Form 1100-001
(R 9/07)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 7.A.8

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution for Rick Prosise

FOR: DECEMBER **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Matt Frank

SUMMARY:

After over 35 years of dedicated service to the Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin, Rick Prosise is retiring on December 31, 2008. Rick has been a conscientious and dedicated employee throughout his career, earning the friendship and respect of everyone with whom he worked.

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of attached retirement resolution for Rick Prosise.

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 — Date

Administrator — Date

Secretary, Matt Frank — Date 11/13/08

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8

Retirement Resolution

Rick Prosise is retiring from the Department of Natural Resources December 31, 2008 after completing more than thirty-five years of dedicated service to the Department and the State of Wisconsin.

Following his graduation in 1970 from the University of Wisconsin Law School, Rick was a criminal prosecutor in the United States Marine Corps, serving in North Carolina, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam. Rick joined the Bureau of Legal Services on December 3, 1973. From 1973 – 1978 Rick taught conservation wardens civil and criminal procedures related to the enforcement of the State's fish and game laws. In 1975 Rick drafted statutory language which created the fish and game citation system for wardens, found in sections 23.50 through 23.99 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

From 1978 – 1980 Rick served as the Assistant Administrator of the Division of Enforcement. His responsibilities included oversight of the Department's conservation and environmental enforcement activities. In 1980 Rick returned to the Bureau of Legal Services as a section chief, and in 2004 he was promoted to Director.

Rick's major contributions to the Department include:

Resolution of complex permit issues. Rick has litigated numerous complex permit issues at administrative contested case hearings and, by assisting Wisconsin Department of Justice attorneys, on appeal. One example: litigation upholding DNR authority to require the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) to do facilities planning, an alternative first raised by Rick's cross-examination of MMSD's Director of Operations. Another example: litigation upholding DNR authority to regulate the land disposal of animal waste (see Maple Leaf Farms v. DNR, 247 Wis. 2d 96 [Ct. App. 2001]).

Resolution of significant environmental enforcement actions. Rick was a key member of negotiating teams that resolved significant environmental violations with impressive settlements. One example: a 2002 settlement of over 900 million dollars to resolve sanitary sewer overflow violations by MMSD. Another example: a 2005 settlement with 29 communities served by MMSD to resolve their contribution to illegal sanitary sewer overflows, the first such enforcement action and settlement in the country.

Midwest Environmental Enforcement Association. Rick's leadership role in the Midwest Environmental Enforcement Association (MEEA), which included two terms as MEEA's Chair, has been recognized by a Special Recognition Award for his dedication and commitment to effective environmental enforcement.

Rick's service has been highlighted by his innovative approaches to cleaning up environmental pollution and his creativity in drafting complex administrative rules to protect the environment. Rick received a Special Recognition Award from the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for his dedication to the protection of our natural resources.

WHEREAS, Rick Prosise has been a conscientious and dedicated employee throughout his career and has earned the friendship, respect and gratitude of his co-workers,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its December, 2008 meeting at Madison, 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