

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolutions

FOR: JUNE 2011 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUMMARY:

The Department requests the following employees be recognized and commended for faithful and exemplary public service:

Employee	Years of Service
1. Robert P. Barnum	36
2. Michael Coshun	27
3. Jeffrey J. Dauterman	30
4. Robert Focht	31
5. Karl Hansen	28
6. Dan Helf	34
7. John Huppert	30
8. Loren Larson	35
9. John H. Melby, Jr.	35
10. Peter Prusak	34
11. James Rakitnichan	26
12. James Schaefer	28
13. Edward Schmechel	23
14. Joel Weinert	24
15. Todd O. Wipperman	39
16. Mike Lutz	35

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Retirement Resolutions for June 2011

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|----------|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

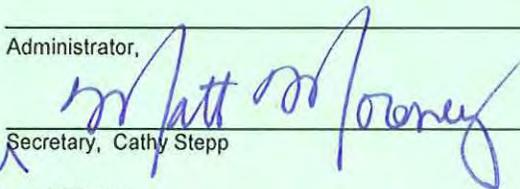
APPROVED:

Bureau Director,

Date

Administrator,

Date

for  _____
Secretary, Cathy Stepp

6/13/11
Date

cc: NRB Liaison
DNR Rules Coordinator

Retirement Resolution

Robert P. Barnum retired from the state service on December 30, 2010 after faithfully serving the citizens of Wisconsin for thirty three years.

In 1974 Bob began his career as an Environmental Engineer working in the Drinking Water and Groundwater Program in the Northeast Region. In 1978, Bob was named the first Drinking Water and Groundwater Program supervisor in the region. Over the course of the next 22 years, Bob continued in this capacity as the Department of Natural Resources structure underwent change.

As a licensed professional engineer, Bob was a leader in advancing the Drinking Water and Groundwater program to where it is today. He exemplified teamwork in developing staff with a commitment to excellence, including two staff members who received the John Brogan Award. Bob is well respected by his staff and peers.

The responsibilities managed by Bob continued to increase as the Safe Drinking Water Act (SWDA) expanded, and he was instrumental in successfully achieving the goal of primacy for the Department. Over the years numerous letters of commendation were sent to the Department regarding Bob's work ethic and results. In 1999 he was published in the American Waterworks Association national magazine for a study he co-authored on blue-green algae toxin.

Bob maintained a high degree of professionalism in his work and was instrumental in achieving the goals of the Drinking Water Program. In addition, he is a consummate team player in his profession. His career with the Department is distinguished by his positive attitude, his dedication to his work and colleagues, and his exceptional relationships throughout Northeast Wisconsin. In addition, Bob has a fine reputation for his meetings including effective communication and gourmet food. Bob will also excel in retirement since it will provide more time to pursue his passions of the Green Bay Packers and poker.

WHEREAS, Robert P. Barnum 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Mike Coshun began his career in fisheries with the Wisconsin DNR in the fall of 1984 in a project biologist position at Green Bay. He was hired in a permanent position as a Natural Resources Specialist 1–Fish in the summer of 1985, stationed in Oshkosh. From then through 1990, Mike promoted through the Specialist series and eventually reached Natural Resources Specialist 6. During that period, in 1987, he transferred to the Southeast District where he was located at the Great Lakes Research Facility in Milwaukee. In 1993, Mike transferred to Manitowoc for a short time as a Fisheries Biologist–Senior, but later that same year took a promotion to become the Area Fisheries Supervisor at Woodruff. During the Department reorganization of 1997, Mike transferred to the position of Headwaters Basin Sub-team Leader at Woodruff. In 1999, desiring to get back to fisheries work, Mike took a voluntary demotion to become the Treaty Fisheries Assessment Team Supervisor, still at Woodruff. Finally, in 2000 Mike returned to more hands-on fisheries work when he became the Treaty Fisheries Biologist at Woodruff, the position he held until his retirement in 2011.

Mike spent much of the first half of his career working with fisheries on big water, including Lakes Michigan and Winnebago. His early work involved Great Lakes trout and salmon, and he played a key role in planning the funding and construction of the Root River Steelhead Facility, as well as planning operations at the Besadny Steelhead Facility on the Kewaunee River. While in Milwaukee, Mike oversaw both commercial and sport fisheries management in the southern portion of Lake Michigan. In Oshkosh, Mike designed and carried out a sampling plan for evaluating the impacts of the ongoing freshwater drum removal program.

Mike's move to Woodruff involved a major shift in the types of fishery resources as well as a greater emphasis on people management. The move also brought with it a whole new set of issues, some of them often contentious, including the treaty fishery issue. Mike's last 12 years were in the Treaty Fisheries Assessment program, and during that time he remained a staunch defender of the resource and raised the bar for the quality and integrity of the fishery assessment work that was being done by the Department.

Throughout his career, it can be said that Mike has truly cared about the fishery resource of Wisconsin, about the quality of the work he did, and about the people he has worked with. Mike has performed his job as a professional of the highest order and his accomplishments will have lasting benefits for the fishery resource and the people of Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, Mike Coshun 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Mike a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Jeffrey J. Dauterman, Conservation Warden, Environmental Warden, and Recreational Safety Warden serving with the Bureau of Law Enforcement retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on June 30, 2011, after 30 years of dedicated service to the protection of Wisconsin's precious natural resources, to the outdoor recreationists and all other citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Jeff started his career with the Department in 1980 at Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit as a Forest Ranger working 2 summers. During this time Jeff was hired as one of “Harelson’s Army” for the Fond du Lac County Deputy Wardens. On January 1, 1982 Jeff achieved his ultimate goal as he started his career as a Wisconsin Conservation Warden. September 1984 Jeff transferred to the Southern District to the Dodge and Columbia County station at Beaver Dam. As a Conservation Warden, Jeff excelled in interviewing and investigations as well as involvement in public relations. In 1990 Jeff won the Outstanding Public Relations Program award for the Southern District. After 10 years as a Conservation Warden Jeff was looking for a new challenge and during October 1992 Jeff promoted to the Environmental Warden position at Fitchburg in the Southern District. As an Environmental Warden Jeff investigated and submitted for prosecution over 70 criminal and civil cases, as well as assisting in many other investigations. After a few years Jeff realized that Madison was not the place for him or his family. In July 1996, Jeff transferred to the Recreational Safety Warden position in the Northern Region at Antigo where he remained until retirement.

As a Recreational Safety Warden, Jeff’s skills in training were very prevalent with major involvement in the development of a CD Rom Snowmobile Safety Course as well as Snowmobile and ATV Safety Internet courses and Safety Program manuals and exams. Jeff also pioneered development of the hands on lesson based training for all the safety programs. Jeff initiated many of these lesson plans and was continually making improvements to this innovative system of instruction. Jeff was continually involved with multitudes of projects to help the WI Safety Program Instructors become more professional and better prepared in their roles.

During his entire career Jeff’s supervisors have repeatedly recognized him for his dedication and commitment to the natural resources and the public we serve. In addition, these same supervisors have countless times labeled him as being highly motivated, self initiated, organized, skilled, productive and constructively outspoken; with unquestioned work-ethic and leadership abilities. Above all else Jeff was held in high regard and respect by his fellow Wardens, DNR co-workers, volunteer instructors and the public that Jeff has worked with over his career. Jeff will be greatly missed by all those who have had the pleasure and opportunity to work with him.

WHEREAS, Jeffrey J. Dauterman 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Bob Focht retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on December 30, 2010 after completing over 31 years of outstanding service to the people of Wisconsin.

He began his career as an LTE forester in October 1977 at Spooner helping private land owners salvage timber in response to the great blow down storm of July 1977. In May 1978, he became an Aspen Acceleration Project Forester setting up over mature aspen sales for the Washburn County Forest. He began his full time career with the Department in August of 1979 as forest ranger at the Hayward Ranger Station where he performed fire control and forest management duties over a 5 year period. In March of 1985, Bob was promoted to Forestry Work Unit Supervisor at the Poynette Ranger Station where he was the local forest ranger and supervisor of staff working on fire control and forest management projects. In September 1992, he transferred to the South Spooner Ranger position in Spooner. After 5 years of work in the South Spooner FRU, Bob transferred to the North Spooner Ranger position where he served the rest of his career.

Throughout his career, Bob has been known for his dedication, cool under pressure demeanor and superb organizational skills. Bob is that positive, easy to get along with person that never says a discouraging word about anybody. His selfless work over the years was a great benefit to the many foresters and technicians he mentored.

Bob constantly honed his skills as a Fire Behavior Analyst and shared his expertise as fire behavior/weather instructor across the state. He pioneered some of the first live pine fuel moisture data collection and analysis in the state.

Bob tirelessly worked on coordinating forestry law enforcement among multiple agencies as he worked in various counties around the state. While in Poynette, he was a key figure in forming a county-wide multi agency arson task force. In Spooner, he annually facilitated fire suppression training and coordination with the Washburn County Sheriff's Office. Bob's persistent work with several District Attorneys bolstered the local Division of Forestry effort to efficiently enforce forest protection laws.

Bob has tirelessly served the general public and his colleagues in a spirit of professionalism, courtesy and dedication throughout his career. Projects and relationships that Bob has cultivated will continue to grow, and the public will benefit from the effects his service for years to come.

WHEREAS, Bob Focht 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay Wisconsin recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Bob a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Karl Hansen started his career in state government in 1983 with the Department of Transportation. In 1984 he was appointed to a real estate specialist position with the Department of Natural Resources and was stationed in Dodgeville. While in that position he worked on a property tax impact analysis for the Lower Wisconsin River and notes that computers were not a tool available for that labor intensive project.

In December of 1987 Karl transferred to the Madison office and took the position of Closing Officer. During his 24 year tenure in that position Karl oversaw the closing of more than 8000 purchases, sales and other real estate transfers including 4067 fee title purchases. Karl was a registered land surveyor, and brought great skill to his work. One of his more significant contributions to the real estate program was overseeing the evolution of the closing process from a paper driven process to one that is now almost entirely digital. His skills, knowledge and dedication will be hard to replace.

WHEREAS, Karl Hansen 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Daniel Helf retired from state service on January 3, 2011 after faithfully serving the citizens of Wisconsin for thirty four years. He provided valuable services in several Water Program areas throughout his long career.

Dan began his career as a Wastewater & Water Resources Limited Term Employee (LTE) in March 1975, performing Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) compliance monitoring and lake & stream survey work in the Lake Michigan District. In 1977, Dan accepted a permanent Wastewater position and provided services in Wastewater and Water Resources programs in the Lake Michigan District

In 1980, Dan transferred to the Pretreatment Program and established and implemented the Lake Michigan District's program. In 1984 he transferred to the Wastewater Program and provided services for WPDES permit compliance and Water Resources work in the Green Bay Area. In 1985, Dan transferred to Lake Michigan District Environmental Enforcement Program. He initiated a secondary enforcement action request system and was successful in correcting and resolving many situations involving non-compliance. Dan's efforts strengthened Wisconsin's environmental regulatory program.

In 1996, Dan was promoted to the position of Wolf River Water Basin Supervisor and was responsible for all aspects of the Department's Water Programs in the Northeast Region, including Fisheries, Drinking Water & Groundwater and the Watershed programs in Wolf River Basin. Dan's service included leading the Wolf River Partnership and improving relations with local units of government.

In 2000, Dan initiated and led a community based project called the Wolf River Surgeon Trail, which was completed in 2007. In 2006 he accepted responsibility for the Runoff Management Program in the Northeast Region and facilitated issuance of the WPDES permit for the largest dairy in the state, the Rosendale Dairy.

Dan's career is further highlighted by receiving the "Brogan Award" as well as the "Wisconsin Wildlife Water Conservationist of the Year Award" in 2003.

Dan considered his greatest success and source of pride to be the hiring of talented, hardworking and knowledgeable people that will continue the successful work of the Department.

WHEREAS, Dan Helf 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

John W. Huppert , Forester-Senior, retired from the Department of Natural Resources effective March 11, 2011 with over 30 years of dedicated service to the State of Wisconsin.

John began his career as a Forester/ Ranger “trainee” in Tomahawk on June 9, 1980. While in training mode, he survived weeks of rigorous indoctrination of “old guard dogma” at the Neil H. LeMay Forestry Training Center.

John’s first permanent assignment was in May of 1981, as Forester/ Ranger at Trout Lake – the birthplace and Mecca of Forestry in Wisconsin. While at Trout Lake, John received reclassification in August of 1981 to that of Natural Resources Specialist 2. In November 1982, he was again reclassified to Natural Resources Specialist 3 while still at Trout Lake.

At this point in time of his career, John decided to test the supervisory waters. He “came over to the dark side” by accepting a promotion to that of Natural Resource Supervisor 2 at Crandon in August of 1986. This position was a “working” supervisor position, with assigned on the ground goals in addition to supervising the Crandon Ranger Station crew.

In September of 1989, John transferred to Eagle River as Work Unit Supervisor for Vilas County Forestry personnel. John remained in that classification until January 1997, when he took a “voluntary” demotion due to the Department’s reorganization to generalist supervisors. John remained at Eagle River as a Forester–Senior until he retired March 11, 2011.

John strayed a bit but never got too far from home. John has been stalwart in the old Woodruff Area his entire career. His knowledge of forestry, his dedication, timeliness and attention to detail have been his hallmark. He will be missed.

WHEREAS, John Huppert 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes John a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Loren Larson will retire from the Department of Natural Resources on June 3, 2011 after completing over 35 years of outstanding service to the Department and the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Loren began his career with the Department of Natural Resources in 1976 as a Natural Resource Assistant at the Sandhill Wildlife property in Wood County. He then was reassigned as a Forest Fire Control Assistant and worked out of the Babcock ranger station. In 1981 Loren transferred to the Griffith State tree nursery as a Facility Repair worker. He remained in this position until his retirement in June of 2011.

Throughout his career Loren performed at a consistently high level taking pride in the quality of his work. Loren's diverse knowledge in carrying out maintenance projects made him a very valued employee throughout his career. Loren's easy going personality was a real asset during stressful work situations. He was a valued member of the nursery team and respected and liked by all those who worked with him.

WHEREAS, the dedicated, competent and people-oriented approach of Loren Larson have earned the respect and admiration of the public he served and of his co-workers throughout the Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

John H. Melby, Jr. is retiring from the Department of Natural Resources on June 30, 2011 with over 35 years of dedicated service to the Department and the State of Wisconsin.

During his DNR career, John has served in many capacities. He began his career in August of 1976 in a Water Quality Specialist project position in Southeast District (Milwaukee) developing water quality management plans and working with SEWRPC (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission). John next took a position as a staff review engineer in the Municipal Wastewater Section in Madison, was promoted to a unit leader position in that section, worked for USEPA in Washington D.C. on an IPA (Intergovernmental Personnel Act) assignment developing national sludge regulations, and served as Acting Section Chief of the Municipal Wastewater Section. He then served as Small Business Section Chief in the Bureau of Air Management, Department Work Planning and EnPPA Coordinator, Policy Section Chief in the Bureau of Waste Management, Air & Waste Leader in Southeast Region, and finally as Air Management Bureau Director.

Throughout his career he has been a leader in creatively resolving difficult and complex cross program issues and has been a strong advocate for the protection of public health and our environment, and for the promotion of sustainable economic vitality in Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, John has been a conscientious and dedicated employee throughout his career and has earned the friendship and gratitude of his fellow employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its June 2011 meeting in Sturgeon Bay, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Peter Prusak served the Department of Natural Resources for nearly 35 years as an Environmental Engineer working directly with Wastewater Treatment and Public Water Supply Operators. At the time of his retirement, he was a Wastewater Engineer in the St. Croix Basin in Northern Region. He was stationed at the Cumberland Service Center, and served Washburn, Burnett, Polk, and Barron Counties. Pete worked with communities and industries on wastewater treatment and permit compliance. He also worked with farmers addressing agricultural runoff concerns on large and small farms.

In 1976, Pete started his career as an Environmental Engineer at Green Bay, part of the former Lake Michigan District. In 1978, he was promoted to Public Water Supply Supervisor at Spooner for the old 12-county Northwest District. Pete chose to return to field work in 1986, and transferred to Cumberland as a Wastewater Engineer, the position he held until retirement. Pete is also an Armed Forces veteran, having served in the US Navy before coming to the Department.

Pete's strength throughout his career has been in working with our certified operators that are the "front-line" in protecting our surface waters and groundwater. He developed a trusting relationship with this group, and knew the compliance status, strengths, and needs of each community and industry he regulated. He treated everyone respectfully and empathetically, yet remained firm in upholding permit and performance requirements. He was able to maintain this relationship even when pursuing enforcement, because of his sincere and forthright approach.

For 20 years, the old "Northwest District" wastewater staff published a quarterly newsletter for our permitted wastewater facilities. Pete contributed at least two articles to every issue. The articles were always very understandable, as if Pete were coaching the wastewater operators in person. Pete also worked on innovative projects, such as pollutant trading and reuse of cheese making brine for road maintenance..

Pete's success speaks for itself – he is a three-time winner of Northern Region Employee Recognition awards, including being part of the Team Award for the Shell Lake Diversion Project in 2004, the Water Person of the Year Award in 2005, and the Team Award for the Northern Region Wastewater Staff in 2009. He was nominated for the Becky Wallace Award in 2009, and as a 2011 "St. Croix Local Hero."

At work, Pete balanced his workload with activities in other programs. He helped with aquatic education days at the Spooner Hatchery by teaching 4th graders to fish, and participated in the annual Red Cedar River clean-up days with the Rice Lake High School students. Pete also has served on the Cumberland Area Incident Management Team for many years. He brought both a sense of purpose and a sense of fun to his job and his interactions with his co-workers. Instead of complaining, he often said how lucky we are to be working together for the DNR. He is admired and respected by all of his co-workers, the public he serves, and especially the Cumberland office staff. Pete has been a star player in accomplishing the Department's mission, as well as humanitarian efforts in Northwest Wisconsin and beyond.

WHEREAS, Pete Prusak 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Pete a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Jim Rakitnichan retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on December 31, 2010 after completing over 26 years of outstanding service to the people of Wisconsin.

Jim began his career with the DNR in April of 1984 as a Forest Fire Control Assistant I performing fire control and forest management duties at the Pembine Ranger Station. In April of 1988, he transferred to the Minong Ranger Station where he spent the rest of his career involved in fire and forest management work as a forestry technician.

Throughout his career Jim has been known as a hardworking, assertive, artistic, self starter with a great work ethic.

Jim's construction project expertise is known throughout the area. Jim put his construction talents to good use as the maintenance and new construction lead at the Minong Ranger Station and the Ernie Swift Youth Camp. Campers are still enjoying many of his camp construction projects such as the amphitheatre. He also has been very involved in the construction upgrades to many of the area incident command posts. Jim's outstanding Smokey Bear fire prevention sign development is recognized statewide. He often has used his artistic talents in designing, constructing and hand painting Smokey Bear characters on fire prevention signs.

Jim has shared his passion for wild land fire safety as lead on the area wide tower safety cable installation project, as well as his many years of service as a member of the Forestry Equipment Specialist Committee. Jim continued to share his fire line safety expertise as an instructor of the Wildland Fire Fighter Class and Tech Safety Day for many years.

Jim has tirelessly served the general public and his colleagues in a spirit of professionalism, courtesy and dedication throughout his career. Projects and relationships that he has cultivated will continue to grow, and the public will benefit from Jim's service for years to come.

WHEREAS, Jim Rakitnichan 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay Wisconsin recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Jim a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

James (Bud) Schaefer retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on March 11, 2011 after completing 28 years of outstanding service to the people of Wisconsin.

Bud began his career with the DNR in June of 1982 as a Seasonal Natural Resources Assistant I at the Webster Ranger Station. In November of 1985, he became a permanent forestry technician and within months transferred to Minong Ranger Station where he spent the rest of his career performing forestry technician tasks in fire control and forest management.

Bud typified his career with a responsible, reliable, positive, conscientious, dependable and loyal work attitude. Bud, known as the steady and proficient tractor operator, shared his experience and insight as a Fire Equipment, Saws, Pumps and Tractor Plow course trainer and instructor for many years. He was also the computer "guru" of the local station and team and was always willing to coach and train others in the fine but confusing art of computers. He freely shared his maintenance, repair and fabricating skills at the Ernie Swift Youth Camp and throughout the area on various construction, equipment and signage projects. His notable artwork on many fire prevention brochures has been appreciated statewide. Bud was the wise and frugal procurement manager for the station – always insisting on the best price and quality. Locally, Bud's meticulous grooming of the Minong Ranger Station park and grounds has been the pride of the community. Whenever Bud was assigned a project, he could be counted on to do a detailed, professional job the first time.

Bud has tirelessly served the general public and his colleagues in a spirit of professionalism, courtesy and dedication throughout his career. Projects and relationships that he has cultivated will continue to grow, and the public will benefit from Bud's service for years to come.

WHEREAS, Bud Schaefer 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay Wisconsin recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Bud a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Edward A. Schmechel retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on March 4th, 2011 after completing 23 years of outstanding service to the people of Wisconsin. Ed began his career with the DNR in March 1988 as a forest fire control assistant at the Webster ranger station and worked there the entire time. He progressed thru the various technician series and retired as a forestry technician advanced some 23 years later.

For someone in the forest fire control program, 1988 was quite a year to start since it was the second year of a prolonged drought. While Ed was not at every single fire, the Webster sub-area (FRU) had 94 fires burning 445 acres that year. Some of the more note worthy fires included Carter's Bridge, Minerva Dam and the Village fire. Another interesting experience Ed had in 1988 was the "popple fuzz" fires that occurred that spring. Some referred to this as a career experience that doesn't happen very often and can only truly be appreciated by those that were there at the time.

Ed spent many years behind the scenes running the fire simulator at many locations around the state, in addition he helped instruct many of the S-series fire courses and was the lead fire equipment course instructor and certifier for several years in the Cumberland area. He also spent many hours training fire department members, fire fighting crews and private large dozer operators on various aspects of the fire program. His contributions to training were recognized both locally and statewide.

One claim to fame Ed has, is that he had a piece of equipment named after him called the "Schmechelizer" as he spent time and energy developing a nozzle system so that our three tons could effectively pump on the roll. He was also quite involved with others at the ranger station developing progressive hose lays and making videos to train others.

Ed's duties at the ranger station included all aspects of the forestry program on both public and private lands. Ed spent countless hours on the dozer over the years doing a variety of projects for the state and county forests mostly related to site prep for natural seeding or furrowing for tree planting. He also operated a variety of other equipment completing many other tasks on public lands. He also likely became more familiar with the Deer Lake fuel break than anyone else in history due to the number of projects he worked on there.

Ed was appreciated most for his outstanding ability to operate the tractor plow on fires and thru out his career the Webster sub area (FRU) racked up 961 fires burning 1621 acres between 1988 and 2010. In addition Ed assisted on most of the other significant fires in the area beyond Webster

Ed has tirelessly served the public in the spirit of professionalism, courtesy and dedication throughout his career.

WHEREAS, Ed Schmechel 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Ed a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Joel G. Weinert, Wildlife Technician – Advanced, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on December 4, 2010 with over 24 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Wisconsin.

From 1986 until 1990, Joel served as a Limited Term Employee for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a Creel Clerk and Fin Clipper stationed at the Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery in Adell. On June 14th, 1990 Joel was appointed to his first permanent position as a Natural Resource Assistant at the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery. Subsequently on April 14th, 1991 Joel accepted a transfer to the Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery and in March of 1994 was reclassified to a Fish Propagation Technician at the same location. In July of 1999 Joel transferred to Hayward and accepted a job as a “Lands Technician” managing over thirty individual properties providing fishing and public recreation opportunities.

During his entire career Joel has been passionate on what he did. He readily gave of himself and to other programs demonstrating a pure model of integration. He has always been a problem solver and willing to respond to customer concerns and complaints to provide better facilities at properties he managed. Over the course of his career supervisors have repeatedly recognized and praised Joel for his commitment to his job and the Department. In addition, these same supervisors have labeled him as being highly motivated, skilled, and productive with an unquestioned work ethic.

Joel’s hard work and dedication to the job was formally recognized in the spring of 2010 at a statewide Facilities and Lands conference. At this event Joel received the “Land Management Field Person of the Year”. This award is designed to recognize his contribution to effectively and efficiently managing public lands. In addition, other program staff notably documented and provided support and testimony for Joel’s continued contribution to total program integration. Joel will be greatly missed by all those that have had the opportunity to work with him and by the public who he served.

WHEREAS, Joel Weinert 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 June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Joel a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Conservation Warden Todd O. Wippermann retires after providing faithful and able service to the Citizens of Wisconsin for 39 years, 34 of them as a Conservation Warden. In the performance of these duties, Todd has earned the trust, respect, and admiration of three generations of citizens in the Waupaca and Shawano County areas as well as his fellow Conservation Wardens and other Department of Natural Resources Staff.

Todd began his career in 1972, on the day of his 18th birthday, working in the State Park System. Todd was issued Natural Resources Patrol Officer Credentials in 1975; Special Warden Credentials in 1976 and in 1977 was hired as a Conservation Patrol Officer. Todd's passion for the protection of our Natural Resources and public safety carried over to this new position as he assisted Conservation Wardens in the performance of their duties. In 1978, Todd achieved his career goal when he was hired as a Conservation Warden.

When stationed in Clintonville, Todd found this area to have the diversity of natural resources, which he had always been passionate about, and from day one, dedicated his career, both personally and professionally, towards the protection and enjoyment of those resources. Todd was an integral part of the spring Wolf River "fish run" enforcement efforts. Todd has been a cornerstone to the Wild Turkey reintroduction program and actively involved in the continuation of our hunting heritage. Hundreds of novice hunters can thank Todd for his role in the very successful Learn to Hunt Turkey programs, where among other things; he served as a mentor to novice hunters.

Todd readily shared his skills, knowledge, abilities and passion for conservation law enforcement with others, including his service as a Field Training Officer for 16 recruit wardens. Todd also worked to ensure firearm proficiency, through his work as a Firearms Training Instructor for 27 years. In 1981, Todd was a founding member and participant on the Department's Scuba Dive Team, where for 30 years, he used his diving expertise to assist the fisheries and law enforcement programs with things like the monitoring of commercial fishing nets, invasive species and evidence recovery.

Todd developed and maintained a very effective law enforcement program throughout his career. A good deal of this success is directly attributable to the excellent cooperation that he has received from the public. Through the trust and respect earned in the community, Todd would often receive "tips" about violations from the public, tips that usually led to the successful apprehension of significant law violators. Todd prided himself in applying the law in a fair and equitable manner, while also balancing his role as an educator and problem solver. In fact, many wardens have patterned their enforcement approach using the example that Todd has set. As a testament to his outstanding work and accomplishments, Todd has received many commendations including being named "Warden of the Year" by the Wisconsin Trapper's Association, the Wisconsin Bowhunter's Association and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

The Warden Service has a Challenge Coin, which includes the inscription "Doing The Right Thing, At The Right Time, In The Right Way, For The Right Reason". Todd has embodied this for his entire career.

WHEREAS, Mr. Todd O. Wippermann has conscientiously and faithfully served the people of the State of Wisconsin for 39 years and thus has earned the respect of his fellow employees and those he served; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Todd O. Wippermann has consistently demonstrated a high ethical regard for both our citizens and the natural resources he swore to protect.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its June 2011 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Mike Lutz retired from the Department of Natural Resources on May 26, 2011 after completing 35 years of dedicated service to the State of Wisconsin.

Mike began his career with the Department of Industry Labor and Human Relations in 1976 as an Unemployment Compensation hearing examiner and in 1978 transferred to the Labor and Industry Review Commission as a staff attorney.

Mike joined the Bureau of Legal Services in the Department of Natural Resources in January, 1980, as the Wisconsin Fund program attorney but by the end of the year moved into his current position as the Parks, Law Enforcement, and Treaty rights attorney.

For the past 30 years, he has been the attorney responsible for advising the Department on all matters relating to criminal law, Indian Law and recreational property management. Throughout this time he was involved in the implementation or drafting of laws dealing with piers, boat titling, mooring buoys, access fees, boat noise, captive wildlife, wildlife rehabilitation, protection of aquatic plants, protection of reptiles and amphibians, water trampolines, property management regulations, transfer of the Fox Locks System, and transfer of the Kickapoo Reserve. Mike provided the legal guidance as the Department created its volunteer programs, friends group program, and risk management system.

Mike was the Department's lead counsel on cases involving Chippewa and Menomonee off reservation treaty rights. Throughout his career he has provided guidance to the Department on all matters related to Indian Law and in the course of doing so has been able to establish a working relationship with all the tribes in the state.

Mike has provided criminal and constitutional law training to every Department law enforcement officer for each of the last 31 years and successfully took numerous cases to the Court of Appeals. During the last 2 ½ years of his career, Mike served as the Department's chief legal counsel.

WHEREAS, Mike Lutz 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 June meeting in Sturgeon Bay, WI, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Mike a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR