

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

**SUBJECT:** Recreational Boating Portages at Dams on Water Trails in Wisconsin

**FOR:** September 2012 Board meeting

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Meg Galloway, Chief of Dam and Floodplain Section, Watershed Bureau

**SUMMARY:**

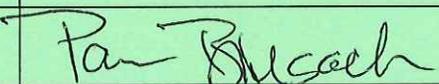
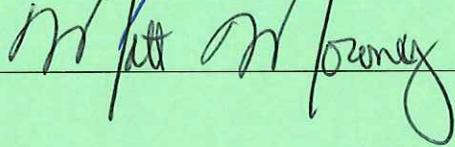
Impoundments behind dams provide many recreational boating opportunities in Wisconsin. However, dams are a barrier to boaters, primarily canoeists and kayakers, who want to paddle along the streams in the state. Chapter NR 330, Administrative Rules provides a procedure to assess navigation near dams, identify navigation hazards and the need for a portage around a dam and specify an appropriate portage route and required signage. An assessment was done for many of the state's dams in the 1980s and orders were issued to dam owners.

With the growing popularity of paddle sports in the state, concern has been raised whether adequate portage routes are being maintained around dams on popular water trails in the state. Information will be provided on the commonly used water trails in the state, identifying dam locations, regulatory authority at those dams and previous portage assessments at those dams. There are current procedures being used to ensure that adequate portage routes are being maintained at state regulated dams. Contacts have been made with the federal agencies that regulate many of the dams on the water trails to establish procedures that will assure those dams also maintain adequate portage routes.

**RECCOMENDATION:** Information only

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):**

- Background memo
- Type name of attachment 2 if applicable
- Type name of attachment 3 if applicable
- Type name of attachment 4 if applicable

Approved by	Signature	Date
Pamela Biersach, Bureau Director		9-14-12
Ken Johnson, Administrator		9/14/12
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		9/17/12

cc: Board Liaison – AD/8