

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution - Michael P. Russo

FOR: AUGUST **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Matt Frank

SUMMARY:

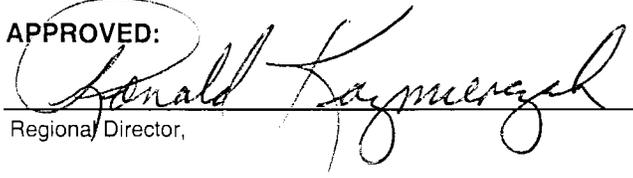
Michael P. Russo is retiring June 29, 2009 after 31 years of state service

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Retirement Resolution for Michael P. Russo

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|--------------------------|----------|
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:



 Regional Director,

6/28/09

 Date

 Administrator,


 Secretary, Matt Frank

 Date
7-14-09

 Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8
 Todd VanDen Heuvel - NER

Retirement Resolution

Michael P. Russo retired from the Department of Natural Resources on June 29, 2009 with more than 31 years of dedicated service to the people of the State of Wisconsin.

Mike began his career in October of 1977 as a Natural Resources Specialist 1 in Wastewater – Water Resource Management at the Northeast Region Headquarters in Green Bay. He advanced rapidly through the position classifications and in February 1985 transferred to a Water Regulation and Zoning Senior position. Subsequently in 1993 Mike became a Water Management Specialist Senior. He remained in this position for the rest of his career.

Mike cares deeply about the environment and believes genuinely in the benefits and values of resource management and environmental regulation. Throughout his career Mike worked with private individuals and communities to preserve and protect shore land and wetland habitat communities. Mike was dedicated to this effort and recognized the importance of maintaining wetlands in the ecosystem. Their preservation is a lasting legacy to his dedication. Mike participated in numerous talks and training sessions to inform and mentor DNR staff, as well as county zoning administrators and others who regulated shore land and wetlands. He met often with private individuals and communities to assure proper protection of these areas. Mike's professional opinion was highly respected by his peers both inside and outside the agency. He was often consulted for expert technical and regulatory opinion. Everyone who knew Mike enjoyed his willingness to lend assistance when they needed it.

His common sense approach to complex challenges and his environmental determinism earned him the respect of his staff and peers. He could always be counted on for the unvarnished version of what the correct interpretation of a code or regulation should be when making a call in a particular matter. Mike's plain spoken statements often were a deciding factor in complex and sometimes contentious matters. His commitment to effective natural resource management has been a hallmark of his career.

WHEREAS, Michael P. Russo 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 August 2009 meeting at Hayward, 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