

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD**

**MINUTES**

An informational briefing of the Natural Resources Board was held on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 in Room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. for the briefing on item 2.B.1.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

David Clausen – present	Preston Cole – present
Jonathan Ela – present	Gary Rohde – present
John Welter – present	Christine Thomas – present
Jane Wiley – present	

1.B. Approval of agenda for December 9-10, 2008

**Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Ms. Wiley approval of the agenda for December 9-10, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Information Items

A. Air, Waste, and Water/Enforcement  
None

B. Land Management, Recreation, and Fisheries/Wildlife

1. Report and preliminary findings of the 2008 gun deer season

**Diane Brookbank**, Customer Service and Licensing Bureau Director, **Randy Stark**, Law Enforcement Bureau Director, and **Keith Warnke**, Wildlife Management Bureau Wildlife Biologist, gave a joint presentation on the preliminary findings from the 2008 firearm deer hunting season and an update on CWD surveillance efforts. Information was provided on deer hunting license sales, hunting accidents and enforcement issues, preliminary deer harvest numbers, and CWD statewide sampling efforts and harvest numbers from the CWD control zones. **(POWERPOINTS)**

**INFORMATION ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

Discussion followed on adding a texting service to the toll free customer service phone line, call center operators, top arrests, wolf mortality, confiscation of property, bear sightings, public request for emergency meeting to cancel December hunt (No Board action taken), fawn mortality, winter kill and the winter severity index, car-deer collision database, decrease in food pantry donations, poaching cases, hunter accessibility to public and private lands, and staff comments on moving the December NRB meeting from December 2-3 to December 9-10, 2008.

**The Board** thanked staff for the excellent briefing and for all the work that went into it.

**Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Dr. Clausen to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.\*\*\*

DECEMBER 9-10, 2008

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 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 2:00 p.m.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

David Clausen – present	Preston Cole – present
Jonathan Ela – present	Gary Rohde – present
John Welter – present	Christine Thomas – present
Jane Wiley – present	

1.B. Approval of minutes for September 24, 2008

**Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela approval of the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

1C. Approval of minutes for October 22, 2008

**Mr. Ela MOVED, seconded by Dr. Clausen approval of the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

**Dr. Clausen MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela approval of the real estate transactions. The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Action Items

3.C. Land Management, Recreation, and Fisheries/Wildlife

3.C.1 ~~Request adoption of Board Order WM 04-08, revisions to NR 10 & 45 relating to hunting on State Ice Age Trail areas~~ DELETED

3.A. Department Wide

3.A.1 Approval of the Department's 2009 – 2011 Biennial Budget recommendations

**Joe Polasek**, Management and Budget Bureau Director gave an overview of a series of proposed reductions. The amount of the reductions is based on targets developed by the Department of Administration (DOA) during the budget development process this past summer. It was intended to promote government efficiencies and not necessarily meant to fix the current budget deficit that the state is facing. The economy has changed since then with the release of DOA's November fiscal report which revealed the \$5 billion deficit. Since then, DOA has been working with state agencies in an attempt to put together a plan for the Governor to address this much larger problem. At this time, we do not know what this package will include or what impact it will have in Department programs. However, it will be much larger than what we are looking at today. The items in today's package will be recommended to DOA and the Governor for reduction. He requested the Board approve the 2009 – 2011 Biennial Budget recommendations.

Discussion followed on the potential for eliminating programs and the need for public input.

**Dr. Thomas** requested the Department bring the budget back to the Board if it includes eliminating or severely reducing whole programs.

**Matt Frank**, DNR Secretary stated that the Department is currently working with DOA on the budget. DOA would then work with the Governor's office to craft the final budget. His main concern here is timing since the next Board meeting is scheduled for late January. The Governor will give his budget address in January and presumably his budget will be sent to the Legislature in early February. The Department will be accountable for the budget to the Board and to the public. There is no doubt there will be a budget discussion.

**Mr. Ela** said he recognized that the final budget would be the responsibility of the Governor, and that timing made it unlikely that there would be a further opportunity for formal Board action. But he requested that the Board members receive individual briefings before the provisions of the Governor's budget are publicly announced.

Discussion continued on the budget framework.

**Secretary Frank** stated that he appreciates the Board's concern. The Department is doing everything possible to keep "boots on the ground", which are direct service providers: people doing field work and critical on-going work. Our priority is to make sure those positions are protected. We will be and have been affected by keeping some vacancies open. In terms of the long-term positions in the DNR, we want to make sure we are protecting "boots on the ground."

Secondly, it is not the Department's intent for whole programs to be swept away. The preference is we not do things that really get to the core programs that the Department is expected to run. We need to continue to do those things. He is not anticipating at this point, but things can change, whole programs just stopping. If this happens, the Department would talk to the Board about that. This is very difficult and we are going to look at what we can do to streamline and become more efficient.

There is little question that all agencies have already been asked by the Governor to go beyond the cuts we have laid out for the Board in this briefing. Also, there will be another opportunity for what comes out ultimately in the Governor's budget for plenty of public accountability and scrutiny of what is being proposed. The Board will certainly have that opportunity to review, and organizations, citizens, and media will review what is actually proposed.

Discussion continued on the budget process.

**Secretary Frank** stated the budget process takes at least four to five months to go through the Legislature. Once we know what it looks like, we will reach out to the Board and public.

Discussion continued on the Board's involvement in the process.

**Dr. Thomas** stated that if the actual policy actions are going to happen at some later period of time, then there needs to be an agenda item at a Board meeting to allow for public comment.

**Secretary Frank** stated he would be happy to work through this process with the Board. This process will not end with the Governor's introduction of the budget. It is the beginning of a budget process that very much involves the Legislature and multiple legislative committees.

**Mr. Ela** requested that the Board be involved in policy questions and programs after the budget leaves the Legislature (after July 1, 2009) during the Department's decision making process.

Discussion continued on Board recommendations to the Legislature, and on proposed reductions to line items 6123-Private Forestry Assistance, 6400-Nonpoint Basin Educators, and 6300-Eliminating Car Killed Deer Contracts.

**Secretary Frank** stated that when one goes through the reduction process, one needs to look at the core of what we are trying to accomplish. This budget has gone through thousands of hours of review. It is tough and cuts have implications. Car Killed Deer Contracts is a nice thing to do but we are in the process of trimming the budget and finding savings. Do we continue to fund this out of license fees or do we cut a biologist working on habitat programs? Every cut will be scrutinized and will go through the legislative process.

Discussion continued on line item 6342-Energy Project Research as related to migratory birds and bats, impacts of the reductions to the Forestry and Fish & Wildlife Funds, and debt service for the bonding program.

**Secretary Frank** stated we cannot only look at the General Purpose Revenue (GPR) side of the budget and then raise fees. The Department needs to tighten its belt. People are in tough shape out there and the Department will put together a budget that holds the line on fee increases.

#### **Public Appearances**

1. **George Meyer**, Madison, representing WI Wildlife Federation (WWF) stated their support for no fee increases. He encouraged the Board to work with constituents and to look long-term.

Discussion followed on WWF's focus on recruiting new participants to outdoor recreation and that the program should be expanded to novices too.

2. **Mike Arrowood**, Oakfield, representing Winnebago Land Conservation Alliance as Secretary expressed their disappointment in the potential reduction in the warden workforce. He suggested cuts to the Wildlife Damage Abatement Program and to eliminate car killed deer contracts. He sees the wildlife damage program as agriculture welfare and not wildlife management. He noted that some land owners who receive abatement program funds deny access to hunters.

Discussion followed on eliminating the crop damage program and whether that would require legislative action, and impacts to the warden workforce as contemplated in the budget.

**The Board** recessed for a short break and then continued with the remaining public appearances.

3. **Bob Haase**, Eldorado, representing himself requested the Board not reduce the budget on youth and handicapped outdoor programs.

**Secretary Frank** noted there were no budget reductions in those areas.

4. **Rick Klemme**, Madison, representing UW-Cooperative Extension as Dean and Director requested the reductions to the Basin Educator program, line items 6123 and 6400, be rescinded or reduced by only 10%. **(HANDOUT)**

Discussion followed on UW-Cooperative Extension reductions, their partners, position reductions, and how they are looking at ways to reallocate their budget.

**Secretary Frank** stated the Departments' reductions will not eliminate this program. The Department is committed to sit down with UW-Extension and is not going to walk away from this. We are trying to prioritize and figure out what would do the least long-term damage.

Discussion continued on the day-to-day job duties of a basin education coordinator and how these reductions will impact the program.

5. **Bob Welch**, Redgranite, representing Hunters Rights Coalition was not present.

6. **Gene Roark**, Madison, representing WI Woodland Owners Association echoed the importance and value of basin educators in terms of private forestry. It has been a steady downhill slope for private woodland owner assistance provided by DNR forestry. He asked that this downward trend not be accelerated and noted that the supply of raw materials is dependent on the sustainable management of private land. Thousands of Managed Forest Law (MFL) properties will come up for review. Who will process the paperwork? He asked the Board to consider making as few cuts as possible.

Discussion continued on timber prices and its impact on supply.

7. **Ed Harvey**, Waldo, representing WI Conservation Congress as Chair stated the Congress was glad to see the Department's commitment on holding back on fee increases but are concerned with which programs would be cut. He asked the Board to hold back on any cuts at the Poynette Game Farm and asked for an increase in the budget for research to determine the presence of bobcats and the densities which they are present in areas of the state that are not currently open to bobcat hunting. He also asked the Board to be patient and wait for the final deer season numbers to be in before taking action. **(HANDOUT)**

Discussion followed on increasing the bobcat application fees and how much revenue the Department would receive from it.

**Ms. Wiley MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela approval of the Department's 2009 – 2011 Biennial Budget recommendations.**

Discussion followed on stimulating the green industry by planting trees throughout Wisconsin and mitigating global warming.

**Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Dr. Thomas approval to amend the 2009 – 2011 Biennial Budget recommendations to add \$1,000,000 in bonding to the capital budget for the "20 Million Trees by 2020" initiative.**

Discussion continued on budget priorities and possible federal funds available in President-Elect Obama's upcoming stimulus package.

**The amendment carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Cole** stated he contacted Pat Henderson, DNR Deputy Secretary, and discussed obtaining local input and finding partners for a possible permanent building at Lake Shore Park.

**Mr. Cole** requested the Board minimize its travel expenses and reduce expenses for staff and non-DNR presenters by reducing the number of out-state meetings from six to two. He acknowledged the importance for the Board to travel throughout the state but in these hard times, the Board needs to tighten its budget.

Discussion followed on reducing printing costs by almost 75% and reducing Board and staff travel expenses.

**Mr. Cole** rescinded his request for further Board budget reductions since staff is already working diligently at reducing expenses.

Discussion continued on the likelihood of using technology (teleconferencing and Live Meeting) at future meetings to reduce staff travel and the use of lap tops at meetings to view electronic agenda items (green sheets) instead of printed copies.

**Dr. Thomas** stated it would be the decision of each Board member individually to go paperless. Interested members would need to work individually with the Board Liaison.

Discussion continued on the reductions to the Nonpoint Basin Educator program.

**Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Dr. Clausen approval to amend the 2009 – 2011 Biennial Budget recommendations to reduce the line item reduction for 6400 – Nonpoint Basin Educators from (\$283,000) to (\$141,500) annually.**

Discussion continued on what would need to be cut from the budget to keep this item in.

**The amendment failed on a roll call vote of 2 – 4 with 1 abstention.**

<b>David Clausen – no</b>	<b>Preston Cole – yes</b>
<b>Jonathan Ela – no</b>	<b>Gary Rohde – no</b>
<b>John Welter – yes</b>	<b>Christine Thomas – abstained</b>
<b>Jane Wiley – no</b>	

Discussion followed on the Private Forestry Assistance item reduction and the Department's priority to not allow budget reductions to affect its ability to enforce the law.

**Mr. Rohde MOVED, seconded by Mr. Welter approval to amend the 2009 – 2011 Biennial Budget recommendations to reduce the line item reduction for 6123 – Private Forestry Assistance from (\$234,500) to (\$100,000) annually.**

**The amendment failed on a roll call vote of 3 – 3 with 1 abstention.**

<b>David Clausen – no</b>	<b>Preston Cole – yes</b>
<b>Jonathan Ela – no</b>	<b>Gary Rohde – yes</b>
<b>John Welter – yes</b>	<b>Christine Thomas – abstained</b>
<b>Jane Wiley – no</b>	

Discussion followed on bobcat research.

**Dr. Thomas MOVED, seconded by Dr. Clausen approval to amend the 2009 – 2011 Biennial Budget recommendations to include a \$3.00 increase for each Bobcat permit application fee to be used for research to determine the presence of bobcats and the densities at which they are present.**

Discussion continued on the affects of a fee increase and the 2009 spring hearings.

**Mr. Ela MOVED to amend the motion to include a four year sunset provision. Dr. Thomas and Dr. Clausen accepted as a friendly amendment.**

**The motion to amend carried unanimously.**

Discussion followed on eliminating car killed deer contracts.

**The original motion as amended carried unanimously.**

**The Board recessed for lunch at noon and reconvened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. with Agenda Item 3.B.1.**

- 3.B. Air, Waste, and Water/Enforcement
- 3.B.1 Request Adoption of Board Order SS-16-08, revisions to NR 219 relating to analytical test methods and procedures

**David Webb**, Integrated Science Services Bureau Section Chief stated that the proposed rule revisions to ch. NR 219, Wis. Adm. Code reflect the changes made at the federal level, add additional methods approved by U.S. EPA Office of Water Alternate Test Procedure, and incorporate equivalent methods from newer versions of methods published by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). The Board approved this item without staff presentation.

**Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela approval of the Request for Adoption of Board Order SS-16-08, revisions to NR 219 relating to analytical test methods and procedures. The motion carried on a voice vote.**

- 3.B.2 Request Adoption of Board Order WT-09-08, revisions to NR 190, 191 and 195 relating to lake and river protection grants and NR 198 relating to aquatic invasive species control grants  
**Carroll Schaal**, Watershed Management Lakes and Wetlands Section Lakes Team Leader stated that this proposed order implements enabling legislation and facilitates investing a \$2.8 million increase in the annual funding allocation for the control of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The management of AIS will be improved statewide through this revision by allowing larger, more efficient prevention and control projects, lowering local costs, and providing a greater diversity of sponsors and eligible activities. The proposed changes create incentives for projects that couple long-term prevention with control.

Wisconsin Administrative Codes NR 190, 191, 195 are all related grant programs that have similar general provisions, largely the same set of sponsors and managed by the same staff. For consistency, minor revisions to policies common in all these codes are proposed to be consistent with changes proposed in NR 198. He requested the Board approve Board Order WT-09-08.

**Dr. Clausen MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela approval of the request for adoption of Board Order WT-09-08, revisions to NR 190, 191 and 195 relating to lake and river protection grants and NR 198 relating to aquatic invasive species control grants. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.B.3 Request Authorization for public hearing for Board Order AM-23-08, proposed rules affecting Chapters NR 419 and 439, Wis. Adm. Code pertaining to establishing VOC emission control requirements for synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry (SOCMI) facilities classified as major VOC sources in Wisconsin's ozone nonattainment areas  
**Larry Bruss**, Regional Pollutants and Mobile Sources Section Chief stated that the synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry (SOCMI) refers to those facilities which produce man-made organic compounds that are created through industrial synthesis. Byproducts of these processes include volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions that can be released to ambient air as precursors to ozone formation. The proposed rule would require VOC reasonably available control technology (RACT) measures (recommended in EPA guidance) to effectively reduce VOC emissions from any applicable SOCMI facility's air oxidation or distillation and reactor operations in Wisconsin's ozone nonattainment areas. These control measures largely involve the destruction of VOC emissions by combustion devices such as boilers, incinerators or flares.

The US EPA has detailed the regulatory criteria that must be followed in developing, promulgating and enforcing VOC RACT rules for SOCMI facilities that have air oxidation, distillation or reactor operations in ozone nonattainment areas. He requested the Board approve Board Order AM-23-08. **(POWERPOINT)**

Discussion followed on how this item relates to mercury issues.

**Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Dr. Thomas approval of the request for authorization for public hearing for Board Order AM-23-08, proposed rules affecting Chapters NR 419 and 439, Wis. Adm. Code pertaining to establishing VOC emission control requirements for synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry (SOCMI) facilities classified as major VOC sources in Wisconsin's ozone nonattainment areas. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.B.4 Request authorization for public hearing for Board Order WA-22-08, proposed NR 528 relating to the Management of Accumulated Sediment from Storm Water Management Structures  
**Gene Mitchell**, Waste and Materials Management Section Chief stated that the rule proposes a system of self regulation based on certification by the sediment manager that all necessary steps have been taken to properly evaluate and manage any risks associated with the sediment and the intended use. The sediment manager attests to the above, agrees to perform any necessary monitoring and commits to maintaining all sediment management records. This includes: A. Self-regulation through sediment evaluation, compliance with appropriate regulatory requirements and signature on certification form; B. Safeguard provisions to protect health and the environment; C. Selection of appropriate end uses for accumulated sediment; and D. Record keeping and records retention. He requested the Board approve Board Order WA-22-08.

Discussion followed on the status of on-line reporting.

**Dr. Clausen MOVED, seconded by Mr. Welter approval of the request authorization for public hearing for Board Order WA-22-08, proposed NR 528 relating to the Management of Accumulated Sediment from Storm Water Management Structures. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.C. Land Management, Recreation, and Fisheries/Wildlife - Continued

- 3.C.2 Request adoption of Board Order FR-15-08, revisions to NR 47 related to the gypsy moth suppression grant program

**Andrea Diss-Torrance**, Forest Services Plant Pest and Disease Specialist stated that to maintain Wisconsin's eligibility for federal cost sharing funds for its gypsy moth suppression program, changes need to be made to the rule governing the program. The federal cost sharing program provides a significant amount of funding for counties, communities and individuals. While the amount granted this year was less than the 50% of costs of previous year's treatment and administration, it did provide \$111,300 to offset these costs to counties, communities and individuals who participated in the program. Changes to eligibility criteria to maintain access to federal cost sharing are: 1) increase in the canopy cover for residential areas from 25 to 50%; and 2) liberalization of the canopy composition criterion from "50% or more of the canopy must be preferred hosts" to "50% or more of the canopy must be hosts that are moderately or highly susceptible to defoliation by gypsy moth".

In addition, the federal cost share grant maximum has recently been increased for publically owned land from 25 to 50% of costs and for private lands over 500 acres from 33 to 50% of costs. Making this change to the grant calculation section of our rule will allow the program to obtain the maximum cost share available for landowners and communities. Also included in the rule are housekeeping changes to improve program efficiency and accommodate the needs of the participating counties. She requested the Board approve Board Order FR-15-08.

**(POWERPOINT)**

Discussion followed on reimbursing donations and who the participants are in this program.

**Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Dr. Clausen approval of the request for adoption of Board Order FR-15-08, revisions to NR 47 related to the gypsy moth suppression grant program. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Dr. Thomas** continued with Agenda Item 4.A.2.

4. Citizen Participation – 1:00 p.m.  
4.A. Citizen Recognition  
4.A.1 ~~2007 and 2008 Rebecca Wallace Award~~ DELETED  
4.A.2 2008 Scenic Beauty Award

**INFORMATION ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

**Charley Weeth**, Executive Director for Citizens for a Scenic Wisconsin said the organization presents its annual awards to those people and organizations who preserve and protect the special scenic places that make Wisconsin a wonderful place to live, work, and visit. He presented the 2008 Scenic Beauty Award to the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program of the Department's Bureau of Endangered Resources.

**Signe Holtz**, Endangered Resources Bureau Director, thanked her staff and Department staff for their role in earning this award. She stated her Bureau was very pleased that the Department's contribution to preserving and protecting natural areas had been recognized by Citizens for a Scenic Wisconsin.

**Dr. Thomas** and **Secretary Frank** accepted the Award on behalf of the Department.

**Mr. Ela** requested bureau staff be introduced.

**Ms. Holtz** introduced Rebecca Schroeder (Section Chief), Thomas Meyer, Mark Martin, Randy Hoffman, and Dawn Hinebaugh.

- 4.B. Citizen Participation  
None

**Dr. Thomas** continued with Agenda Item 3.C.3.

- 3.C.3 Land Acquisition and Project Boundary Modification – Tichigan Wildlife Area – Racine County

**Dr. Clausen MOVED, seconded by Mr. Welter approval of the Land Acquisition and Project Boundary Modification – Tichigan Wildlife Area – Racine County. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.C.4 Land Acquisition and Boundary Expansion – Harrington Beach State Park – Ozaukee County

Discussion followed on the homestead and how it could be utilized.

**Dr. Clausen MOVED, seconded by Ms. Wiley approval of the Land Acquisition and Boundary Expansion – Harrington Beach State Park – Ozaukee County. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.C.5 Land Acquisition – Ice Age Trail – Columbia County

Discussion followed on how the Trail continues to the south east.

**Mr. Ela MOVED, seconded by Dr. Clausen approval of the Land Acquisition – Ice Age Trail – Columbia County. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.C.6 Land Acquisition and Project Boundary Modification – Lower Wisconsin State Riverway – Dane County

**Mr. Welter** asked if this property should be included within the project boundary.

**Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela approval of the Land Acquisition and Project Boundary Modification – Lower Wisconsin State Riverway – Dane County and to include the 7A Farms, LLC property in the project boundary. The motion carried unanimously.**

3.C.7 Easement Acquisition and Donation – Forest Legacy Program – Washington County

**Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Dr. Clausen approval of the Easement Acquisition and Donation – Forest Legacy Program – Washington County.**

Discussion followed on whether future development of these parcels is possible.

**Dr. Clausen** requested a discussion take place at a future Board meeting regarding restricting developments on easement acquisitions by deed restrictions.

Discussion continued on the Federal Forest Legacy Grant easement requirements and the anticipated route of the Ice Age Trail.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

3.C.8 Easement Acquisition and Donation – Forest Legacy Program and Ice Age Trail – Washington County

**Dr. Clausen MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela approval of the Easement Acquisition and Donation – Forest Legacy Program and Ice Age Trail – Washington County.**

Discussion followed on the requirement for tree planting and if the farmland will stay in production.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

3.C.9 Land Acquisition and Cash Donation – Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area – Marinette County

**Mr. Ela MOVED, seconded by Mr. Welter approval of the Land Acquisition and Cash Donation – Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area – Marinette County. The motion carried unanimously.**

3.C.10 Land Acquisition – Devil’s Lake State Park – Sauk County

Discussion followed on the long-term intent of buying remaining lots in the subdivision.

**Mr. Rohde MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela approval of the Land Acquisition – Devil’s Lake State Park – Sauk County.**

Discussion continued on the undeveloped land in the subdivision.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

3.C.11 Land Acquisition – Waterloo Wildlife Area – Dodge County

Discussion followed on an easement road to the parcel.

**Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Dr. Clausen approval of the Land Acquisition – Waterloo Wildlife Area – Dodge County. The motion carried unanimously.**

3.C.12 Land Exchange – Lower Wisconsin State Riverway – Grant and Crawford Counties

Discussion followed on if this property is within the project boundary.

**Dr. Clausen MOVED, seconded by Mr. Rohde approval of the Land Exchange – Lower Wisconsin State Riverway – Grant and Crawford Counties. The motion carried unanimously.**

3.C.13 Land Acquisition – Pike Wild River – Marinette County

**Mr. Ela MOVED, seconded by Mr. Rohde approval of the Land Acquisition – Pike Wild River – Marinette County. The motion carried unanimously.**

3.C.14 Land Exchange – Great River State Trail – LaCrosse County

**Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela approval of the Land Exchange – Great River State Trail – LaCrosse County. The motion carried unanimously.**

3.C.15 Land Donation – Glacial Habitat Restoration – Winnebago County

Discussion followed on whether this property has the best soils and habitat areas for the targeted species.

**Mr. Ela MOVED, seconded by Ms. Wiley approval of the Land Donation – Glacial Habitat Restoration – Winnebago County. The motion carried unanimously.**

5. Board Members' Matters

**Dr. Clausen** requested Brian Richards, USGS, serve as a speaker or resource on CWD when it comes before the Board in 2009.

**Mr. Ela** thanked staff for getting green sheets (Board agenda items) through the process on a timely basis and noted it has been very well done.

**Mr. Welter** requested his mailing address be revised.

6. Special Committees' Reports

None.

7. Department Secretary's Matters

**Secretary Frank** congratulated two staff members who were recognized nationally:

- **Julie Peltier**, DNR Forester, received the Presidential Field Forester of the Year award from the Society of American Foresters (SAF) for District 5. The award is presented “to individuals who have displayed uncommon talent, skill and innovative methods to achieve a record of excellence in the application of forest management.”
- **Mark Giesfeld**, Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment Director, received the Life Time Achievement Award from the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management. The award recognizes significant contributions to not only the ASTSWMO organization, but to the development of national policies and programs in the area of remediation and brownfields.

He then gave an overview of the Departments' accomplishments from 2008 which included Stewardship, the Great Lakes Compact, and the Mercury Multi-Pollutant Rule. He stated that in regards to the budget, that these are tough times and that there are many challenges ahead of us. Fortunately, the Department has two great assets – its employees and partners. He acknowledged the work staff and its partners have done in the past and as we go forward. There will be a need to tighten belts and to hold open vacancies longer. He thanked staff for their great work and commented that it never ceases to amaze him how many people really follow the Department's

work. He then thanked the Board for all their work, care, and thoughtfulness on initiatives and challenges. He looks forward to good things to come.

He then introduced Adam Collins to the Board. Adam is the Department's new Policy Initiatives Advisor for the Office of the Secretary. He will be working with Laurel Steffes and staff on communications issues.

- 7.A. Retirement Resolutions
- 7.A.1 John G. Brandenburg, Jr.
- 7.A.2 Mulazim Nasir
- 7.A.3 Allan K. Swenson
- 7.A.4 Eldene Furman
- 7.A.5 Deborah Henke
- 7.A.6 Gary Eldred
- 7.A.7 Willard Dilley
- 7.A.8 Richard Prosis

**Secretary Frank** stated he has known Rick Prosis for a long time. He has worked with Rick when Secretary Frank worked at the attorney general's office. He has played a key role in legal counsel's office at the DNR for many years. He can't really believe we are at this point that Rick is actually retiring. Secretary Frank thanked him for all his contributions to the Department. Not only for his shepherding of the legal work at the Department but for how he has worked to build relationships between the Department and so many of our partners. His relationship with WI Conservation Congress and other partners has really been a valuable part of what Rick has brought to the Department. He thanked and congratulated Rick and wished him an enjoyable retirement.

**Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela approval of the retirement resolutions.**

**Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela to amend retirement resolution 7.A.8 to change the date of retirement from December 30, 2008 to December 30, 2009.**

**Mr. Ela MOVED to amend retirement resolution 7.A.8 to change the date of retirement from December 30, 2008 to December 30, 2007.**

**Dr. Thomas** stated Mr. Prosis then owes the Department money.

**Mr. Welter** and **Mr. Ela** stated that in order to reduce confusion, they withdrew their amendments.

**Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela to add language to Prosis item 7.A.8 at the WHEREAS paragraph: "He has provided thoughtful and helpful counsel to enable this Board to wade the muddy waters of its legal authority and procedures. That counsel has been much appreciated." The motion carried unanimously.**

**The original motion as amended carried unanimously.**

**Dr. Clausen** asked if Rick was going to come back with Bill Smith after retirement.

**Mr. Prosis** stated we always come back.

**Mr. Frank** stated retired Department employees never are completely gone.

- 7.B. Donations
- 7.B.1 The Friends of Crex, Inc. will donate up to \$100,000 over a 3-year period to support wildlife education purposes at the properties of the Glacial Lake Grantsburg Wildlife Management Complex

**Dr. Clausen** asked if this position could be hired now or if it could not be filled until the job freeze is over. If delayed, what will happen to the funds?

**Secretary Frank** stated the Department will look into this and get back to the Board.

**Dr. Clausen MOVED, seconded by Mr. Welter approval of the Friends of Crex, Inc. donation of up to \$100,000 over a 3-year period to support wildlife education purposes at the properties of the Glacial Lake Grantsburg Wildlife Management Complex. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 7.B.2 The Friends of High Cliff State Park will donate \$23,000 to High Cliff State Park for the purpose of hiring an educator

**Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela approval of the Friends of High Cliff State Park donation of \$23,000 to High Cliff State Park for the purpose of hiring an educator. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 7.B.3 The Johnson Family Foundation will donate \$17,000 to the Bureau of Endangered Resources in support of Trumpeter Swan and Piping Plover monitoring activities

**Mr. Ela MOVED, seconded by Mr. Welter approval of the Johnson Family Foundation donation of \$17,000 to the Bureau of Endangered Resources in support of Trumpeter Swan and Piping Plover monitoring activities. The motion carried unanimously.**

8. Information Items

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

- 8.B. Land Management, Recreation, and Fisheries/Wildlife  
None

**Mr. Welter MOVED, seconded by Mr. Ela to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.\*\*\*

**NOTE: Each Natural Resources Board meeting is recorded. Tapes of each meeting are available for purchase by contacting the Natural Resources Board at 608-267-7420. The following resources are also available: Agenda Item Packets (green sheets), supporting documents, and public comment.**