

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution - Charles L. Weister

FOR: JANUARY 2009 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Matt Frank

SUMMARY:

Charles L. Weister will retire after 33 years of service to the citizens of the state of Wisconsin.

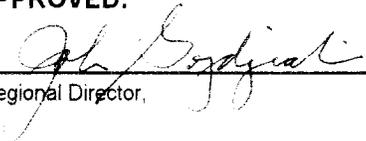
RECOMMENDATION: Adopt retirement resolution for Charles L. Weister

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- No Fiscal Estimate Required
- No Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
- No Background Memo

- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached

APPROVED:



 Regional Director,

01-06-2009

 Date

Administrator,


 Secretary, Matt Frank

 Date
 1/9/08

 Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8
 CC: Susan Krantz-NOR/Spooner

Retirement Resolution

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and participating in a summer internship program through UWSP's Water Quality Program, Chuck L. Weister joined the Department's Environmental Enforcement Program as a Natural Resource Specialist I in 1975. As a Natural Resource Specialist, he helped achieve the challenging goals of cleaning up the environment.

During his career, Chuck worked on implementing the federal mandates to upgrade municipal wastewater treatment plants. As part of this work, Chuck contributed to the development of the basic environmental enforcement processes still used today. These processes included stepped enforcement, enforcement conferences and referral packages. His efforts were instrumental in the upgrading of municipal treatment plants in the North Central District. Application of the enforcement process also helped to cleanup the discharges from the industries in the North Central District (NCD) including paper mills along the Wisconsin River. To become more knowledgeable about wastewater treatment, Chuck enrolled in a wastewater treatment plant operator course and acquired a certified operator certificate.

In 1978, Chuck volunteered to pilot the decentralization of the enforcement program to field offices. Based on the success of the pilot project, every District Office eventually received an environmental enforcement position and on June 21, 1978 Chuck was appointed District Environmental Enforcement Staff Specialist in the Rhinelander Office. He continued to work on the expansion of the enforcement program to assist the Solid Waste, Air and Water Supply programs. Chuck also volunteered to collect field data associated with acid rain research.

In 1990, a Groundwater Unit was established in the NCD and Chuck accepted the District Hydrogeologist position. Chuck specialized in the cleanup of groundwater contamination from industries, leaking underground storage tanks and spills. Chuck planned and implemented the first Non-point Source Groundwater Appraisal Project to address the unique nutrient and pesticide contamination of groundwater in the Central Sands area. This innovative project involved the coordination of multiple programs within DNR and a variety of local and state research, educational and regulatory agencies.

During reorganization, Chuck continued to oversee groundwater cleanup efforts in the newly created Remediation and Redevelopment Program and in 1997 was appointed to a position of Hydrogeologist Senior. As a member of the statewide Consistency Team, he was involved in the development of key program processes including application of natural attenuation and the formal case closure process. Chuck helped coordinate the merger of the Northwest and NCD's Closure Committees in the Northern Region and has served on the Closure Committee since. He has provided strong project management on numerous cases in the Region.

Chuck will be remembered for his efforts to work with people in accomplishing the goals of the Department. His approach of using collaboration versus enforcement led to a number of sites being cleaned up and improvements made to the environment.

WHEREAS, after thirty-three years of dedicated public service, Chuck L. Weister has elected to retire from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on December 1, 2008. During his tenure with the Department, Chuck has demonstrated a strong dedication to protecting public health and the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its January 2009 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