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<http://dnr.wi.gov/about/nrb/members.html>

## ***2014 NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD***

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board sets policy for the Department of Natural Resources and exercises authority and responsibility in accordance with governing statutory provisions.

Chapter 15 of the Wisconsin Statutes establishes the 7-member Board and describes its duties. Board Members are nominated by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for 6-year terms. Under the law, 3 members are appointed from the territory north of a line running east and west through the south limits of Stevens Point, 3 members from the territory south of the line and 1 member from the state at large.

2011 Wisconsin Act 149 states that beginning on May 1, 2013, at least 1 Board member must have an agricultural background and at least 3 Board members must have held a hunting, fishing, or trapping license in at least 7 of the 10 years before the year of nomination except if an individual served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces or national guard during the 10 years previous to the year in which the individual is nominated, the number of years in which the individual is required to have held an annual hunting, fishing, or trapping license equals 7 minus the number of years of active duty served during those 10 years. Terms expire on May 1.

The Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month in January, February, May, June, September, and October. The Board meets on the second Wednesday in April, August, and December. The Board does not have regular scheduled meetings in March, July, and November. Board meetings are held at the State Natural Resources Building in Madison from September through April and at locations throughout the state from May through August. The [Board calendar](#) lists upcoming meetings.

## WILLIAM BRUINS



Bill Bruins was elected to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) Board of Directors in 1988 to represent District 5 on the board, which includes Juneau, Adams, Waushara, Marquette, Green Lake, Winnebago and Fond du Lac counties. Prior to being elected President, Bill served as the Board vice-president from 1997 until his election as president in 2003.

Bill is the general manager of his family's dairy partnership, Homeland Dairy, consisting of 600 milking cows and 1,300 acres of cropland.

Bill is the president of the Rural Mutual Insurance Board of Directors. He is a board member of the coordinating committee for the Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative, and was appointed to Governor Doyle's Bio-based Industry Consortium in 2005. He is also a member of the Farm Bureau Life Board of Directors and serves on the Farm Bureau Life Audit and Budget Committee. He currently serves on the UW Madison College of Ag and Life Sciences Board of Visitors and was appointed to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Board of Directors in May of 2011.

He has also served as vice president of the Equity Cooperative Livestock Association, on the Wisconsin Beef Council Board, and on the UW-Platteville Environmental Farm Steering Committee.

Over the years Bill has served on the National Rural Health and Safety Committee, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Dairy, Resolutions, and Rural Health and Safety Committees and the American Farm Bureau Federation Dairy Advisory Committee.

In Bill's early years with Farm Bureau, he served as chairman of the Young Farmers Committee in 1978, and was the Farm Bureau's Discussion Meet winner. Bill is a graduate of the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course.

Bill and his wife Mary have six children and 20 grandchildren. Bill participated in a gospel quartet for many years.

## **PRESTON D. COLE**

Preston D. Cole holds a senior level appointed position as Director of Operations for the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works. This position acts as the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works. His span of control covers approximately 2,400 employees, \$300 million O&M and enterprise budgets, along with a \$108 million capital budget.



Additionally, Preston leads a team of innovators that improve department wide functions i.e., employee relations, construction contract management, re-development coordination, and communications activities.

Prior to his promotion to Director of Operations, Preston has served the Department as the Environmental Services Superintendent and City Forester. He has been employed by the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works since 1991.

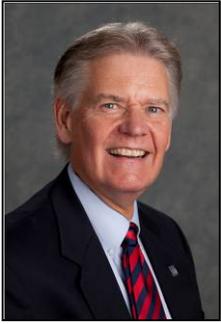
Life prior to Milwaukee, Preston was Parks Superintendent for the City of St. Louis. He also served as a Resource Forester for Missouri Department of Conservation. Preston has the unique distinction of being the first African-American forester hired by that conservation department. Preston holds a Bachelor of Sciences degree from University of Missouri-Columbia in Forest Management.

Preston is a member of the mayor's "Milwaukee Green Team," where he and his colleagues seek to create a more sustainable Milwaukee through stormwater reduction practices, energy conservation programs, waste reduction initiatives, all while creating green jobs.

Preston recently completed a nine-year term with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD.) Preston served as chair 2007-2009. MMSD is a regional government agency that provides water reclamation and flood management for 1.1 million customers in 28 communities. MMSD serves 411 square miles that covers approximately six watersheds.

Currently, Preston is one of seven-members that make up Wisconsin's Natural Resources Board. In this capacity, Preston sets statewide policy for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding forestry, fisheries, wildlife, air, water and Stewardship programs.

## **TERRY HILGENBERG**



Terry N. Hilgenberg is a Realtor and President of Coldwell Banker Hilgenberg Realtors® in Shawano. He has been in the real estate business since 1975. He also is President of Hilgenberg Realty, LLC specializing in commercial real estate in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and is a partner in Hilgenberg & Associates, Inc., an investment and development real estate company.

Terry became a licensed real estate broker in 1973 after graduating from UW- Madison with a masters degree in Real Estate and a BBA in accounting. He spent two years as a credit officer for the Ford Motor Credit Company at their world headquarters located in Dearborn, MI.

Terry has been very active in the local, state and national Realtors® Association. He served as President of the Wisconsin Realtors® Association in 1988 and was recognized as the State Realtor of the Year. He also has been the Regional Vice President and on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Realtors® as well as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Association Political Action Committee. He has held many positions with the local realtors association including Past President.

Being a second generation Realtor and real estate professional, Terry and his brother and partner, Phil, have been involved in all aspects of real estate, from residential to commercial to industrial to farm, recreational and development and investment real estate and auctions.

As a community-minded person, Terry has been President of the Shawano Rotary, Shawano Optimist, and Shawano Dollars for Scholars, Shawano Area Chamber of Commerce, Shawano County Economic Development, Inc. as well as being active and involved in civic fundraising efforts, including the building of two schools – a high school and an elementary school in Shawano, the Boy Scouts and Special Olympics. Terry is an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Shawano.

Terry and his wife Bonnie, a teacher in the Shawano school district, have resided on the Wolf River for more than 35 years. They are the proud parents of two children, Heidi and T.J. and have a granddaughter, Adelyn.

## **GREG KAZMIERSKI**

Growing up on a dairy farm in the rural community of Mukwonago inspired Greg's appreciation of Wisconsin's natural resources. He experienced firsthand the balance that can be achieved through sustainable management and the economic and agricultural use of resources.

Greg's rural experience also led to a life-long interest in many outdoor recreational activities, one of which ultimately became his career path. For more than three decades he believes he has been fortunate to share his passion of the outdoors in his successful sporting goods business in Delafield, Wisconsin.

His years of volunteer work for numerous organizations, testifying frequently before the state Natural Resources Board (NRB) and legislative committees, as well as serving on several stakeholder committees established by the NRB and DNR, have made him quite familiar with the process.

He brings to the board a diverse experience in the "regulated community" with a background in agriculture, as a former licensed water well driller, a forest and wetland owner, a business property owner, and an avid sportsman.



## CHRISTINE THOMAS

Christine Thomas is Dean and Professor of resource management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources. In addition to her role as a university educator, Thomas developed a program that teaches women outdoor skills, "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman." Thomas has a B.S. in biology from Central Michigan University, an M.S. in Water Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a Ph.D. in Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Thomas has received a number of awards including, the 2011 National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation Medal, the 1992 Outstanding Faculty Member at the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, a 1992 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Excellence in Teaching Award, a Special Service Award from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Wildlife Management, and the 1993 Outstanding Educator award from the Nebraska Chapter of Safari Club International and a 1994 Conservation Achievement award from the National Wildlife Federation.

She was honored by the American Sportfishing Association as their 1995 "Woman of the Year." WEAU-TV in Eau Claire awarded Thomas the 1995 Whitetail Conservationist of the Year award. In January 1996, Thomas received the Educator of the Year trophy from Safari Club International. In September of 1996, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries honored Thomas with a plaque for her "Leadership and Enduring Contributions." Thomas was named the Budweiser/National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Outdoorsman of the Year for 1998.

The Great Lakes Outdoor Writers Association presented her with their 1998 Golden Glow Award, its highest award for individual achievement. She was given a 1998 Award of merit from the Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. In 1999, she was named one of the twenty most influential conservationists in Wisconsin in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the Wisconsin Outdoor Journal. In 2002, Thomas was inducted into the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel Sports Show Hall of Fame for Conservation Achievement.

In 2006 Thomas was named Distinguished Alumna by the Central Michigan University College of Science and Technology. In 2008, the Bill Cook Chapter of the Izaak Walton League named her their Outstanding Conservationist.

Thomas has been active in regional issues related to women in natural resources, having co-chaired two Midwest regional conferences related to work force diversity. She is an emeritus member of the board of directors of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin and is past vice chair of the board of directors of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. She was appointed by Governor Jim Doyle to serve on the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. She served three years as chair. She was recently reappointed and reconfirmed for a second term on the board and serves as its secretary. In 2005, Thomas was appointed by the Secretary of Interior to serve on the Sporting Conservation Council. Currently, Thomas is serving as chair of the Conservation Division of the Boone and Crockett Club. In 2010, she was appointed by the secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to the position of vice chair of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage and Conservation Council. In 2010, Outdoor Life named Thomas one of the top 25 influential people in hunting and fishing in the Leaders category.

Thomas lives in Plover with her husband, Stanton. She enjoys gardening, hunting, fishing, bird-watching, timber management and weekends at their cabin in Portage County. They have an adult daughter, Shannon Honl.

## JANE WILEY



Jane grew up in a northwestern suburb of Chicago and graduated from Monmouth College in Illinois with a BA in Biology. She received an MS in Zoology from Tufts University in Massachusetts. As a graduate student, she also attended the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratories. Her thesis was on the behavioral postures and movements of the praying mantis. She later was a research assistant at Harvard University and taught at the Concord Academy, Concord, Mass.

After moving to Madison, Jane was a research assistant in the Zoology Department at the University of Wisconsin. She received an MA in Guidance and Counseling from UW-Madison in 1967.

In 1970, Jane was elected to the Madison City Council. As an alderman, she authored bicycle legislation which resulted in the first bike paths in the city as well as the first bicycle safety program. She also led the opposition to a Department of Transportation plan to condemn a portion of the Arboretum for beltline expansion. She received an "Orchid" Award for this successful opposition.

Jane was an appointee to the Wisconsin Rustic Roads Board, the Governor's Bicentennial Bicycle Council and the first Stewardship Advisory Council. Then DNR Secretary George Meyer also asked Jane to chair the first Stewardship Advisory Council. The charge of the council was to develop the rules for Stewardship grants for local units of government and land trusts.

After moving to Marathon County, Jane was elected to the Marathon County Board. Her committee appointments included the Soil and Water Conservation Committee and the UW- Extension Committee. Jane was elected the first chair of the Friends of Rib Mountain State Park. She also has served on the Town of Rib Mountain Bicycle Committee and other local boards and committees.

Jane is an avid angler and small game, turkey, and waterfowl hunter. She and her husband enjoy camping and kayaking. She is also a certified ski instructor at Granite Peak and a scuba divemaster.

In July 2004, Jane was appointed to the Natural Resources Board. She was seated in January 2007, when her predecessor, Steve Willett, resigned.

## GARY ZIMMER

Gary Zimmer, from Laona, is the Coordinating Biologist for the Ruffed Grouse Society in the Society's Western Great Lakes Region. Zimmer received his B.S. in Wildlife Management and M.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. His graduate work involved the first comprehensive survey of breeding common loons across Wisconsin. Zimmer is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and federally licensed migratory bird bander.



His first formal work assignment was as a Limited Term Employee with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for three years conducting waterfowl research on Horicon and Grand River Marshes. Following that assignment he began an 18 year career with the US Forest Service working in forest and wildlife management on the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest. For the last 12 years on the Forest he was a District Wildlife Biologist on the Lakewood/Laona Ranger District. Zimmer left the US Forest Service in December of 2000 for a position as a Regional Biologist with the Ruffed Grouse Society, a non-profit conservation organization.

Zimmer has previous board experience having been the conservation representative for seven years on the Board of the Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association and later the Great Lakes Timber Profession's Association. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Lake States Resource Alliance for six years including two as the Alliance's treasurer.

He served as a third party joint SFI/FSC auditor for forest certification audits of the Wisconsin State Forests, Wisconsin County Forests, Ohio State Forests, Menominee Tribal Lands and additional Wisconsin state managed properties.

Zimmer is an Eagle Scout and since 1982 has been caretaker/ranger for the 1120 acre LeFeber Northwoods Boy Scout Camp owned and operated by the Three Harbor's Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He and his wife Olivia live on the camp property and have raised three daughters there. He enjoys playing softball, running, hunting, fishing, gardening, bird watching, making maple syrup and participates as a citizen monitor for numerous wildlife surveys each year. His family also own property in Forest County that they enjoy being the land stewards of.