Form 1100-001
(R 9/07)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 7.A.1

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution - James J. Janowak

FOR: APRIL, 2008 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Matt Frank

SUMMARY:

Jim Janowak will retire on May 6, 2008, with 29 years of service to the State of Wisconsin. Jim has been a conscientiuos and dedicated employee throughout his career, earning the friendship and respect of his fellow employees and citizens alike.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board accept the attached resolution.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No	☑	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No	☑	Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No	☑	Background Memo	Yes ☐	Attached

APPROVED:

William H Smith — 3-11-08
Bureau Director, William H. Smith, Acting Director — Date

Laurie Osterndorf — 3/12/08
Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf — Date

4/1/08
Secretary, Matt Frank — Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/5
L. Osterndorf-AD/8
J. Rygiel-WCR
C. Thompson-WCR
S. Erickson-Menomonie
B. Smith-PR/6
L. Netzer-PR/6

Retirement Resolution

James J. Janowak will retire from the Department of Natural Resources on May 6, 2008, after serving 29 years with the State of Wisconsin. Jim began his career as a Facility Repair Worker assisting in the construction of the new animal exhibition area at the McKenzie Environmental Center in 1979.

In 1982, Jim transferred to the Wilson State Nursery in Boscobel where he worked as a Natural Resources Assistant for about a year. Jim then transferred to Devil's Lake State Park where he worked as a trail crew leader and was put in charge of reopening Natural Bridge State Natural Area.

On August 5, 1986, Jim promoted to the Red Cedar Trail as a Park Superintendent where he has had continued involvement with the Red Cedar Trail, Chippewa River Trail, and Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area for 22 years. This trail system encompasses approximately 75 miles and is used by thousands each year.

The City of Menomonie, Eau Claire, and surrounding communities have been fortunate to have Jim's leadership. The resources Jim managed have contributed greatly to the quality of life in the Menomonie/Eau Claire area. Jim has a very strong working relationship with the community and partners that include: the City of Menomonie, Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills, Friends of Chippewa River Trail, Optimist Club, Sierra Club, Menomonie Tourism Commission, Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail, and local businesses. Jim was involved with extending the trail system into the Cities of Menomonie and Durand. He was involved in a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce in Menomonie which contributed to the success of the Depot at the trailhead on the Red Cedar Trail. Jim initiated the historical restoration of the Depot, including both historical and natural displays to provide an educational, interpretive component.

Jim has always been deeply involved in the cross-country ski trails at Hoffman Hills. His knowledge, expertise, and extra efforts in ski trail grooming were instrumental in establishing a reputation for "the hills" being a premier location for cross-country skiing. Jim was an important link in developing an endowment fund for the exclusive benefit of Hoffman Hills Recreation Area for generations to come. His keen interests in the balance of ecosystems led to the establishment of a native prairie encompassing 35 acres at Hoffman Hills.

Over the years, Jim received numerous comments from users on how well these resources were maintained and managed, always to the highest quality. Jim always had an eye for detail. He listened to his various users and made responding to visitors concerns a priority.

WHEREAS, James J. Janowak 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 April 2008 meeting at Baraboo, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Christine Thomas, CHAIR