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## NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

### BRIEF OF ACTION

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held via conference call on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 in Room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. for action on items 1-7. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

David Clausen – present	Preston Cole – present
Jonathan Ela – present	Gary Rohde – present
John Welter – present	Christine Thomas – present
Jane Wiley – present	

1.B. Approval of agenda for February 23, 2011

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

1.C. Approval of minutes from January 25-26, 2011

**Dr. Clausen MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Cole.**

**Dr. Clausen** commented that the minutes are correct with regard to his proposed Spring Conservation Congress Hearing question. He understands through no fault of a reporter, that there were some errors made in a publication. The correct version is in the minutes.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

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

3. Action Items

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

None

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

3.B.1 Ratification of Department decision to issue Stewardship grant to Friends of the Fox for acquisition of 0.84 acres with one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) prohibition

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

4. Citizen Participation

4.A. Citizen Participation

None

5. Board Members' Matters

**Dr. Clausen** expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Warden force for their work during the blizzard.

**Dr. Clausen** then briefed the Board on an update on his and John Welter's charge from the January 2011 meeting to devise initiatives in terms of lead education. He stated that the Namakogen Lake Association (NLA) in conjunction with LoonWatch and Bayfield County Lakes Forum are looking at making Namakogen Lake an experimental voluntary lead-free fishing tackle lake. The Department has money in the budget for them to acquire, as part of our Lead Action Plan, non-toxic tackle to use in their exchange program. The Board received a letter from NLA requesting the Board and Department sign-on to this program as a participant and partner. This program is strictly voluntary and educational.

**Chair Ela** encouraged the Department to be partners with NLA.

**Dr. Clausen** stated WI Conservation Congress passed a resolution last year to proceed with some type of phase-out of lead tackle. No one has figured out on how to proceed on this. Right now, the Department is undertaking their revisions to NR 45 - Use of Department Properties, which is done every couple years. He understands it is possible that as part of these revisions they could look at somewhere between three and six lakes to be lead-free for education and for evaluation in the Northern Highlands Forest where property around the lake is owned by the Department. He asked the Board and Department to include this in the NR 45 revisions.

**Cathy Stepp**, Department Secretary, suggested this request be added to the March agenda so the Department has time to get good feedback from staff and make sure this is something everyone feels comfortable about.

**Dr. Thomas** stated that the Student Law Enforcement Association at UW-Stevens Point last week sponsored an event called Harmony in the Woods. The Association asked her to make the opening remarks. With her Dean hat on, she thanked the Bureau of Law Enforcement and Water Guards Program for sending staff to participate. With her Board hat on, she stated she was very proud of staff. They did a really good job with a program that is designed to inform people about the diverse users of our natural resources and about sharing and getting along with others.

**Dr. Thomas** mentioned that back in December 2010 she wrote a letter to staff in the USDA asking them to do whatever they can to keep the Hall Farm fence up. The American Wildlife Conservation Partnership, which is a massive coalition of national natural resources related conservation groups, a number of those groups wrote a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture asking him to keep the fence up on the Hall Farm.

Last week, at the Wildlife Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (of which she is chair) meeting in Washington, D.C., the group asked the USDA Secretary's staff to their next meeting to make a presentation outlining for them what they are doing to protect wildlife from diseases that may be on private land that USDA has interest or jurisdiction on. National conservation groups have also asked the USDA to take action on the Hall property.

**Mr. Cole** invited the Board and Department to attend the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show at State Fair Park in West Allis from March 9-13, 2011. This is a little reminder that spring is around the corner. <http://www.jsonline.com/sportsshow/>

**Mr. Rohde** requested an update on the retirees and vacancies at the March Board meeting, to include the staffing process on filling positions.

**Mr. Ela** had distributed to the Board a request from the Lower WI State Riverway Board (LWSRB) to designate a "unit" of the Riverway be named in memory of Wisconsin conservation icon Harold "Bud" Jordahl, who passed away in May 2010. He requested the Department put together a green sheet on this matter for the March 2011 meeting to proceed with the renaming. Mr. Ela will undertake getting more information from the LWSRB such as maps or aerial photographs of this unit and see that the Board has access to that. **(Handout)**

6. Special Committees' Reports  
None

7. Department Secretary's Matters

7.A. Retirement Resolutions

- 7.A.1 Larry Damman
- 7.A.2 Richard R. Thorbjornsen
- 7.A.3 Peter D. Flaherty
- 7.A.4 Thomas F. Steidl
- 7.A.5 Stuart C. Pfeiffer
- 7.A.6 David D. Goldsworthy
- 7.A.7 William H. Schwengel
- 7.A.8 Darrel Richer
- 7.A.9 Jannie A. Wille
- 7.A.10 Nancy Palmer Payne
- 7.A.11 John R. Blayney
- 7.A.12 Tom A. Tewes
- 7.A.13 Tom Blotz
- 7.A.14 Lawrence E. Claggett
- 7.A.15 Ronald W. Kazmierczak
- 7.A.16 Carol A. McCurry
- 7.A.17 Rick Ostrowski
- 7.A.18 Linda S. Winn

**Mr. Welter MOVED approval, seconded by Dr. Thomas of the retirement resolutions. The motion carried unanimously.**

7.B. Donations

- 7.B.1 Willow River OWLs will donate up to \$20,000 to pay the salary of a limited term environmental educator for 2011

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

8. Information Items

- 8.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement  
None

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

- 8.B.1 Status of Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund **ADDED**

**Mr. Cole** stated that in the same unity provided during the reauthorization with the environmental community, conservation community, NGOs, and LUGs as they lobbied individuals at the Capitol as well as the Governor's office, he sees that happening again as the state starts to reduce the amount of capital borrowing. He is very interested in hearing what the WI Conservation Congress and other groups have to say on this and whether these groups will continue their fight for Stewardship. Those groups need to get together again.

**Mr. Welter** requested the Department bring back to the Board, as an information item, their final recommendations with criteria on the assessment of surplus land for sale or exchange for other conservation land.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

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

FEBRUARY 23, 2011

\*\*\*The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.\*\*\*

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