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NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, October 26, 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 1:20 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

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

1.B. Approval of agenda for October 26, 2011

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

1.C. Approval of minutes from September 28, 2011

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

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

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

3. Action Items

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

3.A.1 Request Adoption of Board Order WA-33-10, revisions to NR 500, 502, and 518 related to composting facilities

Mr. Cole MOVED approval, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Department presentation was not requested.

Public Appearances:

1. **Lynn Morgan**, Wauwatosa, representing Waste Management (WM) spoke in support of the proposed rule. She first talked about Father Dom's Ducky Doo that used to be packaged and sold in Wisconsin for garden fertilizer which is no longer made here. Regulation required that runoff from the composting operation had to be handled as leachate, just like water that would percolate through the bottom of a landfill. She believes that the rule before the Board today strikes the right balance. It was not an easy rule to put together because one of the things that it has to contemplate is not just the current state of organics management, but what the future is. In the next several years, we may see organics being used to make high-end chemicals, synthetic fuels, and to generate energy. Waste Management is very involved in all of those endeavors. They are investors and partners in multiple technologies being tested and piloted around the country that do exactly those things. She believes that this rule anticipates the

future, does not close the door, keeps the marketplace open, and also makes it easier to do some of the smaller scale things that are available right now. She thanked all of the Department's staff that worked on this with Waste Management, in particular Brad Wolbert. He helped them understand the Department's perspective and he also took the time to understand their perspective.

Mr. Hilgenberg complimented all the people that submitted ideas, recommendations, and thoughts on the process. It is good to see people interested and engaged.

Discussion followed on what the process would be if "Father Dom" tried to start his project today due to leachate from manure and the need to get food waste out of landfills and to use it for a compelling purpose that helps mankind.

The motion carried unanimously.

3.A.2 Request authorization for public hearing for Board Order AM-08-11, proposed rules affecting NR 404 and 484 pertaining to adopting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Mike Friedlander, Program and Planning Analyst, stated the purpose of this order is for the proposed state adoption of the new NAAQS for NO₂ and SO₂. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is required by the federal Clean Air Act to promulgate NAAQS to protect public health and public welfare. The Department is required by state law to promulgate by rule a similar but no more restrictive air quality standard once the U.S. EPA promulgates a new or revised NAAQS. As a result of recent federal actions regarding NO₂ and SO₂, the Department is proposing to adopt the revised NAAQS into chapter NR 404, Wis. Admin. Code. In addition, the Department is proposing to revise NR 484 to include references to applicable U.S. EPA data handling conventions for NO₂ and SO₂. He requested the Board authorize public hearings for Board Order AM-08-11.

Discussion followed on whether there is enough staff resources to handle the additional workload from the proposed rule.

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Cole.

Discussion followed on the reasoning as to why Wisconsin needs to adopt the federal standard, whether the permitting process will be held up during the hearings process, the timeline for the proposed rule to be adopted into Wisconsin Code, and whether EPA provides Wisconsin with funding for staff.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

3.B.1 Request approval of the Master Plan for Sandhill, Wood County and Meadow Valley Wildlife Areas

Tom Hauge, Wildlife Management Bureau Director, and **Neal Paisley**, Sandhill/Meadow Property Supervisor, gave a joint presentation. Their presentation began with a property history of the Wildlife Areas. They stated that the Department's 180 main wildlife areas total over 550,000 acres. Most of the Master Plans on these properties are of 1980's vintage and in desperate need of updating. These three properties total nearly 90,000 acres and represent 15% of total acreage. They then outlined the plan highlighting recreation and education, habitat management, facilities and infrastructure, proposed expansions, and comments received. They requested the Board approve the Master Plan for Sandhill, Wood County, and Meadow Valley Wildlife Areas. **(PowerPoint)**

Dr. Thomas noted that Grange's Sandhill Game Farm had not only deer but birds. There is a great book on Wallace Grange titled "Live Arrival Guranteed – A Sandhill Memoir" by Hazel Grange.

Discussion followed on whether the eleven primitive camping sites are expandable, whether any of these lands could be an opportunity for sharp-tail grouse habitat, whether the purchases/ easements for Wood County and Meadow Valley are on the radar screen for the Department or for our partners, further explanation on forest management, what staff have been operating with as a Master Plan, the Department costs to operate and maintain these properties, the percent or degree these parcels are actively managed and how much more could be done, whether it is wise to

expand when the Department cannot adequately manage current lands, whether the Board had adequate time to review the Master Plan and tour the properties, and whether the Board should defer this item to the December 14, 2011 meeting.

Dr. Clausen requested that the Board begin receiving notifications on the Master Planning process on each property from the start. By the time the Draft Master Plan is before the Board, the members will be well informed.

Discussion followed on deer management, whether the Board can endorse this Master Plan without a better understanding of all the issues, the dynamics of a Master Plan, whether the goals in the Master Plan are realistic given the current tools and resources, whether the proposed expansion areas are privately owned, and whether the Master Plan impacts affected landowners.

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

Discussion followed on whether the Department foresees any issues related to deferring this item until the December meeting, and when the Board received the agenda item package.

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED to table approval until the December 2011 meeting, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski.

Dr. Clausen requested a roll call vote on the motion to table.

The motion to table approval until the December 2011 meeting passed on a roll call vote of 6-1.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| William Bruins – yes | Preston Cole – yes |
| Christine Thomas – yes | Jane Wiley – no |
| Terry Hilgenberg – yes | David Clausen – yes |
| Greg Kazmierski – yes | |

Mr. Cole suggested the Department look at the Board’s issues of staff time, the ability to manage these properties, and for spending Stewardship dollars.

Dr. Thomas observed a recurring theme that new Board members need to have more education on issues ahead of the meeting.

Secretary Stepp stated that the fundamental question which has to be answered is what is our definition of management. This definition would drive what our staff levels are and need to be, what the plan is, etc. Our leadership team is taking a look at where we are in this process. The agency has been woefully neglectful of doing Master Planning for the properties that have been purchased with Stewardship over the last several decades. That is not staff’s fault. In fact, the planning folks have worked tirelessly and have tried to get that sense of urgency instilled into the rest of the Department who have direct input into what goes into a Master Plan and what we define management as. That is very different now. The Department will bring an updated presentation to the Board on that issue because it is a much more global issue than just this particular plan that the Board is dealing with today. We are horribly in the hole by many years of having our plans in place on properties that we already own. You are right to have picked up on that and those concerns are very valid. We are equally focused on getting up to speed on where

we need to be on managing the properties we already own. We owe that to the WI taxpayer who has invested so much into these purchases.

Discussion followed on the need for public lands for access opportunities, and whether any Stewardship dollars have been spent purchasing these properties.

Kurt Thiede, Land Administrator, stated the Department is currently working on a memo that will outline Department priorities and the process. It will include the plan for over the next five

years. The Board also will receive more of a heads-up on the master plan process going forward as well. The other part of this process is access and acquisition of those properties, which will come before the Board at a future meeting as an action item.

Chair Clausen noted to Secretary Stepp that her comments were very appropriate and much appreciated.

Mr. Cole encouraged the Department to use new solutions when addressing old problems. Unless the Department is going to grow the workforce by leaps and bounds, they may need to look to privatize some of these planned developments to get them to the point of preliminary access to the property to bring that backlog down, and then hire accordingly.

Discussion followed on whether the Department currently partners with the private sector for property management.

The original motion to approve was not considered.

3.B.2 Land Acquisition – Statewide Natural Area – Jackson County

Discussion followed on whether the purchase is contingent upon extinction of the life estate.

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

3.B.3 Land Acquisition – Governor Knowles State Forest – Polk County

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

3.B.4 Land Donation – Statewide Wildlife Habitat – Polk County

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

3.B.5 Land Donation & Project Boundary Modification – Chiwaukee Prairie – Kenosha County

Discussion followed on whether the urban community has been consulted with on the Department's plans to manage the area as green space.

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

3.B.6 Land Donation – Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area – Kenosha County

Discussion followed on the Department easement located on page 6.

Public Appearances:

1. **Rodney Walter**, Clyde, representing The Nature Conservancy as Director of Land Protection spoke in support of the donation. He stated this partnership allows both The Nature Conservancy and the Department to manage lands efficiently and to achieve better results than either organization alone. This parcel is located on the shores of Lake Michigan in Kenosha County, it is close to urban areas in SE Wisconsin and offers the public the chance to escape urban life and enjoy a unique and ever colorful natural landscape. It is home to around 500 species of plants and more than 300 animals. It was his privilege to offer this land to the Department as an addition to the Department's land at Chiwaukee Prairie.

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

3.B.7 Land Donation – Statewide Natural Area – Lafayette and Grant Counties

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

3.B.8 Request authorization for public hearings and to prepare an economic impact analysis on Board Order FH-25-11, relating to extending the whitefish commercial harvest season **ADDED**

Mike Staggs, Fisheries Habitat Bureau Director, spoke in place of **Williams Horns**, Great Lakes Fisheries Coordinator. He stated that commercial fishing issues come up periodically and are often controversial. A few years ago they started briefing the Board – Commercial Fishing 101. He offered an opportunity at some point when the weather is good for Board Members to get out on Lake Michigan and be briefed on commercial fishing issues.

This proposed rule would add six days to the commercial whitefish season by changing the closing date from October 25 to October 31. The season extension was recommended by the Commercial Fishing Board. Department biologists endorsed initiating permanent rule development to extend the season. He requested the Board authorize public hearings and for the Department to prepare an economic impact analysis for the extension of the whitefish commercial fishing season. **(PowerPoint)**

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

3.C. Scope Statements

None

Dr. Clausen moved the meeting to Agenda Item 5. – Board Members’ Matters.

5. Board Members’ Matters

Dr. Clausen asked for each Board Member to receive a spreadsheet prepared by staff that tracks Board Members’ Matters requests. They are all recorded on this list. Any time a Board Member makes a request, it goes on this list. At least once each month, he reviews this list with Laurie Ross. They look at what has been completed, which ones are still open, and try to determine when there is staff time to bring those forward and at which meeting is the best time to bring them forward. This is a dynamic, on-going process.

Mr. Bruins requested an update as to when the joint meeting with the Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Board (ATCPB) will take place.

Dr. Clausen stated he would contact the ATCPB Chairman to discuss.

Mr. Hilgenberg complimented staff on the Board briefings yesterday. They had good discussions and staff was very receptive to the Board.

Mr. Kazmierski stated that he was recently contacted by constituents about a survey put out by the Department’s Bear Committee. He found that in the past from personal experience that internal committees have no outside groups involved with them except the Deer Committee, as far as he knows, has one member from WI Conservation Congress (WCC). The Turkey Committee has one member from the Turkey Federation. He believes outside input would eliminate a lot of hard feelings that occurred with this recent survey. He shared his own personal experience approximately four years back when he was asked by the WCC Chair to attend the Deer Committee meeting in Wausau. He showed up for the meeting and was asked to leave. He refused to leave since it was a public meeting. Subsequently, all Deer Committee members got up and left the room. He did not say this was going on now but he does think communication up front with outside input on these committees might solve a lot of the headaches. He questioned if the Department could do so in the future and whether this is something the Board wants to respond to.

Dr. Clausen requested the Department to look into this. He does not know much about this process whether these are scientific committees.

Dr. Thomas recalled that she used to sit in on the Bear Committee as an outsider, as did WCC. The committees make recommendations for harvest levels and that sort of thing.

Mr. Thiede stated that Board Member Thomas framed it correctly. We have a number of species, upland game, turkey, and bear. Basically what they are doing is developing recommendations, suggestions, proposals, harvest quotas which then get filtered up through the wildlife policy team and eventually before the Board as far as policy. Citizens do sit on some of the committees. This is something we will definitely take a look at as far as the make-up of the committees and will report back to the Board.

Dr. Clausen stated there is a slippery slope here about deciding who gets to be the citizen participant and which groups are represented. It is something that should be looked at.

Secretary Stepp stated the Department will look into this.

Ms. Wiley referred to the Board Members Matters listing previously handed out. She noted that there are legitimate reasons why some requests do not have due dates or comments. On item 4, the Board members requested those two questions on the spring hearing questionnaire. Not everything on this list has to have a response from staff.

Dr. Clausen offered two items. 1) He discussed this with Tom Hauge, Wildlife Management Bureau Director, yesterday. The new federal budget does not have any money in it for indemnity for depopulating infected deer farm deer herds. He is concerned that the fact there is no indemnity provided for that may drive this disease further underground. This may be another item to talk about when we meet with ATCPB. Regardless of that, the Department still has to deal with this issue. He requested an informational update on how this change impacts what we are doing and what we may do to try to mitigate this.

2) He then stated in August 2011, the Department received a letter from the U.S. EPA identifying that the Department has 75 deficiencies in the Water Program according to the U.S. EPA. He will say that these deficiencies were dated from 2010 and before. This has been going on for a long time. The Department was to respond to the U.S. EPA by October 15 and did so on October 14. He has concerns with the Department's response in that this is a huge issue. If our response does not fully satisfy EPA, there are a couple of dangers and we cannot predict how they are going to respond. They could pull the Department's ability to issue permits in Wisconsin which would be hugely expensive for our businesses to have to go to Chicago. He also is concerned that if we start issuing permits that are not compliant with the federal regulations, those permits have a fairly large degree of uncertainty. This is a policy issue. He requested that each Board Member get a copy of the original letter from the U.S. EPA, Department responses, and response from the Attorney General when it comes back. He will work with the Department to schedule a Board item on this whether it will be informational or if it has legal issues an Executive Session would be scheduled.

Scott Gunderson gave the requested information related to the Water Program deficiencies to Laurie Ross which was copied and then distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Hilgenberg offered his compliments on getting the Board Members Matters spreadsheet to the full Board

Dr. Clausen stated he did not know it existed until he became Board Chair. This is something that eases any apprehension about what is going on. It's a good thing.

6. Special Committees' Reports
None

7. Department Secretary's Matters

Secretary Stepp stated that the regional directors hiring process has been completed. Selections were as follows: Northern Region, Jean Romback-Bartels; South Central Region, Mark Aquino; and for Southeast Region, Eric Nitschke. She thanked Preston Cole for his participation during the interview process.

The Compensation Plan was unveiled yesterday with nothing notable. Employees responded very professionally.

She then gave a hiring update: 30 positions were filled through transfer, 16 new hires, and 5 through promotions. Of the 51 total hires, 63% were regional. Of the 16 new hires, 44% were previously employed as LTE's with the Department.

She stated that recent mining legislation that would streamline the Department's

permitting process came from discussions with external groups and not the mining industry. Many of the senate proposals have come from Department staff suggestions

She briefed the Board on the great day they had in Kenosha celebrating with DOJ, EPA, and others regarding the revitalization of the former Chrysler Motors property. The Department has had a long relationship with Chrysler. She complimented Department staff who were the drivers behind this and took it across the finish line. She recognized Darcy Foss, Brownfields and Outreach Section Chief, who led the way to closure.

Lastly, she presented Kurt Thiede with his letter of acknowledgement and pin for his 10 years of service to the state of Wisconsin.

7.A. Retirement Resolutions

- 7.A.1 Nadene Cable
- 7.A.2 Jim Grafelman
- 7.A.3 Diane M. Johnson
- 7.A.4 Helen Kelly
- 7.A.5 Todd C. McCourt
- 7.A.6 Michael D. Reif
- 7.A.7 Ken Schreiber

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 the Kettle Moraine, Inc. will donate \$35,000 to the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Northern Unit for the construction of a trail shelter

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

- 7.B.2 Approve Cooperative Agreement with The Friends of Crex, Inc. to donate approximately \$68,200 on an annual basis for a permanent Wildlife Educator position (\$63,200) and education programming support (\$5,000) at the Crex Meadows Wildlife Education and Visitor Center

Public Appearances:

1. **Jerry McNally**, Grantsburg, representing Friends of Crex, Inc. spoke in support of this donation. He stated the Friends had worked for ten years to raise enough money to fund a full-time, permanent position. They are happy to do their part as a partner and will cover the salary cost for the position and other costs as spelled out in the Memorandum of Understanding. This position will enable them to continue their work at introducing the wonderful world of wildlife and the outdoors to both young people and adults who visit Crex Meadows, which has always been a major tourist attraction and hunting destination.

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

Dr. Clausen stated that it is Board policy not to take public testimony on Information Items.

8. Information Items

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

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

- 8.B.1 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources White Nose Syndrome (WNS) Surveillance and Response Implementation Strategy

Erin Crain, Ecological Inventory and Monitoring Section Chief, **and David Redell**, Bat Biologist gave a joint presentation. They began by outlining their presentation and described the context of last year's work, new research, and last year's timeline. They addressed the review process for the WNS Implementation Strategy and

then described the strategy and its purpose. They talked about how decisions regarding the strategy are made and the roles of both stakeholders and the science advisory group. Finally, they discussed options for the implementation strategy and how the program is currently using it to guide decisions. **(PowerPoint)**

Discussion followed on what supporting documents were used to estimate the annual values of cave bats to U.S. and WI agriculture, why there is such a large range in the estimates, and whether this is more of a concern to organic producers.

Dr. Thomas requested that literature cited in the Draft WNS Surveillance and Response Implementation Strategy regarding the effect of WNS on agriculture should be copied and sent to Mr. Bruins, if there are no copyright issues.

Discussion followed on whether there has been a collapse of cave bat populations in U.S. history, whether future generations will breed out WNS susceptibility, and how this program will be funded in the future.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

8.B.2 Department and WI Conservation Congress (WCC) implementation of Act 21 and the Spring Hearing/rule making process

Scott Gunderson, Executive Assistant and **Rob Bohmann**, WCC Chair gave a joint presentation. They reviewed how the WCC Executive Council and Department staff collectively determined how best to implement changes to the rule making process which include changes to the 2012 annual DNR and WCC spring meeting, the spring meeting agenda, town hall discussions, and how WCC and the Department are preparing for the April 2012 meeting and 2012 WCC Convention. **(PowerPoint)**

Mr. Bohmann invited all Board Members to attend the WCC Convention held in Manitowoc on May 10-12, 2012.

Discussion followed on whether there was a requirement in Act 21 that mandated these changes to the spring hearing and rule making process.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

8.B.3 Stewardship Acquisition Strategy – Land Acquisition Ranking and Priority Process

Kurt Thiede, Land Administrator, indicated that the reason for the informational item was to keep the NRB informed of the steps the Department is taking to ensure that limited Stewardship land acquisition dollars are being expended on the highest priority land parcels. He pointed out that the Secretary directed the land division to develop a ranking and rating system for all proposed land purchases and only the highest ranking parcels will be approved for appraisal. He reiterated that the Natural Resources Board and the Governor retain final approval authority for all transactions.

Doug Haag, Real Estate Section Chief, discussed the criteria that Department is using to rank individual parcels. He indicated that the criteria are derived from statute and administrative code and from state wide and regional plans such as the SCORP or the Wildlife Action Plan. He also indicated that each program will develop criteria related to their program mission. He indicated that the Department would be developing a web-based system for managing and tracking the rating and ranking process.

Discussion followed on whether same criteria will be applied to existing properties, the date the legislature codified the five NBOA's, and whether any activities in the future should be added to the current list.

Secretary Stepp stated the Department is not an opinion leader and should not be. She deferred the NBOA user or activity back to the Board. The Department will inform the Board if there is a certain group of users, for example, bicyclists are a certain up and coming who are getting organized and motivated to get more access to state properties. The Department's role would be

to inform decision makers like the Board or the legislature should be approached. The ultimate decision, whether good or bad idea, is not necessarily at the Department level but by the Board.

Ms. Wiley requested that the three new Board Members receive a copy of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) if they have not received one already.

Discussion followed on whether the Department exercises options to purchase key properties on the radar screen, whether these options to purchase are paid for with Stewardship, and whether the Department uses the first right of refusal as an option.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

8.C. Budget

8.C.1 Update on the Department's Capital Development Program for FY 2011 – 2013

DELETED (moved to December 13-14, 2011 meeting)

Dr. Clausen requested a motion to go into Executive Session.

Dr. Thomas MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski that the Board convene into Executive Session under the authority of s.19.85(1)(e) Wisconsin Statutes, for the purpose of discussing potential real estate transactions. The motion was carried by a roll call vote.

William Bruins – yes

Preston Cole – yes

Christine Thomas – yes

Jane Wiley – yes

Terry Hilgenberg – yes

David Clausen – yes

Greg Kazmierski – yes

Dr. Clausen reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Chair Clausen reported that during the Executive Session no action was taken.

Dr. Clausen then recognized Bill Zager, his friend and neighbor, who received the 2011 Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Hero Award for Outstanding Individual Friend. This is a well deserved award.

4. Citizen Participation – 1:00 p.m.

4.A. Citizen Recognition

4.A.1 Leopold Conservation Award

William Bruins, Natural Resources Board Member, stated that he has had a long lasting love affair with agriculture land in Wisconsin. In his position with Wisconsin Farm Bureau, he received a knock on the door one day from Brent Haglund from Sand County Foundation. This Foundation focuses on recognizing conservation efforts on working farms. Mr. Bruins had long been looking for an opportunity to somehow showcase farmers doing an exceptional job of protecting our environment and producing the abundance of food we all enjoy. He really felt that they could both work together to advocate to that end.

Brent Haglund, Sand County Foundation, stated we have an opportunity with our partners to recognize the outstanding working farm conservationist. We accomplish this in our Leopold Conservation Award Program. He then reviewed how this award was developed in order to help fulfill one of the challenges in Aldo Leopold's book "The Sand County Almanac" to improve land health. He stated that beginning in December, nomination materials will be available for the 2012 award.

Mr. Haglund then recognized and thanked the 2011 Leopold Conservation Award recipient for Wisconsin - the Koepke Family. He requested the Koepke Family to stand.

Jim Koepke, Koepke Family Member, spoke for the family. He stated his great-grandfather came to Wisconsin in 1875. Jim's son, who was also in attendance, represents the fifth generation of

farmers in the Town of Oconomowoc. Every male Koepke since 1875 have been full-time farmers. He then gave a history of his family and detailed how his parents were very influential on them. He shared a story from his childhood on land stewardship that instilled in him the message that the land is your bank and the bank is your land... conservation does not cost, it pays.

Public Appearances:

1. **Jeff Lyon**, Madison, representing the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) as Deputy Secretary stated that the Koepke Family was honored at World Dairy Expo this year. Their commitment to farming and conservation brought them here today. John Koepke serves on the ATCP Board and is very instrumental at helping them with policy decisions. He congratulated the Koepke family for a job well done. There are thousands of farmers across the state of Wisconsin doing the same very thing. These folks happened to get recognized this year.

- 4.B. Citizen Participation
None

Mr. Thiede extended an invitation to the Board for a Sandhill Wildlife Area tour. Possible dates for the tour would be on either Wednesday, November 9 or Thursday, November 10.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

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