Form 1100-001
(R 9/07)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 7.C.1

SUBJECT: Dedicating the Millville Unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway in honor of Paul Brandt.

FOR: APRIL, 2008 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Eric Lobner, South Central Region Wildlife Supervisor

SUMMARY:

The department will dedicate the Millville Unit of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway to the memory of Paul Brandt. The intent of this dedication is to honor the significant contributions that Paul made to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources both throughout his professional career as a WDNR wildlife biologist as well as his estate contribution following his death. Department staff would add a portion to the existing sign on the property, install a stone monument near the parking lot, dedicate a hiking trail and place a bench with a monument near the top of the bluff.

Following a career with the department, Mr. Brandt created the "Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund" with a $25,000 endowment gift in 2005. Proceeds support habitat management on public lands in the riverway. Not long after that fund got off the ground, Brandt passed away unexpectedly at age 60 in September 2006, and left to the Riverway Fund from his estate an amount that will raise the fund value to over $600,000. Brandt was a major proponent for creation of the riverway, a 92-mile stretch of wild river boasting exceptional bluff views, extensive public land and superb wildlife habitat. Mr. Brandt left an astonishing legacy to support conservation along the riverway and his gift is expected to exceed $30,000 annually in perpetuity.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is informational. No action is required.

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:

Bureau Director, Barbara Zellmer — Date

Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf — Date 3/28/08

Secretary, Matt Frank — Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/5
Cons. Cong. Executive Comm. - 4 - LS/5
Kurt Thiede - 6 - LS/5
Barbar Zellmer - WM/6
Randy Stark - LE/5
Reg. WM Sups. - 5 - WM/6
Eric Lobner - 12 copies - WM/6
Bob Manwell - CE/8
Steve Miller - LF/6
Tom Hauge - WM/6

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: March 28, 2008

TO: Natural Resources Board Members

FROM: Matthew Frank

SUBJECT: Dedication of the Millville Unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway to the memory of Paul Brandt

I am requesting that the Natural Resources Board authorize the department to dedicate the Millville Unit of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway to the memory of Paul Brandt. The intent of this dedication is to honor the significant contributions that Paul made to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources both throughout his professional career as a WDNR wildlife biologist as well as his estate contribution following his death. The intent is to add a portion to the existing sign on the property, install a stone monument near the parking lot, dedicate a hiking trail and place a bench with a monument near the top of the bluff.

Background:

A long-time Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist for Grant and Richland Counties, the late Paul Brandt, started his career as a game manager in Boscobel in August of 1972 and remained there for his entire career, ending his career on July 12, 2002 with the Wildlife Management program as a wildlife biologist.

During his 30+ year career, Paul worked as a special conservation warden, land acquisition agent, property manager, and educator as well as in his primary role as a Wildlife Biologist. Highlights of his career include an instrumental role in the creation of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, acquisition of many hundreds of acres of land, including the Millville Unit of the LWSR, as well as a major player in the return of the wild turkey to Wisconsin.

Paul was the guiding hand behind many wildlife species programs in Southwestern Wisconsin, from bobwhite quail to bobolinks. Through his efforts, quality habitat exists on both public and private lands throughout Grant and Richland Counties. Entire generations of residents in his area have a greater understanding and appreciation of wildlife and natural resources because of the hundreds of public presentations Paul made to the carry the message of wildlife management.

All of his professional accomplishments are merely the very beginning of his natural resources legacy, however. Following his career with the Wisconsin DNR, Paul worked with the Natural Resources Foundation and created the "Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund" with a $25,000 endowment gift in 2005, with proceeds to support habitat management on public lands in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. Not long after the fund got off the ground, Paul passed away unexpectedly at age 60 in September 2006, and left to the Riverway Fund from his estate an amount that will raise the Fund value to over $600,000! One of the major proponents for the creation of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, the 92-mile stretch of "wild river" boasting exceptional bluff views, extensive public land and superb wildlife habitat, Paul has left an astonishing legacy to support conservation along the Riverway, which is expected to exceed $30,000 annually in perpetuity. It has been said that the Wisconsin River was the blue vein that ran through Paul's heart, and this donation, which will fund significant contributions to the Riverway, is a prime testament to his dedication.

As a result of his tremendous career and exceptional contribution to the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway both professionally and personally, the Natural Resources Foundation and the Wildlife Management program would like to recognize him for his efforts.

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