

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at the Holiday Inn, 1100 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. for action on items 1-7. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters
- 1.A. Calling the roll

Gerald O'Brien – present	Dan Poulson - present
Jonathan Ela – present	Dave Clausen - present
John Welter – present	Christine Thomas – present
Steve Willett – present	

Welcome by the Mayor of Stevens Point, Gary Wescott.

- 1.B. Approval of minutes from March 22, 2006

Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Mr. Clausen approval of minutes from March 22, 2006. The motion carried unanimously by all members.

- 1.C. Approval of agenda for April 26, 2006

Mr. Clausen MOVED, Seconded by Mr. Welter approval of agenda for April 26, 2006 as amended. The motion carried unanimously by all members.

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

- 2.A. Real Estate Transactions

Mr. Willett MOVED, seconded by Mr. Poulson approval of Real Estate Transactions. The motion carried unanimously by all members.

3. Action Items

- 3.A. Air, Waste, and Water/Enforcement

- 3.A.1. 2006 Registered Laboratory of the Year Awards

David Webb, Section Chief, Environmental Science Services, Integrated Science Services Bureau

The department annually presents the Registered Laboratory of the Year Awards to recognize Wisconsin's best registered laboratories for their outstanding commitment to producing high quality data. Awards are presented in two categories: Large Registered Facility and Small Registered Facility. 2006 marks the 11th consecutive year that the department will present these awards.

The 2006 Large Registered Facility Award will be presented to the City of Janesville Wastewater Utility Laboratory. The Village of Amherst Wastewater Treatment Plant Laboratory will receive the 2006 Small Registered Facility Award. Each laboratory's nomination papers, along with an overview of the award selection criteria, are included in the attached memorandum.

- 3.A.2. Adoption of Board Order WT-33-05, revisions to NR 102 and NR 207 relating to Lake Superior Basin waters.

Chuck Ledin, Bureau Director, Office of the Great Lakes stated that these rule changes are equivalent regulations to those already in place in Michigan and Wisconsin and will create consistent approaches across the three states in implementing the Governors' agreement to manage Lake Superior as a zero discharge demonstration zone. The revisions to NR 207 would prohibit new or increased discharges of nine toxic pollutants targeted in the agreement, unless an increase was needed even after best technology for process or controls systems was employed.

The changes to NR 102, would create a zone of Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) classification at the mouths of tributaries which are already classified as ORW. This classification would apply to portions of Lake Superior within a 1/4 mile semi-circular arc centered at the middle of the mouth of the tributary. In addition, NR 102 would also be changed to create a 1/4 mile buffer area classified as ORW surrounding the islands within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. These changes are also consistent with Michigan and Minnesota regulations. These changes were recommended to the Department by an advisory committee comprised of Lake Superior basin interests.

One public hearing was held in Ashland. One person testified in favor of the changes. Four written comments were received. All were in support or partial support. Two commenters wanted additional waters to be classified as ORW and three wanted a new water quality classification rather than procedural changes to existing anti-degradation regulations. No changes to the proposals are recommended.

Mr. Welter asked about the Ft. Wayne discharge and if a permit has already been issued.

Mr. Ledin stated that a permit hasn't been issued yet, but they are working to relocate the system because it is located in a scientific center right now.

Mr. Ela asked about the controversy with the proposed federal regulations that go along with these state regulations.

Mr. Ledin stated it would major impacts on any area where there was a fish advisory. The federal proposal was withdrawn.

Mr. Willett asked about a concern of the quarter mile buffer zone around the island and accessibility via motorcraft.

Mr. Ledin stated that from a use standpoint it may impact if the National Park Service decided to put a dock out there, but the Parks Service said they aren't planning on doing that.

Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Mr. Clausen adoption of Board Order WT-33-05, revisions to NR 102 and NR 207 relating to Lake Superior Basin waters. The motion carried unanimously by all members.

3.A.3. Adoption of Emergency Board Order WT-24-06 (E), revisions to NR 328, Subchapter III, pertaining to shore erosion control on rivers and streams.

Mary Ellen Vollbrecht, Section Chief, Rivers and Habitat Protection, Watershed Management Bureau stated that This emergency rule establishes two general permits for activities that otherwise require an individual permit. A similar emergency rule provided streamlined permitting for the 2005 construction season, for activities that met prescribed permit conditions. The new emergency rule proposal includes changes to several permit conditions based on experience implementing the rule in 2005. Department staff continue to work with internal and external advisors to develop critical technical methodologies for a permanent rule for shore protection on rivers and streams. Adoption of this emergency rule will allow continued permit streamlining while a permanent rule is still under development.

NR 328 - Subchapter III defines and describes general permit standards for Biostabilization and Integrated Bank Protection on waterways less than 35 feet wide. The Emergency Rule has been modified from the 2005 version to add a grass species allowed for native seed mixtures, allow greater toe protection for the Integrated Bank Treatment GP in Driftless Area counties, and allow greater project length for the Integrated Bank Treatment GP to match the new NRCS technical standard. A housekeeping change adds a note regarding NR 341 grading permit requirements.

Waterfront property owners - from private landowners to business, builders and developers - will be interested in the additional general permits provided in the emergency rules, and the clear procedures and standards. State and federal agencies who design, install or fund shore protection and habitat projects along rivers and streams will benefit from the streamlined general permits. The public who use and enjoy Wisconsin's navigable waters will also benefit from standards established to protect the public interest.

Mr. Welter asked about the effects of these rules on projects that are permitted for this season.

Ms. Vollbrecht stated she thinks they should be able to go forward with their projects. The rule goes into effect when they are published.

Mr. Willett asked what if we don't pass this emergency rule and proceed with the normal rule making process.

Ms. Vollbrecht stated that there will be habitat projects this fall that people will decide not to do because of the individual permitting process.

Mr. Ela asked if there are two different types of projects. One being habitat related projects and the other is to shoreline enhancement related projects.

Ms. Vollbrecht stated it's difficult to distinguish between the two types of projects.

Mr. Ela MOVED, seconded by Mr. Welter adoption of Emergency Board Order WT-24-06 (E), revisions to NR 328, Subchapter III, pertaining to shore erosion control on rivers and streams.

Mr. Welter asked about the small landowner who has a degraded stream and is only buying minimal materials and then has to obtain a \$300 permit. It's important not to discourage these types of landowners.

The motion carried by all members approved.

3.A.4. Request authorization for hearing on Board Order AM-09-06, proposed amendments to NR 406, NR 407, and NR 410 implementing 285.60(6)(b), Stats, to exempt certain minor air pollution sources from construction and operation permit requirements.

Jeff Hanson, Section Chief, Permits and Stationary Source Modeling, Air Management Bureau stated

1. Exemption from operation and construction permitting requirements for facilities which have actual emissions of each criteria pollutants (other than lead) of less than 10 tons/year, and which are not subject to additional control requirements such as Federal hazardous air pollutant standards.

2. Exemption from construction permitting requirements of any construction/modification type of project at a facility where the project will have actual emissions of criteria pollutants (other than lead) of less than 10 tons/year, and which is not subject to additional control requirements such as Federal hazardous air pollutant standards.

3. Add an \$800 exemption review fee for all projects which claim exemption under item 2.

These changes are being proposed to meet statutory requirements of s. 285.60(6)(b), Stats., (contained in 2003 Wisconsin Act 118), which require the Department to exempt sources from permitting requirements which do not represent a significant hazard to public health, safety, welfare or to the environment.

The Board has not dealt with the general issue of permit exemptions since the early 1990's when the Federal operation permit program was established. At that time, the existing construction permit exemptions were included as operation permit exemptions.

Mr. Ela asked about the difference between the two different kinds of exemptions.

Mr. Hanson stated that it has to do with the tonnage for smaller facilities with less than 10 tons with big projects and for bigger facilities with smaller projects less than 10 tons.

Mr. Ela MOVED, seconded by Mr. Clausen approval of authorization for hearing on Board Order AM-09-06, proposed amendments to NR 406, NR 407, and NR 410 implementing 285.60(6)(b), Stats, to exempt certain minor air pollution sources from construction and operation permit requirements. The motion carried by all members.

3.B. Land Management, Recreation, and Fisheries/Wildlife

3.B.1. Adoption of Board Order WM-11-06, revisions to NR 10 relating to CWD Management

Alan Crossley, Wildlife Biologist, South Central Region gave an overview of the disease history and statistics over the past four years.

Mr. Welter asked about the population reduction since 2002.

Mr. Crossley stated that in the core area there hasn't been a lot of change over the 4 years.

Dr. Thomas asked what needs to happen to reduce the deer population

Mr. Crossley stated that we need to get people out in the woods killing the deer.

Dr. Thomas asked what percentage of landowners are participating in herd reductions efforts.

Mr. Crossley stated we haven't asked that specific question. Generally most people are hunting deer and killing deer on their property, however there are some who are not.

Mr. Willett asked about the correlation between the increase in fines and the increase of the deer population.

Mr. Welter asked if the fees were raised about the same time that feeding became legal.

Bill Vander Zouwen Section Chief, Wildlife and Landscape Ecology, Wildlife Management Bureau stated that this rule order includes the following proposed changes in the CWD hunting rules:

1) Provides an either-sex tagging regulation for the entire archery and gun deer season (no earn-a-buck).

2) Creates criteria where earn-a-buck regulations could be used again, if needed.

3) Shortens the early gun season in the DEZs from 18 days beginning in late October to 9 days beginning the Saturday proceeding the Thursday closest to October 27.

4) Shortens the late gun season in both the HRZ and DEZs by ending the season 3 Sundays after Thanksgiving, rather than January 3.

5) Creates criteria where the early gun season could be extended by 7 days, if needed.

6) Modifies the administrative code so that the archery season ends the same day as in non-CWD units, should that date change in future rules.

7) Modifies the dates of the DEZ state park gun hunting seasons to be consistent with CWD Zone hunts, with the exception that the early gun season hunting hours would close at noon.

8) Does not include boundary changes to CWD zones, specifically in unit 73B as requested by petitioners.

Therefore, under this proposal, hunters in the CWD Zones could expect the following season framework in 2006:

- Archery season: September 16 to January 3

- Early gun season: October 21-29 (DEZ); October 26-29 (HRZ)

- Late gun season: November 18 to December 10

- Tagging regulation: Unlimited either-sex, same tag for any deer

- No change in boundaries

Mr. Clausen stated that we need the help from the hunters and the landowners to reduce this disease.

Dr. Thomas stated that the public needs to start viewing the diseased deer as pollution walking across the landscape rather than antlers walking across the landscape.

Mr. Willett stated he is concerned about the lack of attitude change among the public and the perception of CWD. It is a crisis and the public doesn't see it that way.

Mr. O'Brien stated that he agrees with the approach the Department is taking this year, but if it doesn't work then the Department will have to take some strong measures, whatever those may be.

Public Appearances

1. **Tony Grabski**, Blue Mound, representing himself stated he is disgusted with the CWD season structure, use of sharpshooters, and excessive spending on attempts to eradicate CWD. He presented a resolution for the CWD zone deer season structure. It was presented in 8 counties at the Conservation Congress Spring Hearings and was approved in all 8 counties. The resolution recommends changes to simplify the CWD zone season structure yet provides substantial opportunity to reduce the deer population.

2. **Dick Marshall**, Richland Center, representing himself stated he would like to see an end to the October hunt. There isn't a need for it and people don't want it. He said there is a need to get landowners to buy into the DNR programs. There is also a need to simplify and reduce our deer hunting regulations.

Mr. Ela asked about the deer taken before the 9 day hunt. How would you make up for that if we eliminated the October hunt?

Mr. Marshall stated an incentive such as a state tax credit for landowners.

Mr. Welter asked what he would set as a deer season.

Mr. Marshall stated he would like to see no gun hunting before the 9 day season.

Mr. Welter asked if that is because he is a bowhunter

Mr. Marshall stated he is partially in agreement with that statement. There is also a safety issue. There needs to be creative incentives for landowners, we would not need the 4 day season.

Mr. Willett asked about the chart that Mr. Grabski handed out and the accuracy of the numbers.

Robert Rolley, Natural Resources Research Scientist, Integrated Science Services Bureau stated that the chart is the Department's data. He stated that the populations were much higher in the late 90s and fewer kills don't necessarily mean a smaller percentage of the population is killed.

Mr. Ela stated that it would be better to look at the portion of the population killed rather than total kill numbers.

3. **Jerry Gander**, Richland Center, representing himself stated he has lost much faith in the DNR because of poor public relations and not paying attention to what the sportsmen of this state are concerned about. He stated that the March 17th hearing fell on a Friday and St. Patrick's Day. It was poorly publicized. He thinks that the Department didn't want much attendance. All the people who voiced their opinion at that meeting opposed the October hunt. Most wanted to go back to a 9 or 16 day traditional hunt. He attended the public hearing hosted by Senator Schultz and the results were almost the same at that hearing. The DNR needs to listen to people and share all information, and consider the social aspects of deer hunting and have concern for multiple land use and safety.

4. **Dave Poff**, New Berlin, Chairman, CWD Committee, Conservation Congress read the resolution that was introduced at the Spring Hearings. "The DNR has spent over \$30 million since 2002 on CWD programs including extreme efforts to depopulate deer through complex and extended seasons, sharpshooters, and multiple eradication zones. Yet, CWD zones have expanded, deer harvest in these zones has decreased, and CWD incidence rate remains unchanged. Meanwhile, extensive collateral damage has been done to agency trust, hunting culture, and traditions.

Whereas, cooperative deer herd reduction, preservation of Wisconsin's hunting heritage, and fiscal responsibility, are necessary for CWD control.

Be it resolved, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting Waukesha County on April 10, 2006, recommends the DNR take action to correct this situation by introducing these rule changes:

1. Simplify CWD zones and deer season structure through a single CWD zone designation where CWD has been detected in wild deer having a Saturday prior to Thanksgiving opener, 23-day either sex gun hunt with unlimited harvest tags. Issue one gun buck tag to every hunter with additional buck tags issued under EAB rules.
2. One 4-day (Thurs.-Sun.) unlimited tag antlerless only hunt nearest October 15th.
3. Return archery season to its pre-CWD season date structure with a Sunday nearest January 6th closure, but allow unlimited either sex harvest. Issue one archery buck tag to every hunter with additional buck tags issued under EAB rules.
4. Eliminate sharpshooters with exception for their removal of visibly sick or injured deer."

He stated that the statewide vote in 8 counties was 367 yes and 122 no.

Mr. Welter asked about the 4 day hunt nearest October 15th and why it couldn't be either sex.

Mr. Poff stated that he believes the foliage is down enough. He prefers antlerless only to help reduce the deer herd.

Mr. Ela asked why the sharpshooters are unpopular with the hunting community.

Mr. Poff stated because people think they are infringing on taking bucks and they are shooting at night.

5. **Greg Kazmierski**, Waukesha, Wisconsin Deer Hunters Coalition requested the October hunt be minimized. He gave some statistical data about deer harvest. He believes hunters can kill enough deer in a 9 day season. He believes there is a disconnect between the science and the psychology of hunting.
6. **Dan Brockman**, Wisconsin Bowhunters Association stated that the October season infringes on the bow season. He asked for a traditional 9-day gun hunt.

Dr. Thomas asked about considering streamlining the CWD season with the rest of the state and then having a season in March.

Mr. Vander Zouwen stated the regulation this year is basically what a T zone regulation would be. The Department has considered that. A landowner permit is available during that time for \$2. Very few people participate.

Mr. Ela asked how many deer are shot by sharpshooters.

Mr. Vander Zouwen stated about 500 in the western eradication zone and with trapping 250 in the eastern zone. It begins in January.

Mr. Poulson asked about the resolution and accepting this proposal.

Mr. Vander Zouwen stated that the resolution is similar to what the Department is proposing. But the Department knows that bucks are vulnerable during the rut and would like to keep the 4 day hunt either sex or earn a buck.

Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien adoption of Board Order WM-11-06, revisions to NR 10 relating to CWD Management and to move the early gun season in HRZ from Oct 19-22 and the DEZ to Oct 14-22 as an either sex season.

Mr. Ela asked what the advantage is.

Mr. Welter stated that it would move it ahead of the rut and give the bowhunters an opportunity during the peak rut season.

The motion carried 6-1 with Mr. Willett voting no.

3.B.2. Land Acquisition and Easement, Wild Rivers Legacy Forest, Florence, Forest, and Marinette Counties.

Paul DeLong, Administrator, Forestry Division stated that when International Paper Company (IP) announced in July of 2005 it was selling its nationwide ownership of 6.8 million acres, the Department sought protection of the 69,000 acres in northeast Wisconsin. IP rebuffed the Department's attempt to buy a sustainable forestry easement and select fee title parcels. IP cited the value enhancement its Wisconsin acreage may have in a sale of its more than 500,000-acre Lake States ownership and required competitive bidding of all interested parties. The Department was subsequently approached by two groups requesting we be a part of their bids. IP required that the Department work with only one bidder.

In briefings with the Natural Resources Board, staff explained the competitive requirements and confidential conditions imposed by IP. The Board directed the Department to negotiate within perimeters to seek protection of the most pristine acres and to maintain by easement public access and a working forest. The agreement, which was negotiated with assistance by The Nature Conservancy, meets the direction and leadership put forth by the Board and Governor Doyle. In addition to fee title on pristine areas and public access for outdoor recreation, the forest legacy easement is specifically crafted to help maintain the exceptional ecological value of this hardwood/hemlock forest. The easement further protects the economic value of this forest to the local area and the state as a sustainable producer of forest products as well as a large scenic area for outdoor recreation. The Department has reached an agreement with The Nature Conservancy and International Paper Company to purchase 5,610 acres of land for the Pine-Popple Wild Rivers project in Florence County. In addition, the Department has an agreement to purchase a sustainable forestry easement on 59,024 acres in Florence, Forest and Marinette Counties for the Forest Legacy Program. The total area protected by fee title purchase and by easement is 64,634 acres. Conservation Forestry, LLC will own the land encumbered by the easement after the transaction is complete.

At closing, expected in July of 2006, the Department plans to convey \$33,000,000. The state will receive 5,610 acres in fee title for the wild rivers and lakes. In addition, it will receive an easement for sustainable forestry on 44,457 acres. The Nature Conservancy will spend \$6,075,000 for an easement on the 14,567-acre "Goodman

Block" in Marinette County. The Department has an agreement to purchase that easement from The Nature Conservancy, allowing time in the interim for the Department and The Nature Conservancy to seek other funds to cover the cost. Specifically, the Federal Forest Legacy Program has a goal of protecting forestland and funding will be sought from the federal government to support this project. The Nature Conservancy plans to conduct fundraising as well. The Stewardship law provides for the Department to borrow ahead using FY07 and FY08 funding for the anticipated July 2006 closing. In order to obligate \$33,000,000 for this transaction, the Natural Resources Board will need to determine that current funding is insufficient for the project that the project covers a large area or is uniquely valuable for conservation and that delay of the cost is not reasonably possible.

Richard Steffes, Real Estate Director gave further details about the land easement acquisition.

Public Appearance

1. **Mary Jean Huston**, Madison, The Nature Conservancy thanked the Board, the Department and the Governor for the great partnership on this exceptional conservation opportunity. She highlighted the benefits of this project.

Mr. Ela stated that one of the criticisms of this transaction is the confidentiality of the deal.

Ms. Huston stated that the seller, International Papers set up the parameters of the sale and like most real estate transactions, confidentiality was required.

Mr. Ela MOVED, seconded by Dr. Thomas approval of Land Acquisition and Easement, Wild Rivers Legacy Forest, Florence, Forest, and Marinette Counties.

Mr. Welter appreciated the opportunity to view these lands.

The motion carried unanimously by all members.

3.B.3. **Land Acquisitions and project boundary modification, Chippewa Flowage Scenic Waters Area, Sawyer County.**

Mr. Willett MOVED, seconded by Mr. Clausen approval of Land Acquisitions and project boundary modification, Chippewa Flowage Scenic Waters Area, Sawyer County. The motion carried unanimously by all members.

3.B.4. **Land Donation, Ice Age Trail, Waushara County**

Mr. Willett MOVED, seconded by Mr. Welter approval of Land Donation, Ice Age Trail, Waushara County. The motion carried unanimously by all members.

3.B.5. **Reconsideration in response to legislative request to Board Order WM-29-05, revisions to NR 10 pertaining to deer hunting seasons and regulations.**

Keith Warnke, Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Management Bureau stated that the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR) passed a motion that requests that the Department consider modifying the Deer Season Rule (CR05-086). The Department recommends that the Board modify the rule to include all Deer Management Units north of HWY 8 in the 4-day December gun hunt. Further, the Department recommends that the Board modify the rule to limit the 4-day December hunt in Deer Management Units north of HWY 8 to 2006. The Department recommends that the modified rule be promulgated immediately after final JCRAR review and implemented for the 2006 hunting season.

Mr. Welter suggested that the tag be a different color from the tags that were already issued.

Mr. Warnke stated that the Department has planned for this situation and developed a tag design that we felt would be understandable, clear, and applicable under either scenario with the exception of under the new rule, archers would get an additional antlerless tag.

Public Appearances

1. **Steve Oestreicher**, Harshaw, Conservation Congress stated that the 4 day antlerless hunt in early December needs to be implemented statewide. It would be confusing to exclude 10 units.

Mr. Welter recognized this as Mr. Oestreicher's last meeting as the Conservation Congress Chairman and thanked him for his service.

2. **Morris Nelson**, Edgerton, Association of Wisconsin Snowmobilers (AWSC) believes that everyone is losing with this rule. He stated that AWSC's reputation has been damaged due to this process. He stated that AWSC may just know a little bit about snowmobiling in this state. He gave a review of the rule process. He is proud to represent an organization that played fair, played by the rules, played his role in the process.

Mr. Ela MOVED, seconded by Mr. Welter to accept modifications to Board Order WM-29-05, revisions to NR 10 pertaining to deer hunting seasons and regulations as suggested by Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules. The motion carried unanimously by all members.

Mr. Willett MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela reverse the action taken at the February meeting and promulgate rule presented today. The motion carried unanimously by all members.

4. Citizen Participation 11:00 a.m.

4.A Citizen Recognition

4.A.1. Rebecca Wallace Award

Secretary Hassett stated that this award is presented annually at the April NRB meeting by the DNR Secretary. DNR employees nominate a co-worker to receive this award in honor of Becky Wallace. Becky, Chief of the Non-Point Source Management Section (now Runoff Management) was an 18 year veteran employee of DNR who was killed in an automobile accident, along with her husband Lyle, in February of 1997. Her staff developed this award in memory of Becky.

Carol Bentzler, Water Supply Specialist, Public Water Supply Section, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater is the 2006 recipient of the award.

Carol Bentzler thanked Department for the award.

4.A.2. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement: Mead-Witter Foundation, Inc. and Friends of Mead-McMillan Association, Inc. and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Scott Humrickhouse, Director, West Central Region stated that the friends of Mead-McMillan Association, Inc. and the Mead-Witter Foundation, Inc. plan to create the "Mead Wildlife Area Trust" that will fund the salary for a full-time Wildlife Educator at the new Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center located on the George W. Mead Wildlife Area. The trust will also fund other management and development activities that the Trust Board finds compatible with the objectives of that trust. A "Cooperative Agreement" between the Foundation, the Friends, and the Department has been created to acknowledge this effort and to outline the working relationship between these two funding organizations and the Department.

The funding of an educator position and other appropriate wildlife area activities is a continuation of significant past gift and funding support, from both organizations, to the Wildlife Area and the Department. Funding of the Wildlife Educator position is of major significance for it will provide greatly needed professional staff to carry out the mission of the newly completed center.

Dr. Thomas asked when this position will be started.

Mr. Humrickhouse stated that there needs to be adequate funding before that position can be filled. Initially the Friends will fund the position, then as the amount in the principle builds, the trust will assume responsibility.

Kent Hall, President, Mead Friends Group explained the process further.

Mr. Clausen MOVED, Seconded by Mr. Ela approved the Memorandum of Agreement: Mead-Witter Foundation, Inc. and Friends of Mead-McMillan Association, Inc. and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The motion carried unanimously by all members.

Mr. O'Brien announced that the Board would go into executive session under the authority of s.19.85(1) (e) Wisconsin Statutes, for the purpose of discussing potential real estate transactions.

The Board reconvened and Mr. O'Brien announced that no action was taken at the executive session.

4.B. Citizen Participation

1. **Roger Kerr**, Boscobel, representing himself, Trout Regulations in Southwest Wisconsin gave a brief history of his career with the DNR. He thinks that trout regulations should be simplified. He reviewed the complexity of the current regulations and stated that it is driving people out of trout fishing.

2. **John Slaney**, Merrimac, representing himself, Trout Regulations in Southwest Wisconsin stated that many people aren't fishing because of aggressive law enforcement. People are confused by the regulations. He reviewed the Pine and Melancton Creek regulation changes. He stated that he didn't think the NRB received the correct recommendation for those streams.

Mr. Willett asked citizens not to make personal comments about Board members or staff. He agreed that fishing and hunting are heavily regulated. He asked Secretary Hassett if it would be possible to review the regulations and simplify them where possible.

Mr. Hassett stated that he would have fisheries staff review regulations, but he believed that the regulations are accurate to reflect what the public is asking for and to protect the resource.

Mr. Welter stated that the basis of those comments are based on cherry picked information that comes from a variety of sources, none of it based on scientific evidence.

3. **Phil Roberts**, Boscobel, representing himself, Trout Regulations in Southwest Wisconsin stated he is concerned about the loss of the desire to fish in our children. Grandparents do not take their grandchildren fishing because the regulations are too complicated.

4. **Jeff Samida**, Sherwood, representing himself, Deer Hunting at High Cliff State Park stated he is concerned about the perception of the DNR to the public. He thinks that the DNR develops a proposal and then isn't willing to budge after citizen input. He believes that High Cliff State Park is going to be surrounded by development soon and that the Department should plan to make the park bigger. He asked the Board to build relationships with the community.

Mr. Ela asked about the issue of too many deer and how to solve that problem.

Mr. Samida suggested an October 4 day hunt and a 9 day hunt.

5. Board Members' Matters

5.A. Elk Update

Laine Stowell, Elk Biologist, Northern Region stated that from 1995 through 2004 annual observed mortality was about 4 elk per year. From 1998 through 2004 the elk herd grew about 15 percent annually. However, during 2004-2005 observed mortality was 14 and projected mortality 17 elk, resulting in an annual growth of only 4 percent. This pattern appears to be continuing thus far during 2005-2006. Observed mortality is 18 elk and projected mortality is about 24 elk, resulting in an annual growth of 1 percent. Identified causes of mortality include: 6 elk died due to wolves (3 young bulls, two 18-20 year old cows & one 13 year old cow), 3 to vehicles, 2 calves likely due to mothers with high liver fluke loads, 2 calves to bears, 2 calves to bacterial infection, 1 cow being shot, and 1 of unknown causes.

Mr. Willett asked about writing a Memorandum of Understanding between DOT and DNR regarding elk crossings and speed limits.

Dr. Thomas suggested recognizing citizens who cooperate with efforts not to feed elk.

Mr. O'Brien asked when the Board will receive a report on the SAK audit

Mr. Warnke stated he thinks in June.

6. Special Committees' Reports

None.

7. Department Secretary's Matters

7.A. Retirement Resolutions

7.A.1. Jim Goodno

7.A.2. Tom J. Quilty

7.A.3. David W. Marshall

7.A.4. Thomas N. Harpt

7.A.5. Robert Park

Mr. Poulson MOVED, seconded by Dr. Thomas approval of the retirement resolutions. The motion carried by all members.

7.B. Donations

7.B.1. Marvin and Ruth Schuette of Wausau-Sterling Homes, Inc. and the Friends of Mead-McMillan Association, Inc. will donate the Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center.

Mr. Ela MOVED, seconded by Mr. Welter approval of the donation of the Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center by Marvin and Ruth Schuette of Wausau-Sterling Homes, Inc. The motion carried unanimously by all members.

- 7.B.2. The Northern Cross Science Foundation will donate \$12,000 in the form of an Observatory Building at Harrington Beach State Park.

Mr. Willett MOVED, seconded by Dr. Thomas approval of the donation of \$12,000 in the form of an Observatory Building at Harrington Beach State Park from the Northern Cross Science Foundation. The motion carried unanimously by all members.

8. Information Items

8.A. Air, Waste, and Water/Enforcement

- 8.A.1. "Too Valuable to Waste," a short video produced by the DNR on the role of recycling in Wisconsin's economy.

Brad Wolbert, Recycling plays an important role in the US and in Wisconsin's economy. Recycled materials provide crucial feedstocks for a variety of industries, including metals, plastic, and paper. Here in Wisconsin, recycled paper has been a valued resource for decades, sustaining the mills that employ thousands of workers. And the value of recycled materials is increasing rapidly, due to burgeoning demand from developing countries such as China and India.

Yet the connection between recycling and the state's economic vitality has rarely been spotlighted; people associate recycling with environmentalism, but not necessarily with jobs and economic growth. The Department wants to change that. The Waste and Materials Management Program is developing several products that emphasize the economic benefits Wisconsin derives from its nationally recognized recycling program. We hope to provide additional motivation to local officials, businesses, and residents to maximize the recovery of valuable resources.

One of the products is a 5-minute video, "Too Valuable To Waste," that vividly illustrates how recycling supports jobs in Wisconsin, and diverts valuable resources out of the landfill and back into the economy. This video provides real Wisconsin examples of how materials such as paper and plastic that are collected by local recycling programs are processed into valuable commodities that support manufacturing jobs here in our state.

DNR and UW-Extension staff will use this video in presentations to local governments, business and civic groups, schools, and fairs. It will also be available for use by local recycling coordinators and other interested parties who wish to convey the same message.

- 8.B. Land Management, Recreation, and Fisheries/Wildlife
None

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.