

MARCH 23, 2011

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NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
Brief of Action

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 in Room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. for action on items 1-7. The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

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

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

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

1.C. Approval of minutes from February 23, 2011

Mr. Welter MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Rohde. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

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

3. Action Items

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

3.A.1 Presentation of 2011 Laboratory of the Year Awards

2011 Award Recipients:

Small Registered Lab: New Holstein Wastewater Treatment Plant

Large Registered Lab: Fond du Lac Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility

INFORMATION ITEM – NO ACTION TAKEN

3.A.2 Request approval of the FY 2012 Laboratory Certification and Registration Program Fee Adjustment

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

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

3.B.1 Request adoption of Board Order FR-38-10, creating NR 45.055, specifying where and when golf carts are allowed in the Governor Thompson State Park and the Peshtigo River State Forest

Mr. Rohde MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried on a voice vote of 5-1.

3.B.2 Request approval of the 2011 Wisconsin Forest Management Guideline (Pub-FR-226) revisions

Mr. Cole requested a briefing on the Silviculture Manual.

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

- 3.B.3 Ratification of Department decision to issue Stewardship grants that will prohibit at least one nature-based outdoor activities (NBOA) on non-department land: Town of Neenah, Village of Sister Bay, and Door County

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

- 3.B.4 Request approval to designate a unit of the Lower WI State Riverway be named in memory of Wisconsin conservation icon Harold “Bud” Jordahl

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

- 3.B.5 Land Acquisition and Prohibition of Nature Based Outdoor Activities – Statewide Wildlife Habitat Program – Portage County **ADDED**

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

- 4. Citizen Participation – 1:00 p.m.
- 4.A. Citizen Participation

- 5. Board Members’ Matters

Mr. Welter shared his concern that there are people advocating for the Rainbow Springs parcel to remain a golf course. This item was approved by the Board in August 2008 as agenda item 3.B.5 – land acquisition for the Kettle Moraine State Forest in Waukesha and Walworth Counties. This property was purchased with Stewardship funds in the amount of \$10,800,000 and is located in the Mukwonago River watershed. It would be best used as a natural place instead of a water hazard. The Board was supportive of this purchase as wild land for public use. Changing direction of that vision will not do service to the people of Wisconsin or the Stewardship program. This could also result in Department purchases being changed at a whim which would alter the intent of the Stewardship program.

Chair Ela requested a straw poll to see how many think it is a good idea to change the mission of Rainbow Springs to include golf course facilities, and whether Board members would be inclined to vote in support or opposition to retaining a golf course if it came before the Board in the context of a master plan or some other context.

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

Chair Ela stated that this poll will give staff guidance.

Mr. Rohde stated that he is a firm believer that people make programs and programs depend on people. He requested a staffing discussion as to where we are now, how to make the programs work, retirements, and the potential loss of experience/department knowledge.

Chair Ela stated Secretary Stepp will address staffing issues during Secretary’s Matters.

Mr. Cole stated that the Department and City of Milwaukee’s recycling program have been partners since the inception of the program. Milwaukee spends about \$12.2 million on the recycling program annually. Funding from the Department ranges between \$2.8 million and \$3.4

million. He is worried about this relationship on a going forward basis and hopes to continue to be partners in making recycling in every community around the state a sustainable program.

Dr. Thomas commended the Department and local and state conservation groups for decisive and good work on the Hall Farm. She believes the right thing was done. She is already receiving communications from the people in the community who have ideas about what we should and should not do regarding research on the property. Her assumption is that staff will come up with a protocol for entering and leaving the property under the theory that if there are prions in there, we would not want to take them out with us. The property will need to be entered regularly for checking of the fences. She requested that when the Department comes up with a research plan given that there may be things that might be proposed that would be controversial, that the staff come back before the Board with their research ideas.

Chair Ela expressed his appreciation to staff on the Hall Farm acquisition. He then requested 1) an update at the April meeting on the budget discussion that we will have later this afternoon; 2) a presentation on the budgetary impacts of the Governor's proposed biennial budget on state of WI energy programs, whether they are housed at the Department or separately; and 3) an information item on the impact of new federal clean air regulations recently proposed by the EPA on existing Wisconsin clean air regulations.

A. Request for education and evaluation on the phase-out of lead tackle on Department properties

The Board requested staff pursue this item in chapter NR 20 and to err on the side of obtaining the most public participation.

6. Special Committees' Reports
None

7. Department Secretary's Matters

Mr. Rohde requested information on how the 452 vacancies split out between program revenue and GPR.

Mr. Cole requested information on how the Department is diversifying its staff by targeting women and minorities for higher level positions.

7.A. Retirement Resolutions

7.A.1 Gordon Stevenson

7.A.2 Ronald G. Eckstein

7.A.3 Michael J. Talbot

7.A.4 Arnie Lindauer

7.A.5 Thomas J. Watkins

7.A.6 Mark B. Endris

7.A.7 Gene Tiser

7.A.8 David A. Wood

7.A.9 James L. McNelly

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

7.B. Donations

7.B.1 Ducks Unlimited and Dow AgroSciences will donate sunflower seed valued up to \$75,000 to provide increased hunting opportunities for bird hunters in Wisconsin

Mr. Welter MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Rohde. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Information Items

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

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

8.B.1 Update on Wisconsin Lake Superior Basin Brook Trout Plan

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

8.B.2 Overview of Governor Walker’s proposed 2011 - 2013 Budget

Chair Ela requested a technical and political update at the April meeting on Phosphorus.

Chair Ela requested information on which Stewardship grants are moving forward and which ones will need to go through the new criteria process.

Mr. Welter requested that staff look in the proposed budget for river grants and river planning grants and respond if they are in it or not. He was unsuccessful in locating them.

Ms. Wiley requested a status update on the capital improvements at Rib Mountain State Park.

Chair Ela requested an update at the April meeting on the capital budget to include projects that are going forward.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

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