

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Retirement Resolution - Ray J. Amiel

**FOR:** FEBRUARY, 2010 BOARD MEETING

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

**SUMMARY:**

Ray J. Amiel retired on December 25, 2009 with over 32 years of service.

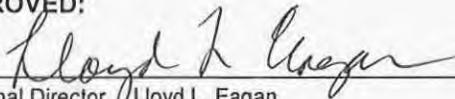
**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt retirement resolution for Ray J. Amiel

**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:**

  
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 Regional Director, Lloyd L. Eagan

1/4/2010  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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 Administrator,  
  
  
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 Secretary, Matt Frank

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date  
2-3-10  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

- cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8  
 Lloyd Eagan - Fitchburg  
 John Nielsen - Fitchburg  
 Debbie Kundert - Fitchburg

## *Retirement Resolution*

Ray Amiel, Forester for Green County, South Central Region, Monroe, retired on December 25, 2009. Ray has served the forestry community in numerous roles for more than 32 years, providing dedicated service to the people and natural resources of the State of Wisconsin.

Ray began his career with the Department as a Forester Trainee on July 18, 1977, with a training period in Tomahawk. Ray's first position as a Forester-Ranger was at Black River Falls started on October 9, 1977. Ray's work in Jackson County included jobs on the Black River State Forest, the Jackson County Forest, and in private lands forestry, and fire control. On February 11, 1979 Ray moved to Green County, assigned to the Monroe office. He worked in Green and Dane counties providing forestry expertise for area landowners, and managing DNR forestry programs on state lands. Ray accepted the Madison Area Forester position on June 4, 1989. In this role he provided forestry program leadership and supervised staff in Rock, Green, Jefferson, and Dane counties. It was a period of significant growth in private forestry programs.

On February 2, 1997 Ray assumed the role of Regional Forestry Expert/Fire Management Officer. Ray's role was a new position for the Forestry Program, adapting to the Department of Natural Resources reorganization, with significant challenges and requiring many hours of time above and beyond the call of duty. As with all his assignments Ray's dedication to the fields of forestry and land conservation provided the motivation needed to meet the demands of the changes and help the forestry program to prosper.

Ray's last career move was to return to his roots in Green County working as a field forester in the Monroe office starting on November 23, 1997. Several years of "pounding the ground" serving the landowners of Southern Wisconsin, working outdoors and hands-on with the forest promoting sustainable forestry brought Ray to the point of retirement. Ray's working knowledge of forestry will be missed by his co-workers who often contacted him for his expertise, and he was always willing to help.

Some of Ray's numerous awards and special assignments include: Specialist Teams: Private Forestry Committee; Forestry Training Committee; Silviculture Specialist Team; Fire Management Team; and Forestry Law Enforcement Team; Member of Original Project Polar Bear Working Group; Leadership Roles: Forest Management Team; Forestry Training Study Team; Co-op Fire Study Team; Forestry Law Enforcement Study Team; Chair of the Forestry Training Committee; WFLGP Ad Hoc Rules Team; Awards: Wisconsin Forester of the Year-2005; Michael King Forester of the Year- WI Society of American Forester – 2006; Presidential Forester-2006 -Society of American Foresters; WI Forestry Achievement Award-2008 (Forestry LE Specialist Team); Other Accomplishments: Credentialed Officer for WDNR (Forest Ranger); Tree planting of 4+ million tree seedlings; Society of American Foresters 35+ years; Past Chapter Chair of Southwest Chapter of the SAF (3 times).

In addition Ray and his wife, Rodonna, a teacher and principal, raised two daughters, Jennifer and Lindsay, while making their home and careers serving the people and families of Wisconsin.

**WHEREAS**, Ray Amiel 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 February 2010 meeting at Madison, WI, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

*Natural Resources Board*

Jonathan P. Ela, CHAIR