

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolutions

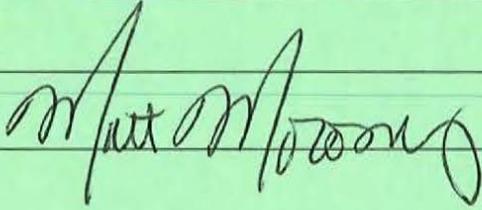
FOR: February 2015 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Stepp

SUMMARY: The Department requests the following employees be recognized and commended for faithful and exemplary public service:

Employee	Years of Service
1. Byron Goetsch	31
2. Gary Harden	35
3. Richard Livingston	33
4. Gary Osness	30

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adopt the retirement resolutions for February 2015.

Approved by	Signature	Date
, Bureau Director N/A		
, Administrator N/A		
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		02/09/15

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cc: Board Liaison - AD/8

Retirement Resolution

Byron Goetsch, Regional Conservation Warden in Green Bay, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on January 23 after 31 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Byron began his esteemed career in 1983 as a Deputy Warden. In 1984 he was hired as a LTE Ranger at Devil's Lake State Park, but soon thereafter became a full-time Fire Control Equipment Operator at Babcock. Byron achieved his dream of becoming a Conservation Warden in 1985, serving at the Chilton Station until transferring to Appleton in 1991.

Byron excelled as a field warden and field training officer, earning recognitions including the WI Conservation Congress and WI Bow Hunters "Officer of the Year" Awards, the Governor's Award for Innovation, and the coveted Haskell Noyes "Warden of the Year" Award.

In 1996 Byron was selected to lead the Green Bay Team as a Warden Supervisor. Byron's outstanding accomplishments continued as evidenced by his being named "Wildlife Officer of the Year" by Shikar-Safari International.

In 1999, Byron was appointed as a Regional Warden, leading the Law Enforcement Program in the 16 Counties of NE Wisconsin. Byron remained a consummate professional caring deeply about the warden service, our natural resources and the citizen's of this state.

WHEREAS, Byron Goetsch has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its February 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Byron a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Gary Harden, Senior Forester in Gays Mills, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on February 6, 2015 after 35 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, Gary dedicated his career to sustainable management of Wisconsin's forests. He started his career in 1979 with the Department as a Park Aide for Council Grounds State Park. He was quickly promoted thru the ranks to Forester and brought his talents to Park Falls and Waupaca before settling in Gays Mills.

Gary partnered with Wisconsin land owners and forest industry members to practice sustainable management on over 40,000 acres of private forest lands in Crawford County. His tireless energy and his skill at building trusting and productive relationships with landowners, foresters, and loggers is renown. Gary is known for his depth of knowledge of southern Wisconsin forests, and his mission to continually improve forest health and productivity. Gary is admired by his peers and is always willing to provide constructive input that never betrayed his passion for being a responsible steward of Wisconsin's forests.

WHEREAS, Gary Harden has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its February 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Gary a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Richard Livingston, Senior Forester in Baraboo, will retire from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on March 6, 2015 after 33 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, Rick dedicated his career to protecting and sustainably managing Wisconsin's forests. He started his career with the Department as a Natural Resource Assistant at Richland Center. He became a Forester in 1988 and was stationed across the state in Spooner, Monroe, and Cornell, before settling in Baraboo in 1998.

Rick served on multiple committees within the Division of Forestry to improve standards of law enforcement training and silviculture. Rick was an asset to the teams with his experience, knowledge, and demeanor. He was integral in developing and instructing several chapters of the training package that is taught to our new Foresters, and willingly mentored many new Foresters. His "above and beyond" work ethic earned him "Forester of the Year" Award in 2007.

Rick is renown for his depth of knowledge and experience managing southern Wisconsin forests, and his positive, encouraging attitude he brings to encounter every challenge. His retirement is well deserved, and he will certainly be missed.

WHEREAS, Richard Livingston has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its February 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Richard a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Gary Osness, Forestry Technician - Advanced in Merrill, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on January 9, 2015 after 30+ years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

After working as an LTE, Gary started his permanent career on October 29, 1984 as a Mechanic and fabricator of fire control equipment at the LeMay Forestry Research and Development Center in Tomahawk. Four years later Gary transferred in October 1988 to be a Forest Fire Control Assistant 2 at the Merrill Ranger Station where he spent the remainder of his career.

Gary fought many wildland fires throughout Wisconsin and had numerous assignments assisting on out-of-state fire suppression details. In addition to his passion for fire suppression and equipment operation Gary's forest management skills helped meet the large forest tax law goals in southern Lincoln County, contributions to the Lincoln County Forest program, and timber sale work on State-owned properties.

Gary is a great ambassador for the Department within the local community. He was a major contributor in the building of the new Merrill Ranger Station. When the Merrill Tornado struck in 2011, Gary was one of the first responders on the scene helping victims and a key member of the Incident Management Team.

WHEREAS, Gary Osness has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its February 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Gary a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair