

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: The AT&T Pioneers will donate 10 Eco-boxes and the labor to install them, valued at \$25,000, to provide innovative interpretive opportunities in the State Park system

FOR: MAY, 2011 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUMMARY:

AT&T Pioneers is a nationwide organization made up of employees, retirees and their families who volunteer their time to enhance the communities where they work and live. This project is funded in recognition of the organization's centennial celebration. The Pioneers began in Boston in 1911 with 734 members, including Alexander Graham Bell. Today, the organization is the world's largest group of industry-specific employees and retirees dedicated to community service. AT&T Pioneers volunteered 7.8 million hours in 2009 and have been long time supporters of the Wisconsin State Parks, funding the first accessible cabin at Mirror Lake State Park in 1991. The Eco-Box project is one of the many anniversary projects sponsored nationally this year.

The Pioneers wish to donate \$25,000 to fund the purchase and installation of 10 Eco-Boxes. The Eco-Box is an environmentally friendly audio interpretive device, and is powered by the visitor who turns a hand crank located in the front of the unit. With very little maintenance and no batteries, it is a sustainable interpretive solution for our State Parks, especially for visitors with limited vision.

The goal of the Wisconsin State Park System Interpretation Program is to provide innovative interpretive opportunities and programs that foster knowledge, appreciation, and stewardship of the state's natural and cultural resources and promote participation in nature-based outdoor recreation. This donation is offered at no cost to the Department and will enhance the ability of the Department and the properties at which the boxes will be installed to meet this goal.

The boxes will be installed at Aztalan, Council Grounds, Devil's Lake, High Cliff, Kohler-Andrae, Lake Wissota, Lakeshore, and Roche-A-Cri State Parks, Richard Bong State Recreation Area, and the Pike Lake State Forest.

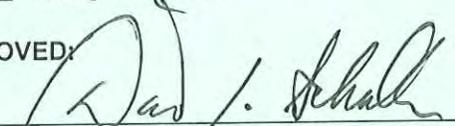
RECOMMENDATION:

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- No Fiscal Estimate Required
- No Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
- No Background Memo

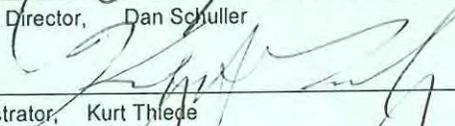
- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached

APPROVED:



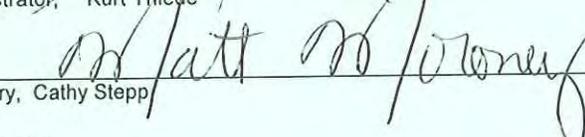
Bureau Director, Dan Schuller

3-31-11
Date



Administrator, Kurt Thiede

4/3/11
Date



Secretary, Cathy Stepp

5/4/11
Date

cc: NRB Liaison
DNR Rules Coordinator

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its May 2011 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of \$25,000 from

AT&T Pioneers

to enable the installation of 10 Eco-Boxes in the Wisconsin State Parks.

Our expression of appreciation on behalf of Wisconsin's citizens is hereby recorded in the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We acknowledge this generous contribution.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR