

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Designating a unit of the Bailey's Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands State Natural Area, Door County, in honor of Jonathan P. Ela

FOR: January 2013 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Kurt Thiede, Mary Ellen Vollbrecht

SUMMARY:

Jonathan Ela served the State of Wisconsin as a member of the Natural Resources Board from 2003 to 2011, most recently as its chair. While serving on the Natural Resources Board and in his life-long endeavor to protect the lands and waters, health and well-being of the citizens of Wisconsin, Jonathan dedicated himself to fair and informed discussion and resolution of environmental issues. To commemorate his career and accomplishments, we propose to create the Bailey's Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands State Natural Area - Jonathan P. Ela Unit, in his honor.

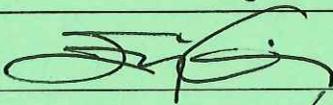
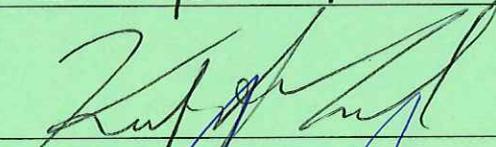
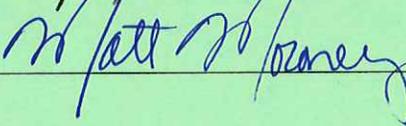
The Bailey's Harbor Boreal Forest State Natural Area lies along the Lake Michigan coastline of the Door Peninsula. The natural area was established in 1995 to protect a northern forest of balsam fir, white spruce, pine, white cedar and paper birch, characteristic of the forests found here prior to European settlement of the area. Orchids and several species of rare plants find refuge in the cool, moist climate influenced by the cold Lake Michigan waters. The beautiful, federally-threatened Dwarf Lake Iris is one such plant. The preserve includes more than 1.5 miles of exceptionally scenic shoreline along the lake and Spikehorn Bay. Migratory shorebirds and waterfowl are attracted to the undeveloped lakeshore, and boreal forest birds such as Blackburnian Warbler and Merlin nest in the adjacent woodlands. The Jonathan Ela Unit of the property would encompass the eastern-most portion of the 463-acre SNA, including a long stretch of rocky shoreline and the sandy beach at Spikehorn Bay, a place Jonathan frequented as a youth while spending summers at his family's retreat on the peninsula.

The Bailey's Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands State Natural Area - Jonathan P. Ela unit will serve as an enduring reminder to current and future generations of Wisconsinites that the beautiful landscapes, plentiful fish and wildlife, clean air and fresh waters require informed and persistent action by each of us, working together, at every opportunity.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Natural Resources Board approve a resolution creating the Bailey's Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands State Natural Area - Jonathan P. Ela Unit.

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

- Background memo
- Type name of attachment or type N/A if not applicable
- Type name of attachment or type N/A if not applicable
- Type name of attachment or type N/A if not applicable

Approved by	Signature	Date
Erin Crain, Bureau Director		1/7/13
Kurt Thiede, Administrator		1/8/13
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		1/8/13

DATE: January 4th, 2013 FILE REF: [Click [here](#) and type file ref.]

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Cathy Stepp

SUBJECT: Designating a unit of the Bailey's Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands State Natural Area, Door County, in honor of Jonathan P. Ela

Jonathan Ela died at home Wednesday, October 31st, 2012 following a courageous battle with cancer. Born October 7, 1945, he was a native Madisonian, graduating from West High in 1963. In 1967 he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree cum laude in Government from Harvard University.

In 2003 Jonathan was honored to be Governor Doyle's first appointee to the Natural Resources Board, which establishes policy and enacts administrative law for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He served for 8 years and was elected Chair by his fellow members in January 2010. He greatly valued the scientific basis for policy-making, seeking briefings on nearly every issue to come before the Board and asking many questions that demonstrated in-depth study and critical thinking. Jonathan's unfailing good humor through long agendas and contentious issues won him respect and many friends not only at DNR but also among people of all perspectives who came before the Board. During Jonathan's tenure, the Natural Resources Board approved more than a quarter-million acres of land for purchase by the Department. Jonathan independently travelled the state to see first-hand the lands proposed for Department acquisition, to share user experiences and to understand issues. In addition, special accomplishments included passage of a strong rule reducing mercury emissions into the air and one of the nation's strongest rules to limit phosphorus pollution of lakes and streams, to name just a few.

His career in conservation and environmental protection began in 1968 in the office of Senator Gaylord Nelson. In 1969, he began his long association with the Sierra Club - the national conservation organization founded in 1892 by John Muir. He felt privileged to have actively aided landmark conservation achievements from Alaska lands, to the California Redwoods, the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, Lake Superior's Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and the Cuyahoga River Valley in Ohio. He worked for landmark national environmental initiatives including passage of the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act. He authored the book, "The Faces of the Great Lakes," published by the Sierra Club to draw attention to the challenges facing earth's largest fresh water resource.

To everything he touched Jonathan brought intelligence and analytical skills, fairness and ability to look at all sides of an issue, warmth and generosity of spirit, and especially his sense of humor. He leaves a legacy not only of conservation and environmental accomplishment but also of all the people whom he has mentored, trained, influenced, worked with, and befriended along his path.

The Jonathan Ela Unit of the Bailey's Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands State Natural Area, Door County, will serve as a living reminder to current and future generations of Wisconsinites that the beautiful landscapes, plentiful fish and wildlife, clean air and fresh waters require informed and persistent action by each of us, working together, at every opportunity.

The Department will erect a sign at a suitable location on the property to commemorate this action.

Resolution

WHEREAS: Jonathan P. Ela's career in conservation and environmental protection began in 1968 in the office of Senator Gaylord Nelson. In 1969, he began his long association with the Sierra Club - the national conservation organization founded in 1892 by John Muir.

WHEREAS: In 2003 Jonathan was honored to be Governor Doyle's first appointee to the Natural Resources Board, which establishes policy and enacts administrative law for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He served for 8 years and was elected Chair by his fellow members in January 2010.

WHEREAS: During Jonathan's tenure on the Natural Resources Board more than a quarter-million acres of land were protected and made accessible by state purchases approved by the Natural Resources Board. In addition, special accomplishments included passage of a strong rule reducing mercury emissions into the air and one of the nation's strongest rules to limit phosphorus pollution of lakes and streams, to name just a few. Jonathan independently travelled the state to see first-hand lands proposed for investment, to share user experiences and to understand issues.

WHEREAS: To everything he touched Jonathan brought intelligence and analytical skills, fairness and ability to look at all sides of an issue, warmth and generosity of spirit, and especially his sense of humor. He leaves a legacy not only of conservation and environmental accomplishment but also of all the people whom he has mentored, trained, influenced, worked with, and befriended along his path.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Natural Resources Board of Wisconsin authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to designate a unit of the Bailey's Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands State Natural Area, Door County, in honor of Jonathan P. Ela.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Board intends that this designation is to honor the many significant and lasting contributions that Jonathan P. Ela has made to the people of the United States of America, to the people of the State of Wisconsin, and to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources throughout his professional career and throughout his lifetime, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, Chair

Jonathan P. Ela Unit of the Bailey's Harbor Boreal Forest & Wetlands State Natural Area

Door County



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BAILEYS HARBOR
BOREAL FOREST AND
WETLANDS NATURAL AREA



Jonathan P. Ela Unit of the Bailey's Harbor Boreal Forest & Wetlands State Natural Area

Door County
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Subject



- WDNR Fee Title
- WDNR Easement
- Private Conservation Lands
- State Natural Area
- Stewardship Grant Public Lands
- Sewer - Fee Title



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