this resolution and the position it articulates for the KRLT are based on our longstanding mission to "work with the community to conserve and protect the beauty and health of the Kinnickinnic River and its watershed". The Strategic Plan that we adopted in 2013 also updated our KRLT vision whereby "we see a cold, clean and free-flowing river". We have learned over the last year as we have thoughtfully participated in the First Stage Consultation of the relicensing process that existing information suggests that the dams and their impoundments compromise a "cold, clean and free-flowing" river in many ways.

As I indicated in my comments to you on Tuesday night, we offer this resolution as a partner in community conservation. We have historically cooperated with the City of River Falls on land protection, KinniRiverCleanUp, stormwater management policy and environmental education. We look forward to serving as one of many conservation partners with you to carefully plan and implement the removal of the dams and the restoration of the Kinni through the City of River Falls. We recognize and respect that this issue represents a challenging opportunity for you as City elected officials, and we offer to help in any way we can. The outcomes could be nothing short of a renaissance for the Kinni and the heart of River Falls.

Thank you again for your consideration of the attached resolution and the opportunity to engage in the process. Please let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to continuing as your community conservation partner.

Sincerely,

Dave Fodroczi,  
Executive Director

pc: Scot Simpson, Kevin Westhuis, Ray French

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River Falls, WI

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**KINNICKINNIC RIVER LAND TRUST, INC.  
RESOLUTION NUMBER 20141203-1**

**TO SUPPORT A PROCESS LEADING TO THE REMOVAL OF THE RIVER FALLS DAMS**

Whereas the mission of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) is to “work with the community to conserve and protect the beauty and health of the Kinnickinnic River and its watershed”; and

Whereas as part of the vision of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) is that “we see a cold, clean, and free-flowing river”; and

Whereas the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust is committed to a cold water resource, and it has become clear based on scientific evidence that the dams on the Kinnickinnic River within the City of River falls are causing the river's summer temperature below the dams to increase, and

Whereas the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust is committed to a clean river resource, and it has become clear from simple observation that the dams on the Kinnickinnic River within the City of River Falls have diminished the ecological integrity of the river and are causing algae blooms in the waters of the impoundments, and this diminished water quality is noticeable both within the city and downstream in the summer, and

Whereas the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust is committed to a free-flowing river, and by definition the dams on the Kinnickinnic River impede the free flow of water and diminish the beauty of the natural falls buried below them. Recent and historic water-stage and discharge data show that the City has not been able to maintain “run-of-the-river” conditions as required by their current license, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, Inc. (KRLT) headquartered at 265 Mound View Road, Suite C, PO Box 87, River Falls, Wisconsin 54022 hereby concludes that the City of River Falls hydroelectric facility should pursue a process leading to the removal of the dams for the health of the river, for the benefit of the River Falls community, and to help ensure a free-flowing cold water natural resource for years to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the KRLT authorizes the Conservation Committee, with support from the Executive Director and in coordination with other stakeholders, to cooperate with any and all efforts by the City of River Falls to remove the dams and restore the Kinnickinnic River.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, Inc. on the 3rd day of December, 2014 pursuant to Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, Inc. bylaws.

Authorized signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Typed or printed name: Robert W. Chambers

Title: President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8 Dec 2014