

SUBJECT: 2012 Rebecca Wallace Award

FOR: APRIL 2012 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE:

SUMMARY:

It is intended that this award be presented on an annual basis at a NRB meeting by the DNR Secretary. DNR employees nominate a co-worker to receive this award in honor of Becky Wallace. Becky was Chief of the Nonpoint Source Management Section (now Runoff Management) in the Bureau of Watershed Management. Becky was an 18 year veteran employee of the DNR who was killed in an automobile accident along with her husband, Lyle, in February 1997. Her staff developed this award in memory of Becky in recognition of her distinct ability to balance her professional career with her personal life and community involvement, her promotion of partnerships both internally and externally, her service as a mentor to many Department staff, her outstanding communication skills, and her achievements in accomplishing the Department's mission.

All staff is eligible for this award. Nominations of employees are evaluated by the award committee based on the following attributes:

- A. Balance in career and personal life
- B. Mentoring of other Department staff
- C. Efforts to improve relationships with external partner agencies and outside organizations.
- D. Personal communication skills
- E. Contributions to accomplishing the mission of the Department

RECOMMENDATION:

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 type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:

Pam Busach

Bureau Director,

4-13-12

Date

Russell Commission for Ben Johnson

Administrator,

4-13-12

Date

Michelle Murray

Secretary, Cathy Stepp

4-16-12

Date

cc: NRB Liaison
DNR Rules Coordinator

The Rebecca Wallace Memorial Award

Rebecca R. Wallace had been an environmental engineer with the Department of Natural Resources, since 1979. At the time of her death, she was Chief of the Runoff Management Section, in the Watershed Management Bureau. Becky was a persistent advocate for improvement and protection of Wisconsin's water resources. Her vision for the state's Nonpoint Program was clear and succinct: "Clean Water". Becky became a symbol of what goals could be achieved through not only hard work and dedication, but also with compassion and empathy for others. Becky and her husband, Lyle, died in an automobile accident on February 22, 1997, leaving three children, Spencer, Mitch, and Jeremy.

In February 1997, the Natural Resources Board passed a memorial resolution honoring Becky Wallace. As part of that resolution, the Board established the Rebecca Wallace Memorial Award. Becky's staff were instrumental in the development of the criteria and guidelines for this award. Each year an award is given to an employee nominated for making the greatest contribution toward either the improvement of relationships with external partner agencies and organizations on environmental quality issues or mentoring of Department staff. The first award was presented in June, 1998, by Governor Tommy Thompson. In another tribute to Becky, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed 1997 Assembly Resolution 25, honoring both her career with the DNR and her strong commitment to her family.

The Natural Resources Board resolution states that the award is:

"to be awarded annually to the employee making the greatest contribution toward either the improvement of relationships with external partner agencies and organizations on mutually-shared environmental quality issues or the mentoring of Department staff."

Mr. James McEvoy, a retired DNR artist from Brooklyn, Wisconsin, created a pen and ink watercolor for the award. A print is given to each award recipient.