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NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

BRIEF OF ACTION

A special meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 in Room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. for action on item 1. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

William Bruins – absent	Preston Cole – present
Christine Thomas – present	Jane Wiley – present
Terry Hilgenberg – present	David Clausen – present
Greg Kazmierski – present	

1.B. Approval of agenda for December 13-14, 2011

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Cole. The motion carried with a vote of 6 – 0, with Mr. Bruins absent.

2. Information Items

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

None

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

2.B.1 Report and preliminary findings from the 2011 firearm deer season

INFORMATION ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

2.B.2 Almond Deer Farm Update

INFORMATION ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

2.B.3 Report on the Wisconsin Waterfowl Strategic Plan with an update on the potential for a sea duck season on the Great Lakes (PowerPoint)

Dr. Clausen requested a report on the lead contaminant testing results of urban geese that were captured, euthanized, and donated to food pantries to include the contaminant level history for the past five years.

INFORMATION ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Dr. Thomas to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 in Room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. for action on items 1-7. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

William Bruins – absent	Preston Cole – present
Christine Thomas – present	Jane Wiley – present
Terry Hilgenberg – present	David Clausen – present
Greg Kazmierski – present	

1.B. Approval of minutes from October 17, 2011

Mr. Cole MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried with a vote of 6 – 0, with Mr. Bruins absent.

1.C. Approval of minutes from October 26, 2011

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Cole. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

Mr. Cole MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Action Items

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

None

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

3.B.1 Request approval to solicit comments on economic impact and authorization for public hearings on Board Order FH-21-11, requiring access to wire cutters when trolling in outlying waters

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Cole. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.2 Request approval of the Master Plan for Sandhill, Wood County and Meadow Valley Wildlife Areas **Note:** This item was tabled at the October 26, 2011 meeting

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley.

Mr. Hilgenberg complimented staff for a great site tour. He received a great insight on the property. Staff are doing a great job but this is too much responsibility for the level of staff. This needs to be addressed over time.

Dr. Clausen thanked staff for distributing the Point Beach Master Plan in advance.

The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.3.a. Request approval of Natural Resources Board policy on the use of trail cameras on Department properties

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED to defer action until the January 25, 2012 meeting, seconded by Ms. Wiley and that the Department include an advisory question on the use of trail cameras

on Department properties as part of the 2012 Wildlife Management spring meeting advisory

questions package. The question would be an NRB advisory question.

Dr. Thomas then requested the Department hold an additional public information hearing on the use of trail cameras on Department properties.

The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.3.b. Informational report on regulations pertaining to the use of tree stands on Department properties

Mr. Kazmierski requested the Department proceed with rulemaking to authorize the overnight placement of tree stands on Department managed lands.

INFORMATION ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

3.B.4 Land Acquisition, Northern Highland/American Legion State Forest and Statewide Natural Areas, Vilas and Iron Counties

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Dr. Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.5 Land Acquisition, Wolf River Wildlife Area, Winnebago County

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.6 Land Acquisition, Black River State Forest Area, Jackson County

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley.

Mr. Hilgenberg requested the Department be more aggressive in the appraisal process.

The motion carried unanimously.

3.C. Scope Statements

3.C.1 Request approval of the Statement of Scope and to proceed with drafting of Board Order FR-19-11, related to amending NR 47 for Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP) for private forest landowners and creating rules for WFLGP for Weed Management Areas

Mr. Cole MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried unanimously.

3.C.2 Request approval of the Statement of Scope and to proceed with drafting of Board Order FR-24-11, related to regenerating harvested areas of Department owned and managed lands

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Cole. The motion carried unanimously.

3.D. Budget

3.D.1 Request approval of FY 2011 – 2013 Capital Development Funding to Enhance Public Access and use of Department Lands

Mr. Hilgenberg recommended the Department include their toll free call center number (888-936-7463) on property signage.

Dr. Thomas added to Mr. Hilgenberg's recommendation to include the website link to the property.

Secretary Stepp suggested that staff include the computer scan for Smartphone's on the signage.

Mr. Kazmierski recommended the Department work with clubs and organizations to assist with projects such as roadwork.

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval, seconded by Dr. Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Citizen Participation – 1:00 p.m.

4.A. Citizen Participation

5. Board Members' Matters

Mr. Hilgenberg requested the Department look into not allowing clearcutting on areas of 40 acres or more on Department properties.

Mr. Hilgenberg then commented on bulldozed logging roads as has been observed in the Northern Highlands/American Legion state forest over the last several years. He requested the Department consider those be re-opened to allow for better access and camping in an effort to encourage a more hunter-friendly opportunity and environment.

Dr. Clausen requested staff give Mr. Hilgenberg a briefing on forestry practices.

Dr. Thomas requested the Department look into processing turkey permit applications by the end of December instead of at the end of January.

Mr. Kazmierski supported Dr. Thomas' request noting that this would enable hunters to actually plan their travel and vacation time.

Mr. Kazmierski commented on the Act 21 scope statement process. He appreciates seeing the direction of rules upfront.

Dr. Clausen stated that with the change in policy related to scope statements, the Board now provides the opportunity for citizens to testify. It is important to get public input early in the process.

Mr. Kazmierski then stated as a sidebar that he feels more comfortable about the Highlands/Van Vliet purchase. A few years back this property appraised at \$7 million.

Mr. Cole requested Secretary Stepp have an opportunity at the January 2012 meeting to present a lookback to 2011 on the Department's accomplishments and also to include the Department's perspective for what the road holds for the Department in 2012 and how the Board can respond to it.

Ms. Wiley stated one of the things that came up after the Patriot Act was that power plants had to install fencing. As a result, traditional portage paths around the dam are gone. River users now need to forage their own path. She requested the Department look at and put money into good portage trails for kayaks and canoes around power plant dams and smaller dams on Wisconsin's main water trails.

6. Special Committees' Reports
None

7. Department Secretary's Matters

7.A. Retirement Resolutions

7.A.1 Thomas A. Nigus

7.A.2 Dave Paynter

7.A.3 Doug Rinzel

- 7.A.4 Joan Rockwell
- 7.A.5 Alan Tatzel
- 7.A.6 Shane Weber
- 7.A.7 Nancy R. Wood

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski of the retirement resolutions. The motion carried unanimously.

7.B. Donations

- 7.B.1 The Friends of High Cliff State Park will donate \$160,000 to High Cliff State Park for funding restoration to the wetlands, stream and trail of the Butterfly Pond Trail area

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7.B.2 The Green Bay Packers will donate \$16,000 to the Department of Natural Resources to be used by the "First Downs for Trees" program

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7.B.3 Polaris Industries Inc. of Osceola, Wisconsin, will generously donate a 2009 Polaris Sportsman ATV valued at \$6,999 and a 2009 Polaris IQ FST Touring Snowmobile valued at \$10,099, for a total value of \$17,098

Mr. Cole MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Information Items

- 8.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement
- 8.A.1 Silica Report Briefing RETURNED at 1:00

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- 8.A.2 Update on Oak Creek Bluff Collapse at WE Energies Power Plant

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- 8.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife
- 8.B.1 Annual Report on Commercial Fishing from the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Commercial Fishing Boards

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Ms. Wiley to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

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DECEMBER 13-14, 2011

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