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NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

BRIEF OF ACTION

For meeting at:
Room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2)
101 South Webster Street
Madison, Wisconsin

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, in Room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. for action on items 1-3 and 6-7. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

William Bruins – present Gary Zimmer – present
Christine Thomas – present Jane Wiley – present
Terry Hilgenberg – present Preston Cole – present
Greg Kazmierski – present

1.B. Approval of agenda for April 8, 2015

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED approval of the April 8, 2015 agenda, seconded by Mr. Zimmer. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Cole congratulated Kurt Thiede on his promotion to Department Deputy Secretary.

1.C. Approval of Brief of Action from February 25, 2015

Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval of the February 25, 2015 Brief of Action, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Cole welcomed department staff from Project LEAD who were in attendance to observe the Board's proceedings today as part of their leadership development program.

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary
- 2.A. Real Estate Transactions

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski of the Real Estate Transactions. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Action Items
- 3.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement
- 3.A.1. Request authorization for public hearings for Board Order WT-31-10, proposed rules affecting chapter NR-106 related to the calculation of water quality based effluent limitations for the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit program regulating wastewater discharges **REMOVED**
- 3.A.2. Request authorization for public hearings for Board Order WT-11-12, proposed rules affecting chapters NR-106, 205, and 212 relating to the administration of the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit program regulating wastewater discharges **REMOVED**
- 3.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife
- 3.B.1. Request adoption of Emergency Board Order FH-17-14(E), proposed rules affecting chapters NR-20 and 23 related to modifications in walleye harvest management in Ceded Territory waters

Public Appearances:

1. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair. He spoke in support of the department's recommendation. The Congress looks forward to continuing to work closely with both the DNR and the tribes on future conservation efforts. **(Handout)**
2. **George Meyer**, Madison, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as Executive Director. He spoke in support of the department's recommendation and applauded the department for working with Ojibwa tribes for a resolution to this issue. He then spoke in support of recommendations to be presented by Chris McGeshick, GLIFWC (speaker #3).
3. **Chris McGeshick**, Crandon, representing Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa as Chair and Voigt Intertribal Task Force of GLIFWC as Vice-Chair. He questioned the emergency status of the proposed rule. He recommended that the department 1) increase state angler accountability by instituting appropriate monitoring and enforcement, 2) adopt mechanisms to respond quickly to changing circumstances, and 3) design the length regulations imposed for each water body to achieve the benchmark of three adult spawning walleye per acre. He also questioned why the pulse fishing rule (stipulation of court decision Judge Crabb instituted) was not included in the rule package.

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Bruins of the department's recommendations.

Dr. Thomas stated that staff requested that she read into the record the department's amendment proposal.

Minor amendments to proposed FH-17-14(E)

The Department requests four minor amendments to the proposed Emergency Board Order FH-17-14(E). These amendments correct drafting errors and clarify proposed code, and are important for implementing the appropriate lake-specific management strategy for the specific waters affected.

- 1) Lake Metonga in Forest County should remain at the current 18-inch minimum size limit rather than switching to the protected slot limit regulation (minimum size limit of 15 inches, except walleye between 20 and 24 inches may not be kept and only 1 walleye larger than 24 inches may be kept).

NR 20.20 (21) FOREST (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Crane lake, <u>Franklin lake</u> , <u>Hilbert lake</u> , <u>Jungle lake</u> , Lucerne lake, <u>Metonga lake</u> , Pickerel lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
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- 2) Benson, Sturgeon, and Vance lakes, wide areas of the Manitowish River in Iron and Vilas counties, should be added to the description of the Manitowish River in code.

NR 20.20 (26) IRON (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub.

(73))

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	5. Wilson lake Bear river, Flambeau river upstream of Turtle-Flambeau flowage, Little Turtle river, Manitowish river (including <u>Benson lake</u> , <u>Sturgeon lake</u> , and <u>Vance lake</u>), Trude lake, Turtle-Flambeau flowage	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 <u>3</u> in total	None
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NR 20.20 (64) VILAS (for species or waters not listed see sub. (73))

(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	5. Big Crooked (T42N R6E S12) , Jenny lake, Sanford lake, Bear river, Manitowish river (including <u>Benson lake</u> , <u>Sturgeon lake</u> , and <u>Vance lake</u>)	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 <u>3</u> in total	None
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- 3) Squirrel Lake in Oneida County should remain at the current no minimum size limit, but 1 fish may be greater than 14 inches regulation rather than moving to no minimum size limit except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 inches is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 18 inches.

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	<p>1. Three lakes chain (includes Big, Big Fork, Big Stone, Crystal, Deer, Dog, Fourmile, Island, Laurel, Little Fork, Long, Medicine, Moccasin, Planting Ground, Rangeline, Round, Spirit, Townline, Virgin and Whitefish lakes, all connecting waters and Eagle river downstream to Vilas county line the Long Lake (Burnt Rollways) dam), Alva, Bearskin lake, Buckskin lake, Buffalo, Crescent lake, Diamond, George lake, Hasbrook lake, Katherine lake, Lost (T38N R9E S24), Mercer lake, Moen chain including Moen, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth lakes and connecting waters; Muskellunge, Oneida lake, Pine (T37N R9E S4), Soo, Squash and Squirrel lakes and Sugar Camp chain including Dam, Sand, Echo, Chain and Stone (T39N R9E S32) lakes and connecting waters <u>Squirrel lake</u></p>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	<p>5 in total but only 1 may be longer than 14" <u>3 in total</u></p>	<p>None except <u>only 1 fish may be longer than 14</u></p>
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- 4) Shawano Lake in Shawano County and Spread Eagle Chain of lakes in Florence County are not in the Ceded Territory. The proposed rule changes for these waters are on the 2015 spring hearing questionnaire, and should continue through that rule making process. We request that the board remove the changes proposed for those waters from this emergency rule.

(END)

Dr. Thomas MOVED to approve the department's amendment proposal, seconded by Mr. Bruins. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Cole requested that department staff respond to Tribal Chair McGeshick's issues.

Steve Hewett, Fisheries Management and Policy Section Chief, responded to Chair McGeshick's issues and recommendations.

Discussion followed on whether the department is switching people towards walleye lakes, whether the department should involve lake associations to assist in monitoring efforts (e.g. creel surveys) on local lakes since locals usually do not

use boat landings, whether the 70 lakes now in the “1 fish over 14” category had been in an all size category, clarification of how the department’s ability to close a lake would work, and clarification of how the emergency rule process works.

Mr. Hilgenberg encouraged the department to utilize lake associations and other local resources to aid in monitoring efforts.

Discussion continued on clarification of why this came through as an emergency rule; whether the simple explanation for an emergency was to get it on the books prior to the opening of fishing, harvest levels for tribes, and whether the tribes want the pulse rule to go away [Yes, but right now it is part of a court-ordered stipulation.].

Chandra Harvey, Department Attorney, in reference to the discussion on the pulse rule stated that this is an issue that the department needs to explore more fully with the tribes. Based on the research she has done, they believe this is part of a court decision and not part of the stipulations. That does tie the department’s hands in terms of the options the department would have to address it.

Discussion continued on monitoring and the need for the department to obtain more data information [e.g. voluntary call-in and on-line daily walleye harvest reporting], and whether comments from locals regarding the Minocqua and Tomahawk catch and release season are supportive [Yes, locals were supportive as they want to see the fishery improve.].

Deputy Secretary Thiede stated the department will continue dialog with the tribes as they work on this and many other issues this year. He pointed out that this is an emergency rule and it will be followed-up with a permanent rule with more opportunity for dialog. For enforcement, he has the utmost confidence in Chief Warden Todd Schaller and his staff as well as our GLIFWC counterparts in enforcing new regulations. For the Minocqua chain, he commented on the tremendous grass roots support for that proposal and the local push for ownership in this issue. Finally, he heard loud and clear about surveying and the department will take a close look at the options and alternatives.

Dr. Thomas requested the Board receive a report at the time the permanent rule comes before them on the enforcement plan, education plan, and monitoring plan.

Discussion followed on the permanent rule timeline [Goal is to have the rule in place for next spring.].

The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.2. Request approval of a ten year plan for wild turkey management

Discussion followed on whether the department is planning to bolster the food supply in the winter so a hard winter does not cut the wild turkey population in half, compliments on a really nice and reader friendly document, whether artificial habitat (e.g. food plots, cattle feed lots, bird feeders, manure) kept the birds alive over the harsh winter, confusing statements in the executive summary – it states continued population growth but in summary comments it states turkey populations have stabilized statewide and so on and then talks about nuisance populations – he does not see a population goal.

Mr. Kazmierski stated one thing that is missing is the fiscal cost side of things for the public to see so they can understand these success stories and how they work. He requested that it be added as an addendum to show where these turkey revenues are going (e.g. deer habitat, prairie chicken) in the future.

Public Appearances:

1. **Rick Horton**, Grand Rapids, MN, representing National Wild Turkey Federation as Regional Biologist. He spoke in support of the department's recommendation. They feel like they have been an active and valued partner in the process. **(Handout)**
2. **Ralph Fritsch**, Townsend, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as Chair of the Wildlife Committee. He spoke in strong support of the department's recommendation. The program was well run by Scott Walter and was based on sound science.
3. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair. He spoke in support of the department's recommendation. The Congress has been happy to have been involved in this process. This is a remarkable success story.

Mr. Terry Hilgenberg MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Bruins of the department's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.3. Request approval of department recommendations to issue a Stewardship grant that will prohibit at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) on non-department land: City of Green Bay, Brown County

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval.

Public Appearances:

1. **Dan Ditscheit**, City of Green Bay, representing City of Green Bay Parks Department. He spoke in support of the department's recommendations and noted that the City of Green Bay manages a bow hunting program. **(Handout)**

Seconded by Ms. Wiley of the department's recommendations.

Mr. Hilgenberg requested that a better job be done on directions and mapping locations in the future. He encouraged Board support on this item.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.4. Request approval of department recommendations to issue a Stewardship grant that will prohibit at least two nature-based outdoor activities (NBOA) on non-department land: City of Reedsburg, Sauk County

Public Appearances:

1. **Matt Scott**, City of Reedsburg, representing City of Reedsburg as Parks and Recreation Director. He spoke in support of the department's recommendation.

Discussion followed on whether any improvements on this property will be at the city's expense [Yes.].

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Zimmer of the department's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.5. ~~Request approval of the proposed amendments to the Columbia County Planning Group Master Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement for the preferred site for the Columbia County Shooting Range on Mud Lake Wildlife Area~~
REMOVED

- 3.B.6. Land Exchange – Nine Mile Island State Natural Area, Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area – Pepin and Dunn Counties

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg of the department's recommendations.

Mr. Hilgenberg mentioned he discussed this with staff as well and strongly supports approval.

Discussion followed on whether it is standard practice to obtain one appraisal for an exchange, and a comment that the state does not have to own the land to control the use of the property with retention of a conservation easement.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.7. Land Acquisition – Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area – Burnett County

Public Appearances:

1. **Dick Sandve**, Grantsburg, representing Friends of Crex as board member. He presented a brief history and accomplishments of the Friends of Crex, the

history of the land acquisition fund, and the value of this property to the ongoing mission of Friends of Crex and the DNR.

Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski of the department's recommendations and to acknowledge the donation.

Mr. Hilgenberg stated his concerns on the appraisal and purchase price were addressed by staff. His other concern on such a large project was access. The expansive road network as explained to him is fantastic.

The motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Secretary Thiede presented a plaque to Mr. Sandve in acknowledgement of their hard work and support.

3.C. Scope Statements

- 3.C.1. Request approval of the Statement of Scope for Board Order WY-19-14 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse, for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 111 related to cooling water intake structures

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski of the department's recommendations.

Mr. Bruins expressed his irritation at the US EPA that they are proposing to add a cost to our state businesses of approximately \$15 million per year to save approximately \$400,000 - \$500,000 of fingerlings a year for the next 50 years. From a cost benefit standpoint it makes no sense. The businesses could better replace the fingerlings that are raised in a hatchery.

Mr. Rasmussen, Water Division Administrator, pointed out that much of this is driven by court order, court stipulations, and lawsuits.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Citizen Participation

4.A. Citizen Appearances

Public Appearances:

1. Anita Martin, Lake Mills, representing self and Citizens for a Better Environment
Topic: Concerns about DNR procedures being followed involving air management (public notices, documentation when site visits are made, and public access to information regarding site visits). She requested 1) the

parameters of posting public notices should be posted to the department website so the public knows to check on the weekend as well, 2) A clear and consistent policy about documentation of DNR site visits be created, and 3) There should be a written summary of any and every site visit to a permitted facility, and it should be accessible to the public. **(Handout)**

Pat Stevens, Air, Waste, Remediation and Redevelopment Administrator followed-up on Ms. Martin's concerns. From the department's perspective, we want our processes to be open to the public and will meet with her to review her concerns.

Discussion followed on whether there is a standard procedure for how often the department visits an air permitted facility, whether air monitoring equipment is installed on air permitted facilities, history of the complaint at this particular facility, and why this type of business is of value and makes sense.

2. **Ralph Fritsch** spoke in place of George Meyer, Madison, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Topic: Penokee Mine Regulation. He spoke first on the Governor's budget. He then thanked the department and staff for their work on the proposed Penokee Hills mining project application which was recently withdrawn by the mining company. He then thanked Secretary Stepp and State Forester Paul DeLong for their quick response in reopening the Managed Forest Law land that was closed to hunting and fishing during this time.
He thanked out-going Board Members Christine Thomas and Jane Wiley for sharing their great knowledge and time for the benefit of all sportsmen in this state. Remember, it is either pizza or lasagna.

4.B. Citizen Recognition

- 4.B.1. Eagle Scout project at CWD sample processing center in Black Earth – construction of 9 deer aging boards to collect and accurately age a total of 72 jaws – Brad Chernak

Deputy Secretary Thiede thanked Brad Chernak for constructing 9 deer aging Boards and presented him with a certificate.

Brad Chernak thanked everyone at the department for allowing him to do the project and thanked fellow scouts for helping him with the project. He looks forward to working at the DNR in the future and plans to attend UW-Stevens Point next year.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

Deputy Secretary Thiede gave a combined presentation on agenda items 4.B.2. and 4.B.3.

- 4.B.2. Eagle Scout project at Kettle Moraine Forest Lapham Park Unit – GPS coordinates and specific location information for the Waukesha County 911 Dispatch Center and added 22 navigation signs – Alex Neimon
- 4.B.3. Eagle Scout project at Kettle Moraine Forest Lapham Park Unit – create an identification system and later install trail intersection numbers at Kettle Moraine Forest – Joseph Neimon

Deputy Secretary Thiede thanked brothers Alex Neimon and Joseph Neimon for their work in creating an identification system and signage at Kettle Moraine Forest Lapham Park Unit and presented each with a certificate.

Alex Neimon thanked the department for giving them this opportunity to help out the Wisconsin state system and for the cool project they were able to do.

Mr. Zimmer, a fellow Eagle Scout, stated he was proud of the department and staff for working with Brad, Alex, and Joseph. These projects take commitment and are a first step to getting into a career. Most become leaders of our society.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- 5. Information Items
 - 5.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement
None
 - 5.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife
 - 5.B.1. Grant program report on DNR evaluation of Stewardship grantees' rules regarding dog use on Stewardship lands as it relates to hunting access

Mr. Zimmer thanked staff for bringing this to the Board. He wanted to make sure it was not a bigger issue than it was. We want to make sure we are following that rule so there are no user conflicts.

Mr. Kazmierski stated he became noticeably aware that SAC is made up of groups that really are not so much hunting groups as they are land conservation groups that seek grants. It is important for these committees to go outside of their committee to get that kind of information.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- 5.B.2. Status of FERC regulated dams: Who regulates them? What is the DNR role? How do we address public rights and interest?

Discussion followed on how long the department had a FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) coordinator [3 years], Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation, and monitoring new possibilities for providing easy portages and camping potentials.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- 6. Department Secretary's Matters
- 6.A. Retirement Resolutions
- 6.A.1. Neal Baudhuin
- 6.A.2. Mike Hammers
- 6.A.3. Robert Mather
- 6.A.4. Dan Peerenboom
- 6.A.5. Gregory Sevener

Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg of the retirement resolutions. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6.B. Donations
- 6.B.1. ~~The Friends of Rib Mountain State Park, Inc. will donate \$450,000 of cash and in-kind to be used to build a three season shelter/gathering center to enhance visitor experience at Rib Mountain State Park~~ **REMOVED**
- 6.B.2. The Friends of Peninsula State Park will donate \$18,000.00 to be used to fund a Limited Term Employee Park Naturalist and Invasive Species Coordinator at Peninsula State Park for the 2015 season

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED approval of the department's recommendations and to acknowledge the donation, seconded by Mr. Zimmer. The motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Secretary Thiede introduced the new Land Division Administrator Sanjay Olson to the Board and public. He then updated the Board on the northern-long-eared bat. The USFWS listed it as threatened with an interim 4(d) rule. The department sees it as a positive step and appreciates this new status.

He then recognized and noticed out-going Board Members Dr. Christine Thomas and Jane Wiley; two very special individuals.

Dr. Christine Thomas began her service on the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board in March 2004. Served one year as Vice-Chair from January 2006 – January 2007; three years as Chair from January 2007 – January 2010; and two years as Secretary from January 2011 – January 2013. (six years as an officer)

She wrote dozens and dozens, and dozens of publications and papers including her Doctoral Thesis on the Natural Resources Board and her paper "One Hundred Twenty Years of Citizen Involvement with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board" which was published in the Environmental History Review in Spring 1991. Incidentally, she presented the history and operations of the Natural Resources Board to the Board's committee of the Whole at their June 1989 meeting and then more recently at the February 2015 Board meeting.

She was founder of *Becoming an Outdoors Woman*, an international organization that promotes women in the outdoors.

At the national level, she is widely recognized as a leader in conservation and promoting women in hunting and outdoor activities.

In May 2005 she became the first female tenured professor to become Dean of the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point.

Christine is a member of many outdoor organizations including the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Natural Resources Foundation of WI Board Member, US Secretary of Interior appointment to the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, and professional member of the Boone and Crocket Club. He shared his first-hand experience of the crowd of people that gathered around Dr. Thomas at the North American this year looking to seek her time. It was quite telling.

Jane Wiley began her service on the Board in January 2007.

Prior to her Board involvement, she was a member on the Stewardship Advisory Council, appointed by then-Secretary George Meyer, from 1994 – 2001; including two years as chair.

At the December 2007 meeting, she was appointed to the Natural Resources Board Stewardship sub-committee along with Duke Welter and Preston Cole. They were directed to work through the Interim Protocol rule process with department staff and attended numerous sub-committee meetings and listening sessions on defining public access to Stewardship lands. Work that is still with us today. Thank you.

Jane was originally appointed to the Board's Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife Sub Committee in 2007. In May 2011, she was appointed as Issue Coordinator for Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife.

She has been active in many organizations including Friends of Rib Mountain State Park, Gathering Waters Land Trust Board, North Central Conservancy Trust, Wausau Ringnecks Hunting Club, and Wausau Skeet and Trap Club.

She has a passion for all things outdoors and is a certified downhill ski instructor [to which his kids have benefited] and certified scuba divemaster. Her underwater photography is beautiful and intense, to say the least. She has been a hunter and angler in Wisconsin for well over 30 years.

He then expressed his deep respect and appreciation to both Christine and Jane for their longstanding contributions to the people and natural resources of Wisconsin as Board Members. He then presented items to each on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources. [Dr. Thomas and Ms. Wiley received a standing ovation.]

7. Board Members' Matters
- 7.A. Resolution on Board Authority

Chair Cole stated that the Board requested he put together a Resolution on Board Authority. He passed it around and asked Dr. Thomas to read it into the record.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 1927 some of the most respected conservationist in history had the foresight to create this independent body to insulate conservation from political influences.

WHEREAS, for 88 years the Natural Resources Board has retained the policy and regulatory making authority for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Wisconsin has continuously been a national leader in environmental protection and wildlife conservation.

WHEREAS, nowhere else in Wisconsin state government do the people of this state have such a direct avenue for input as through the Natural Resources Board.

WHEREAS, this unparalleled level of public involvement is vital for the long-term management of the state's resources, which are held in public trust, belonging to all citizens of the state.

WHEREAS, under the present system, natural resource policy decisions are made in full view of the public, broadcast online, and afford citizens the opportunity to provide testimony or written comments.

WHEREAS, the proposed change to eliminate the Natural Resources Board's policy and regulatory making authority of the Natural Resources Board and give it to the DNR secretary could result in important natural resource decisions being made behind closed doors without any public input.

WHEREAS, this proposed change puts the onus of decision making on one individual, while the more robust Natural Resources Board system, comprised of seven volunteer members from various backgrounds and various perspectives, allows for the division of power.

WHEREAS, stripping the Natural Resources Board of its policy making authority would undermine this proven system of checks and balances essential for the long-term management of the state's resources.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board hereby opposes the item in the proposed 2015-17 State Budget Bill that makes the Natural Resources Board advisory to the DNR Secretary and request that it be removed and that the Natural Resource Board retain their policy and regulatory making authority for the DNR.

Approved this 8th day of April, 2015 by the Natural Resources Board at its meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

Preston D. Cole, Chairman

(END)

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Dr. Thomas of the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Thomas requested that the typos and grammar be corrected before distributing.

Chair Cole thanked past-Board Members David Clausen and Duke Welter for honoring us with their presence today. In their own right, they are conservationist's heart, mind, and soul.

Mr. Zimmer thanked Christine and Jane.

Chair Cole gave the floor to Ms. Wiley and Dr. Thomas as an opportunity to say farewell.

Ms. Wiley thanked the Board and staff; it has been a good ride.

Dr. Thomas stated that she is a student and fan of Wisconsin Conservation history. The opportunity to serve on the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB), while being a great honor and tremendous responsibility for anyone appointed to the NRB, is especially a great honor and has meaning to her on a really romantic level because of those things. She has had the honor to do four induction speeches for people who were inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame; two of those were former Board Members. In fact, she did a little rough count and of the 81 people previously inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, 12 of them at least have been former Conservation Department Commissioners or NRB Members. This really speaks to the broad public service and the broad interest and the right things for people who are appointed to the NRB.

She has had the honor of transitioning from a Board appointed by one governor to a Board appointed by another governor to a Board that is being appointed by a third governor. She has gone through two transitions and could tell you the folks who were inducted into the Conservation Hall of Fame represent appointments by governors of all political persuasions. She has worked with people on the NRB directly from all political persuasions. Board Members are Board Members. They are bound by care for the resource and doing the right thing. All the rest of that stuff just blows off to the side in the face of decision making. That has been such a wonderful thing to have had the opportunity to work so well and so closely with so many great people on the Board. She picked out a couple of names Bill Aberg, Haskell Noyes, Aldo Leopold, Herb Behnke, Dan Trainer, Bud Jordahl, Guedo Rahr, Sr., Russell Lynch, Dick Hemp, and Charles Van Hise as the list of the greats that have come before us.

One of the themes she uses when she does a Hall of Fame induction is that we are all connected to each other in this conservation world. She has not even talked about the department Secretary's that have been inducted or the Conservation Department employees or Department of Natural Resources employees that have been inducted. We are all connected to each other. We all have a chance to take our turn. She has taken her turn and now it is someone else's turn. We all have Aldo Leopold, Dan Trainer, and Herb Behnke DNA in

our Board souls. It is our job to pass it on to the next Board so that those folks can continue that legacy and continue the great tradition of conservation in Wisconsin. She is extremely honored to have taken her turn and was thankful for the opportunity. She thanked staff and Board Members and acknowledged her love for all.

The Board and meeting attendees gave Dr. Thomas and Ms. Wiley a standing ovation.

Chair Cole stated to his fellow Board Members that it is their responsibility to put Christine's and Jane's decision making processes on our shoulders and their insights and thoughtfulness. Going forward we should make sure we carry their water in how they think about things because they have added value in the past. They have added value now. Those decisions that they rendered, how they made those decision based on their valuation, is going to be important for us into the future.

Mr. Bruins MOVED, seconded by Ms. Wiley to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

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