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NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

BRIEF OF ACTION

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 in the Jefferson Room, Jefferson Street Inn, 201 Jefferson Street, Wausau, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. for action on items 1-3 and 6-7. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

William Bruins – present	Gary Zimmer – present
Christine Thomas – present	Jane Wiley – present
Terry Hilgenberg – present	Preston Cole – present
Greg Kazmierski – present	

Chair Cole thanked regional staff for the educational and engaging tours, and for coordinating the logistics. He then thanked Jane Wiley and Will Allmandinger for their hospitality.

1.B. Approval of agenda for June 25-26, 2013

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the June 25-26, 2013 agenda, seconded by Mr. Zimmer. The motion carried unanimously.

1.C. Approval of Brief of Action from May 21-22, 2013

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the May 21-22, 2013 Brief of Action, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Cole noted that the Board will adhere to the posted timing on the agenda. Agenda items cannot be before the Board until the posted time.

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval of the Real Estate Transactions, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Action Items

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

3.A.1. Presentation of the Shikar Safari Club International Officer of the Year Award

Randy Stark, Chief Warden, and **John Pearson**, Shikar Safari Club presented the award to Warden Supervisor *Jennifer Niemeyer*. Jen is a selfless leader who strives to bring out

the best in the people. Her dedication to the state of Wisconsin, DNR, and the Warden service is clearly visible through the passion she brings to her work.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- 3.A.2. Request that the Board authorize public hearings for Board Order WT-29-09, proposed rules affecting Ch. NR 114, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to certification requirements of wastewater treatment works operators (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on how this process would make better qualified people and whether input was received from any user groups.

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.A.3. Request that the Board authorize public hearings for Board Order WT-06-12, proposed changes affecting Ch. NR 115, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to shoreland zoning standards (PowerPoint and Handout)

Discussion followed on density, what the reactions were from stakeholders, and where the hearings will be located.

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife
3.B.1. Request adoption of Board Order FR-24-11, proposed rules affecting chapter NR1 related to regenerating harvested areas of state owned and managed lands

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Zimmer. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.2. Request that the Board authorize public hearings on Board Order WM-06-13 related to establishing migratory bird hunting seasons

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Zimmer. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.3. Request approval of a wolf harvest quota and number of licenses to issue for the 2013 – 2014 wolf hunting and trapping season (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on adding a question to the post-harvest survey as to whether hunters who use firearms selected against collars, depredation control comparison from 2013-2014 to last year, tribal options, what other states in the Great Lakes region are doing, elk management zone, and whether the carrying capacity needs to be reviewed.

Public Appearances:

1. Mike Riggle, Medford, representing WI Conservation Congress Wolf Study Committee as Chair spoke in support of the department's recommendations but felt that the 275 harvest quota should be exclusive of any tribal declaration and subsequent non-harvest of the declared quota. **(Handout)**

2. **David Hochtritt**, Pickett, representing self. He spoke in opposition to the wolf hunt and department's recommendations. **(Handout)**
3. **Alice Miller**, Maple, representing self. She spoke in opposition to the wolf hunt and department's recommendations. **(Handout)**

Mr. Cole asked the audience to refrain from applause. It is disrespectful to those with differing opinions.

4. **Mike Brust**, Wausau, representing WI Bowhunters Association. He spoke in support of the department's recommendations.
5. **Cathy Miller**, Brule, representing self. She was not in attendance. Her written testimony was in opposition to the wolf hunt and department's recommendations. **(Handout)**
6. **Luann O'Dell**, Juneau, representing self. She spoke in opposition to the wolf hunt and department's recommendations.
7. **Howard Goldman**, St. Paul, MN, representing the Humane Society of the United States. He, on behalf of their 245,000 WI Members, spoke in opposition to the wolf hunt and department's recommendations. **(Handout)**
8. **Laurie Groskopf**, Tomahawk, representing self. She spoke in support of reducing the wolf population to 350 or less. **(Handout)**
9. **Melanie Weberg**, Osceola, representing self. She spoke in opposition to the wolf hunt and in support of a wolf kill quota of 0. **(Handout)**
10. **Elizabeth Huntley-Roberts**, Kenosha, representing self. She spoke in opposition to the wolf hunt and department's recommendations **(Handout)**
11. **Ralph Fritsch**, Townsend, representing the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. He spoke in support of 275 wolves as a "state-only" harvest with 2,750 permits being issued to state hunters and trappers. **(Handout)**
12. **Melissa Smith**, Madison, representing self. She spoke in opposition to the department's recommendations and supports a moratorium on the wolf hunt until sound science and long term studies on the wolf population's reaction to a hunt of last year can be properly studied.
13. **Patricia Randolph**, Portage, representing WI Wildlife Ethic. Her written testimony was in opposition to the wolf hunt and department's recommendations. **(Written Testimony only)**
14. **Al Lobner**, Milladore, representing WI Bear Hunters Association and Hunters Rights Coalition. He spoke in support of the department's recommendations and expressed concern on the quota assigned to the Ojibwe tribes. **(Handout)**

Chair Cole asked Bill Vander Zouwen, Wildlife Ecology Section Chief, to give an overview of the department's process for setting the quota and number of licenses.

Discussion followed on how many people were involved in the counts/surveys, whether conversations were held with Tribal representatives regarding the wolf take, whether any non-hunting groups were represented on the Wolf Committee, and the genesis of the wolf population goal of 350.

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski.

Discussion followed on how the department will manage the Tribal situation and whether that will affect next year's recommendation, whether the department should be planning a five year strategy or have a population goal higher than 350, and that the Board has little policy work to do on this since the wolf hunt and use of dogs was passed by the legislature.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.4. Request approval of clean-up revisions to Board determinations under ACT 168, to clarify the existence of state park seasons already established by administrative rule (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on the Board's intent from their action at the December 2012 meeting and that the Friend's groups can live with this.

Public Appearances:

1. Ralph Fritsch, Townsend, representing the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation spoke in support of the department's recommendation to restore the hunting seasons. (Handout)

Mr. Kazmierski thanked the Board Chair for bringing this back. He stated the usership patterns may change and the department should be aware of this in the future. He then noted that WI Conservation Congress has been in his ear about expanding the seasons beyond this.

Mr. Cole requested the department report back to the Board after the season is over.

Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.5. Approval of the name "Three Bridge Park" for department lands along the Menomonee River in Milwaukee County now known as the "Airline Yards" and part of the Hank Aaron State Trail

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Bruins. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.6. Land Acquisition – Statewide Natural Areas – Iron County

Discussion followed regarding access to the property and whether the department has a game plan to improve access situations like this in the future.

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.7. Land Acquisition – Glacial Heritage Area River-Based Conservation Areas – Jefferson County

Discussion followed on the appraisals and cost per acre, that the municipality is a financial partner, and that this property includes a 6.1 acre boat launch.

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried on a voice vote of 6 - 1.

3.B.8. Land Acquisition - North Country National Scenic Trail – Douglas County

Public Appearances:

1. **Bill Menke**, Dodgeville, representing North Country Trail Association as Wisconsin Regional Trail Coordinator spoke in support of the acquisition. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on whether the existing bridge meets all department needs or will need upgrades, and whether the department will continue to work to provide better access.

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Zimmer. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.9. Land Donation – Statewide Wildlife Habitat – Chippewa County

Public Appearances:

1. **Doug Fendry**, McFarland, representing Pheasants Forever as Regional Representative and **Doug Burrows**, Eau Claire, representing Chippewa Valley Pheasants Forever as President spoke in support of the donation and stated that they will continue to offer volunteer assistance.

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Zimmer.

Mr. Hilgenberg noted that there are two perpetual easements on this property.

The motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Stepp presented Mr. Fendry and Mr. Burrows with a plaque acknowledging Pheasant Forever's gracious and generous donation to the state of Wisconsin.

3.C. Scope Statements

- 3.C.1. Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Board Order CF-12-13 relating to the revisions to Ch. NR 166, the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.C.2. Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Board Order CF-13-13 relating to the revisions to Ch. NR 162, the Clean Water Fund Program

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.C.3. Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Board Order DG-15-13 relating to Ch. NR 809 pertaining to the Safe Drinking Water Act (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on whether this is a move in the right direction.

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.C.4. Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Board Order DG-02-13, proposed rules affecting Chapter 280 related to 2011 Wisconsin Act 150 creation of new definitions in Chapter 280, Stats., for heat exchange drillhole and heat exchange drilling, and the modification of the individual and business license for drillers to create a more generic drilling license, with specific authorization to do well drilling or heat exchange drilling (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on what the basic difference is between drilling for well water and drilling for heat exchanger in general, and the number of licenses needed to drill.

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Zimmer. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.C.5. Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Board Order FH-01-12A, proposed rules affecting s. NR 20.40 related to fishing tournaments (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on clarification as to why this is coming before the Board again and whether this will add to the rule book or make it less complicated.

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.C.6. Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Emergency Rule Board Order AM-20-13(E) and Permanent Rule Board Order AM-19-13 related to control of mercury emissions under Subchapter III of NR 446, Wis. Adm. Code, and conditionally approve the public hearing notice and the notice of submittal to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse for the proposed permanent rule

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval of the department's recommendation, seconded by Dr. Thomas.

Discussion followed on the process of the future progression of this rule.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Listening Session

Public Appearances:

1. **Donna Stehling**, Sauk City, representing Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance
Topic: Badger Army Ammunition Plant/Sauk Prairie Recreation Area and that reuse must first and foremost contribute to healing this unique landscape for future generations. **(Handout)**
2. **Bill Wenzel**, Sauk City, representing Badger Oversight and Management Commission as Chair
Topic: Badger Army Ammunition Plant/Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. He invited the Board during the August 13 tour to receive a presentation on the geological story of the Badger landscape. **(Handout)**
3. **Eugene Robkin**, Baraboo, representing self
Topic: Highest and best use of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant property. He referenced the pre-WWII landowners that were removed from their lands by the government to make way for the Army Ammunition Plant. **(Handout)**
4. **George Letten**, Bear Creek, representing self
Topic: Sand Mining. He expressed concern about a sand mine in Waupaca County that would be set approximately 300 feet from Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek is downstream from the Little Wolf River. **(Handout)**

Chair Cole asked that department staff follow-up with Mr. Letten.

5. **Bob Wenzel**, Silver Lake, representing Silver Lake Association as President
Topic: Walleye fishing regulations on Silver Lake in Barron County. He requested that the “Trophy” regulation be stopped and a more appropriate regulation be adopted by the department. **(Handout)**

5. Information Items

5.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement
None

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

5.B.1. Cherish WI Outdoors Fund (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on whether any latitude was given for establishing an endowment (e.g. allowing some dollars to be used right away), summary of the Natural Resources Foundation’s 61 funds, what the Foundation’s goal for this fund is for the first few years, what the decision process is for annual disbursements, and how planned giving will be marketed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

6. Department Secretary’s Matters

6.A. Retirement Resolutions

6.A.1. John R. Hammen

6.A.2. James A. Schmidt

6.A.3. Bill Smith

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the retirement resolutions, seconded by Mr. Zimmer. The motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Stepp requested Bill Smith join her at the podium to receive his retirement resolution.

Mr. Smith stated that once he found a career at the department, it was hard to leave. The big picture is the special thing we do at the department: working together for the public to provide rich and abundant natural resources, a clean and healthy environment and for all for quality outdoor experiences. He wished all the very best. (He received a standing ovation)

6.B. Donations

- 6.B.1. Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin will donate \$21,000 to be used to assist with the propagation and stocking of muskellunge throughout the state but especially to help purchase minnows for forage and PIT tags for musky brood stock

Public Appearance:

Larry Slagoski, Musky Clubs Alliance of WI. He stated that each year they try to raise money for fishing, stock, and the musky industry. This donation is for extended growth muskies. Musky fishing brings a lot of people to Wisconsin.

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the department's recommendation and to acknowledge the donation, seconded by Mr. Zimmer. The motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Stepp presented Mr. Slagoski and Alliance Members with a plaque acknowledging the Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin's generous donation to the state of Wisconsin to assist with the propagation and stocking of muskellunge throughout the state, but especially to help purchase minnows for forage and PIT tags for musky brook stock.

Secretary Stepp then thanked Sue Snyder and Dan Bauman from West Central Region for their coordination of the meeting and tour logistics. She also thanked Dan Helsel and Steve Courtney.

She noted that the department hit the 20,000 mark for DNR Facebook friends and thanked Bill Cosh and Trish Ossman for their efforts.

A recent press release highlighted the department's partnership with the Milwaukee Brewers – 2013 DNR Days at Miller Park. Hunting and fishing license holders will be able to purchase a Brewer home game ticket for select games at a reduced price and also will receive a special blaze orange ball cap while supplies last. She noted that she will be throwing out the first pitch at the July 19 game.

7. Board Members' Matters

Mr. Hilgenberg recalled his first tour with retiring Bill Smith and retired Dick Steffes. He questioned where that legacy is going to go. The charge for the department now is to prepare people behind them for that job. He then thanked Bill Smith for his exemplary service.

Mr. Kazmierski requested a written report on ongoing science research projects and copies of completed research as they are completed.

Mr. Zimmer requested an information item on the use of Mediasite at Board meetings as to 1) how many people are viewing live, 2) number of the public viewing archived recordings, 3) the number of department staff viewing live meetings, and 4) the locations of viewers.

Ms. Wiley thanked everyone for coming to Wausau.

Mr. Cole requested the department review the current approach as to how volunteers/ friends groups are thanked for their efforts and to think of other opportunities to engage those groups. He would like to see the Board invite these folks located in the region that the monthly meeting is taking place to have coffee with the Board.

Ms. Wiley noted that Board Members could attend the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks annual meeting in the fall.

Mr. Cole requested regional staff to look for opportunities during the Tuesday Board tours to engage partners.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

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