

# NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

**SUBJECT:** Retirement Resolution - Michael F. Sohasky

**FOR:** JUNE 2009 **BOARD MEETING**

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Secretary Matt Frank

**SUMMARY:**

Michael F. Sohasky is retiring May 26, 2009 after 31+ years of state service.

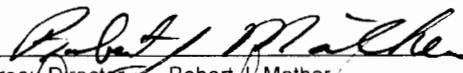
**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Retirement Resolution for Michael F. Sohasky

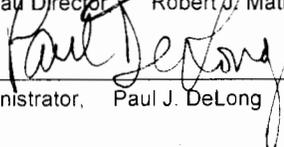
**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

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

- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached

**APPROVED:**

  
 Bureau Director, Robert J. Mather

  
 Administrator, Paul J. DeLong

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 Secretary, Matt Frank

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 Date 05-15-2009

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 Date 05-15-2009

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 Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8  
 cc: Paul J. DeLong - AD/8  
 Robert J. Mather - FR/4  
 Kathryn J. Nelson - FR/4

## ***Retirement Resolution***

Michael F. Sohasky retired from the Department of Natural Resources on May 26, 2009 with 31+ years of service to the State of Wisconsin.

Mike began his career on July 18, 1977 as a Forester-Ranger in the Division of Forestry at the Summit Lake Ranger Station, where he suppressed wildland fires and taught people about wildfire prevention. He also provided forest management assistance to private and public landowners, including entering private lands under Wisconsin's Forest Tax Law programs and establishing timber sales on the Langlade County Forest.

In 1981, Mike promoted to become the Langlade County Forest Administrator at Antigo, WI. Mike directed the timber management and recreation programs on the 127,000+ acre Langlade County Forest and supervised seven personnel in the County Forestry Department. From 1987 to 1991 Mike was actively involved in the Chippewa Indian Treaty Rights dispute regarding harvesting of timber on county forests. After resolution of the litigation in federal court, Mike authored a book that summarized the events of the lengthy dispute entitled, "Wisconsin's County Forests – Conflict Over Indian Timber Rights."

In 2003 Mike transferred to the DNR Service Forester (Private Lands) position at the Ranger Station in Merrill, WI. Mike assisted private forest landowners with managing their woodlands, including completing petitions and management plans for entry into the Managed Forest Law (MFL).

Later that same year, Mike transferred to the position of Forester-Ranger at Merrill. He returned to the primary duties of fire suppression and law enforcement in the Merrill Fire Response Unit, which he greatly enjoyed. Mike continued to work with private landowners and assist with timber sale establishment on the various DNR Wildlife and Fisheries properties in Lincoln County.

On September 28, 2008 Mike made a career change and transferred to the position of DNR Forest Tax Operations Specialist in the Bureau of Forest Management at Madison. In that position Mike reviewed MFL petitions and management plan packets from throughout the State. Mike worked with the staff in the Forest Tax Section in providing direction and guidance to field staff regarding not only MFL entries but also transfers and withdrawals.

***WHEREAS***, Michael F. Sohasky has served the people of Wisconsin well in the performance of his duties, he thus has earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

***NOW, THEREFORE***, The Natural Resources Board at its June 2009 meeting at New Richmond, 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