Form 1100-001
(R 9/07)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 7.A.1

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution - Michael L. Ries

FOR: SEPTEMBER **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY:
Secretary Matt Frank

SUMMARY:
Michael L. Ries is retiring July 21, 2008 after completing more than 34 y ears of state service.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Retirement Resolution for Michael L. Ries

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 7/22/08

Secretary, Matt Frank _____ Date 9/4/08

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8

Retirement Resolution

Michael L. Ries, RLA, ASLA; has retired from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on July 21, 2008, after completing more than 34 years of dedicated service to the Department. Throughout his career, Mike was responsible for developing feasibility studies and master plans, and designing numerous recreational facilities for DNR properties. Mike also provided valuable consulting services for local, state, federal governments and other organizations in the areas of natural resource planning and recreational facility development.

Mike obtained his BS ('71) and MS ('73) in Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His Master's thesis, published by University Extension, focused on design standards for recreation accessibility and was dedicated to his friend, Truman Karabis.

Mike's career with the Department began March 18, 1974, as a Novice Landscape Architect for the Bureau of Parks and was especially noted for his advocacy for accessibility for people of all abilities at public recreational facilities. In April of 1976, Mike was promoted to Intermediate Landscape Architect and, in the same year, to Senior Landscape Architect for the West Central District (WCD) based in Eau Claire. In addition to supporting the WCD, Mike provided Landscape Architectural services for the entire Northwest District. During his sixteen-year tenure in the Bureau of Parks, Mike wrote the master plans and provided design services for three new state parks, Natural Bridge State Park, Kinnickinnic State Park and Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area; and wrote the initial master plans for all of the other established state parks and trails in the WCD. In addition, Mike wrote the master plans and provided design services for many new trail systems including the popular LaCrosse River Trail and the Red Cedar Trail.

In 1989, Mike was reassigned to the Bureau of Resource Management (currently Bureau of Facilities and Lands) and began planning and design work for all types of DNR properties. Of particular note was Mike's leadership on the Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area, a 20,000- acre bird and wildlife habitat project and the Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area, a 12,500- acre prairie, savannah and habitat protection area.

Mike has been recognized many times during his career, including many commendations from the different programs for which he has provided services and a lifetime achievement Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Mike's contribution to the Department is evident in the following quotes from his colleagues:

"Mike was an enjoyment to work with and I learned a lot being around him. Mike should feel proud of his numerous contributions that he has made across the State Park system; for the enjoyment of thousands of park users each day AND that will continue to be used long after he has left his service to the State." Steve Bade, former property manager of Big Bay State Park

"Mike had an exceptional working relationship with the property managers; they had respect for his expertise in the field... just about every park in the WCR has a facility that was designed by Mike. His ability to tend to the detail always factored into a top-notch product. He is leaving an absolute superb legacy." Jean Rygiel, WCR trail coordinator

WHEREAS, Michael L. Ries 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 September 2008 meeting at Wausau, 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