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## NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

### BRIEF OF ACTION

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at Famous Dave's Conference Center at Grand Pines Resort, 9993 N. Grand Pines Road, Hayward, WI. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. for action on items 1-3 and 6-7. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 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** stated that the Board and the Secretary certainly know the full breadth of Regional Director John Gozdziński and his team. The educational tours yesterday were not only appropriate but were well organized, very thoughtful, and well put together. On behalf of the Board, thank you.

**Chair Cole** stated that yesterday the Board had an opportunity to meet with Tribal Board members. We had an open discussion on issues of the day. The Secretary and her staff did a wonderful job on the background document that the Board was given. It was a light hearted and fun evening for all. Board Members should take the opportunity next June to participate in the fishing event that will be at the Lac du Flambeau.

**Chair Cole** requested a thank you be sent to tribal attendees for their participation at the Board dinner on the Board's behalf.

1.B. Approval of agenda for August 13, 2014

**Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval of the August 13, 2014 agenda, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.**

1.C. Approval of Brief of Action from June 25, 2014

**Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval of the June 25, 2014 Brief of Action, seconded by Dr. Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary
- 2.A. Real Estate Transactions

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

3. Action Items
- 3.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement
- 3.A.1. Request adoption of Emergency Board Order OE-10-14(E) for housekeeping changes to comply with the intent of the recent chapter NR 150 rewrite (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on whether any environmental standards were relaxed (no), and how people would be affected if this rule is not passed.

**Public Appearances:**

1. Linda Zillmer, Birchwood, representing Village of Birchwood, Washburn County – trustee (**Handout**). *Ms. Zillmer was not in attendance.*

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

Chair Cole thanked department attorney Quinn Williams for the wonderful analysis on public comments.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife
- 3.B.1. Request adoption of Emergency Board Order WM-05-14(E), proposed rules modifying chapters NR 10, 11, 12, and 15 related to establishing deer hunting seasons during which the use of crossbows is allowed

Discussion followed on whether a crossbow declaration will be added to the patron license in the future, whether you have to declare an archery tag or crossbow tag for a patrons license or if it is viable for both, and safety concerns on the use of crossbows.

Chair Cole requested staff send a memo to the Board on the department's plan for crossbow training for individuals through the department's hunter education program.

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

- 3.B.2. Request adoption of Emergency Board Order WM-04-14(E), proposed rules modifying chapter NR 10 related to establishing the 2014 migratory bird hunting seasons (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on opening day shooting hours and hen survival rate concerns.

**Dr. Thomas** requested a memo regarding the hen mallard issue from staff to the NRB prior to any further waterfowl action required by the NRB (e.g. next year's duck season rule) that summarizes what we know about the study, what we know from other studies and research, whether we need to do additional studies here in WI, and what our proposed response to this and other studies should be.

**Mr. Hilgenberg** suggested the department create a public relations handout on the hen harvest which would be given out to those when buying their license or duck stamp. This is an important concern.

**Mr. Kazmierski** complimented staff on how well they work with hunting groups. This is a model on how the department does business.

**Public Appearances:**

1. **Al Shook**, Oconomowoc, representing WI Conservation Congress (WCC) as Migratory Committee Chair. He reviewed the WCC Migratory Committee's actions from their August 2 meeting in Plover. **(Handout)**
2. **George Meyer**, Madison, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as Executive Director spoke in support of the department's recommendation.
3. **Don Kirby**, Freedom, representing WI Waterfowl Association as Executive Director. He requested that the Board allow a half-hour before sunrise start to hunting during all the regular duck hunting seasons in Wisconsin. **(Handout)**

**Dr. Thomas** questioned whether changing the start time on opening day would throw a curve ball into things after all the work that took place to get it to this point. It would be circumventing the WI Conservation Congress process on some level if this was done.

**Mr. Van Horn**, Migratory Bird Specialist, stated that the tide is beginning to shift as with all things. When you make a change, you will get kick back from people that did not anticipate it and would actually like you to go all the way back to noon opener. His preference and recommendation would be to allow him over the next year to dialog with those folks that might kick back the other way on this change and work this through discussion and see where that discussion comes out.

**Chair Cole** and **Dr. Thomas** were in approval of Mr. Van Horn's recommendation for additional discussions on changes to the start time of opening day.

**Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley of the department's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.**

3.B.3.A. Update on implementation of the Deer Management Assistance Program and County Deer Management Advisory Councils (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on whether there are specific programs that are available to counties, whether WI Land & Water Conservation Association will earmark landowners and farmers to the county councils to represent agriculture, the importance of looking at including the following to the Councils: for agriculture - the county Farm Bureau, for transportation – Road Builders Association, and for tourism – the Chamber of Commerce because they all have local connections, and whether there will be a media roll-out so the public is made aware of when there is a meeting.

**Secretary Stepp** stated a media communications roll-out plan will be handled by a separate group at the department.

Discussion followed on how CDMACs will include winter severity, harvest, etc. into a recommendation to the Board when that data would not yet be available, how DMAP fits in with the Young Forest Initiative program, whether the target date for data collecting could be moved from February 2015 to March 2015 (no), whether the department will be looking for input from local people, whether monthly updates to the Board will be needed, that building relationships and trust within each county council are key to making it work, the need for guidelines when the county wants to stabilize, increase, or decrease the herd.

**Chair Cole** requested staff to give a monthly update up through February 2015 on the department's process on the Deer Management Assistance Program and County Deer Management Advisory Councils. This will give department partners/collaborators and others the opportunity to obtain more information through the Board's meeting broadcasts.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

3.B.3.B. Request adoption of Emergency Board Order WM-08-14(E), proposed rules modifying chapter NR 10 related to issuance of antlerless permits through the Deer Management Assistance Program and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee's Report (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on whether the department is taking into consideration the deer population in the immediate area or only on that property when extra bonus tags are issued on DMAP property, whether the overall intent is to provide increased opportunities for deer hunters on private lands through the use of tags issued based on depredation issues, whether the department would issue tags in a no-quota unit where no ag damage was taking place, concern about hunters not seeing/harvesting deer in a unit because others are baiting deer e.g. the

department said population was really high in a unit but it was only high in in-holdings in the National Forest where people were baiting the deer in, whether he department can deny tags, that the department's people on the ground should be able to address baiting as an issue to separate it out when issuing tags, whether the number of DMAP tags issued is going to be public information (yes, through an open records request), and the department's implementation strategy and reporting mechanism to the Board.

**Chair Cole** commented that his job is to bring clarity to this process and will use Mr. Thiede and his team to come back monthly to update us about what they have been working on. Board Members can contact staff off-line with questions as well but prior to a meeting so staff can include it in their presentation. The essence is that if you have a question, you may want to raise it in a public setting so that we can educate the public as well.

Discussion followed on how the department is talking to landowners and have an organized effort in place to reach out to landowners, and whether the department feels good about the number of landowners that have signed up.

**Public Appearances:**

1. **George Meyer**, Madison, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) as Executive Director (Handout). WWF is a strong supporter of the DMAP program and recommend the following: 1) Do not allow the use of baiting and feeding on DMAP private permit issuance lands, 2) That DNR make transparent the lands where DMAP property owners have private deer harvest tags to issue so other hunters can approach the land owners to volunteer to assist the DMAP owner, 3) The rules should not allow the leasing of land in those situations where DMAP owners are issuing private antlerless permits so as to cause the availability to become a factor in the value of the lease, and 4) A clear explanation needs to be made of how the new additional DMAP tags are not going to have an impact on the county's deer population and the number of permits issued to the general public. (Handout)

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

Discussion followed on what the department's recommendations are, whether the Board should be expecting tweaking on DMAP in the next few months, the permanent rule process, clarification that the department does not have to issue permits to anyone in DMAP (yes, it is discretionary by staff), DMAP and leased lands, and whether the department has set criteria for criminal background checks on CDMAC members for good standing (yes, guidance is whether they had any conservation violations issued by the department in the last five years.).

**The motion carried unanimously.**

3.B.4. Request approval of Green Bay Planning Group Master Plan (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on whether the big chunk of proposed expansion area is Peshtigo Harbor, whether it is already developed, and its topography.

**Dr. Thomas MOVED approval.**

**Ms. Wiley** stated that that Board received concerns from the public who requested re-naming's on two units in the Green Bay West Shore Wildlife Area. One was on Little Tail Unit and the other was Tibbett-Suamico Unit. She questioned whether the department was working on this independently.

**Tom Hauge**, Wildlife Management Bureau Director, confirmed that upon Board approval, the department will hold local meetings in the neighborhoods where the naming issues are most pertinent and will take direction from those discussions.

**Seconded by Mr. Zimmer of the department's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.**

3.C. Scope Statements

3.C.1. Request approval of the Statement of Scope for Board Order FR-07-14 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the legislative council Rules Clearinghouse, for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 47.91 related to the cost shared state gypsy moth suppression program (PowerPoint)

**Mr. Kazmierski** stated this looks like a victory in that the department has been successful in their plans. He offered a pat on the back and a job well done to staff.

**Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg of the department's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.**

4. Citizen Participation  
Public Appearances

1. **Barry Nielsen**, Shell Lake, representing Citizen's Advisory Team (CAT) (Handout)

*Topic:* Update on CAT re Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

He stated that CAT is a representation of citizens bringing forth their concerns and comments to the table shared with department wildlife biologists and law enforcement which has proven to be a very successful and proactive approach to addressing many concerns and challenges of CWD.

2. ~~**Linda Zillmer**~~, Birchwood, representing Village of Birchwood, Washburn County – trustee (**Handout**). *Ms. Zillmer was not in attendance.*  
*Topic:* AIS grant awards, permitting, notification requirements, and funding source.

5. Information Items

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

None

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

5.B.1. Summary of forestry field tour on the NHAL State Forest and actions to increase saw log availability on department lands (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on the forestry field tour and the concerns addressed, what the county and federal lands managers are doing to actively manage their lands and whether the department can influence either party, and how many acres in Wisconsin are in the forest service.

**Mr. Bruins** applauded staff for these efforts.

Discussion continued on praise for the tour, the need to change the packaging of a saleable product, and encouragement to the department to continue working with the feds.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

6. Department Secretary's Matters

6.A. Retirement Resolutions

6.A.1. Richard S. DeWitte

6.A.2. Frank Dubois

6.A.3. Mike Knipfel

6.A.4. Dennis Kropp

6.A.5. John Lazarz

6.A.6. Donald McKinnon

6.A.7. Dave Neuswanger

6.A.8. Beverly Pozega

6.A.9. Dennis Scholl

6.A.10. Andrew Shaney

6.A.11. Peter Solin, Jr.

6.A.12. Bruce Urben

6.A.13. David Wiederholt

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

6.B. Donations

- 6.B.1 The Andrew F. Bell and Edith M. Bell Charitable Trust will donate \$19,304.50 to the Bureau of Wildlife Management. This donation will be used to fund activities associated with wetland habitat

**Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval of the department's recommendations and to acknowledge the donation, seconded by Mr. Bruins. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Secretary Stepp** then asked Kent Van Horn to give a presentation on the department's new Fields and Forest Lands Interactive Gamebird Hunting Tool called FFLIGHT. She thanked Dr. Thomas for her idea that the department took flight with.

She then gave an update on the department's 2014 mobile initiatives highlighting the Wisconsin State Parks and Forests Pocket Ranger® that was launched on July 30. The mobile version of the department's webpage is "superfly". She congratulated the teams working on these mobile initiatives on work very well done.

7. Board Members' Matters

- 7.A. Approval of the 2015 Meeting Calendar

**Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Zimmer of the 2015 meeting calendar. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 7.B. Board Members' Matters

**Ms. Wiley** reported that the Board received a letter from GLIFWC (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission) with their concerns on the teal season that is coming up and the potential for disrupting ricing beds. She requested the department do a review of the concerns listed in their letter and respond to the Board at the September meeting as to what has been done.

**Secretary Stepp** stated they will definitely do so. They never ignore anything that GLIFWC brings before them.

**Mr. Zimmer** stated that Mr. Nielsen during citizen participation gave the Board an insight of the Citizen Advisory Team on CWD. He encouraged the department to continue working on this and asked for an update in memo format.

**Mr. Kazmierski** requested to receive master plan documents right after they are published along with the approximate date it will be before the Board so the Board has more time to review. The master plan was dated April 2014; the Board received it mid-July 2014.

**Secretary Stepp** stated the department will do whatever is possible.

**Chair Cole** noted that the date on the master plan is the print date and not the distribution date. He will work with Land Administrator Kurt Thiede and team to

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see how we can get this information to the Board prior to it coming to the Board as an agenda. It may take some doing.

**Chair Cole** wished Happy Birthday to Smokey Bear who turned 70 this year.

**Chair Cole** requested a motion to go into Executive Session under the authority of s.19.85(1)(e) Wisconsin Statutes for purposes of discussing potential real estate transactions.

**Dr. Thomas MOVED, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 7 – 0.**

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

**Chair Cole** reconvened the meeting. He reported that during the Executive Session, no action was taken.

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

\*\*\*The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.\*\*\*

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