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## NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

### BRIEF OF ACTION

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 in the Marquette Room at the Ambassador Inn at Marquette, 2301 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, 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 2:28 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 Director Eric Nitschke and regional staff Sally Seeger, Marcus Smith, and Trish Nitschke for coordinating the Board logistics and tour on Tuesday. They did a wonderful job. He understands how much time, energy, and effort they put into this. He is always impressed by staff's diligence in preparing for the Board.

He then stated he threw out the first pitch at the Milwaukee Brewer baseball game last night. It was exciting that the DNR continues to get acknowledged at the stadium to what we do in our own back yard. It was very impressive and a moment in his life that he will never forget.

1.B. Approval of agenda for June 24-25, 2014

**Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval of the June 24-25, 2014 agenda, seconded by Mr Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.**

1.C. Approval of Brief of Action from May 28, 2014

**Ms. Wiley MOVED approval of the May 28, 2014 Brief of Action, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

**Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Bruins of the Real Estate Transactions. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 3. Action Items
- 3.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement

**Chair Cole** requested that agenda items 3.A.1. and 3.A.2. be presented and voted on in aggregate.

- 3.A.1. Request authorization for public hearings for Board Order CF-12-13, proposed rules affecting chapter NR 166 related to the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on whether the department has a formula that staff uses to determine long term affordable debt.

- 3.A.2. Request authorization for public hearings for Board Order CF-13-13, proposed rules affecting chapter NR 162 related to the Clean Water Fund Program (PowerPoint)

**Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg of the department's recommendations for 3.A.1. - Request authorization for public hearings for Board Order CF-12-13, proposed rules affecting chapter NR 166 related to the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program and 3.A.2. - Request authorization for public hearings for Board Order CF-13-13, proposed rules affecting chapter NR 162 related to the Clean Water Fund Program. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife
- 3.B.1. Request adoption of Board Order WM-11-14(E), proposed rules affecting chapter NR 10 related to establishing an early teal season and modifications to the mourning dove hunting season (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on United States Fish & Wildlife Service's (US FWS) monitoring requirements, potential conflicts with Labor Day weekend property users, and what impacts an extended mourning dove season would have.

**Public Appearances:**

- 1. **Al Shook**, Oconomowoc, representing WI Conservation Congress as Migratory Committee Chair. He spoke in support of the department's recommendation and a move from sunrise to ½ hour before sundown shooting hours. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on whether daily close should be sundown or 30 minutes earlier.

- 2. **Melissa Smith**, Madison, representing self. She did not testify.

3. **George Meyer**, Madison, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as Executive Director. He spoke in support of the department's recommendations.

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

**Chair Cole** stated that remote testimony and viewing for the next item will be from the DNR Rhinelander office. This is another first for the Natural Resources Board.

- 3.B.2. Request approval of a wolf harvest quota and number of licenses to issue for the 2014 – 2015 wolf hunting and trapping season (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on the elk herd recovery and wolf population conflict.

**David MacFarland**, Carnivore Staff Specialist, stated that a formal request has been made to the Elk Advisory Committee to make a recommendation to the Wolf Advisory Committee on what management actions would be required to help with elk recovery, if any.

Discussion followed on the timing of the Elk Advisory Committee recommendation (sometime this summer), the number of wolves that were harvested the last two years in the Elk Management zone (limited, small number due to dry land trapping prohibition to protect martin population), and whether other types of traps can be used in on land in the elk recovery area.

**Mr. MacFarland** stated that they also reached out to the Martin Management Committee to determine if there are any adjustments to the regulations in the martin closed area that could facilitate the harvest of wolves without jeopardizing the protection of the martin. The martin committee, elk committee, and wolf committee are working on this together.

**Chair Cole** stated that the Board will now go live to Rhinelander to hear first from those testifying remotely from the DNR Service Center.

**Public Appearances:**

**Rhinelander**

3. **Rachel Tilseth**, Wheeler, representing Wolves of Douglas County Wisconsin. She spoke in opposition to the wolf hunt and the use of dogs, and believes that wolves need to be re-listed under the Endangered species Act. **(Handout)**
5. **Luann O'Dell**, Juneau, representing self. She requested a 0 quota, to ban hounding, and asked that the Wolf Advisory Board accommodate both sides. **(Handout)**

9. **Rose Lynd**, Tomahawk, representing self. She spoke in opposition to the wolf hunt and quota. She requested that the upcoming wolf hunt be postponed so the results of the last two hunts can be studied. **(Handout)**
15. **Patrick Quaintance**, Bayfield, representing Wisconsin Association of Sporting Dogs. He spoke in opposition to the department's recommendation and that the population goal should remain at 350.
18. **John Trochinski**, Berlin, representing self. He spoke in opposition to raising the population goal in Wisconsin and in opposition to lowering the harvest quota.
19. **Renee Trochinski**, Berlin, representing self. She spoke in opposition to raising the population goal in Wisconsin and in opposition to lowering the harvest quota.
20. **Ronald Heikkinen**, Brantwood, representing self. He spoke in opposition to raising the population goal in Wisconsin and in opposition to lowering the harvest quota.
23. **Vivian Counter**, Rhinelander, representing self. She spoke in support of the wolf and in opposition to the wolf hunt and quota. **(Handout)**
26. **Norm Poulton**, Tomahawk, representing self. He spoke in total opposition to the wolf hunt, use of dogs (and training in the summer), and quota.

**Chair Cole** stated Mr. Poulton was the last speaker from the Rhinelander office. He thanked staff for doing a yeoman's job of getting this lined up for which is very much appreciated.

**Milwaukee Public Appearances:**

**Brett Hulsey**, State Representative. He asked for an independent scientific review of the wolf hunt and is concerned that the wolf could be put back on the Endangered Species List. He stated that hunting with dogs is state sponsored dog fighting. He asked for better cattle management and requested to see vet bills and analysis on all depredations and whether the animal was sick or was already dead. Sound science is needed and not what the hounders want.

**Mr. Bruins** stated that Representative Hulsey's comments were a tremendous insult to the cattle industry.

**Representative Hulsey** requested to see the vet bills and analysis of depredation and stated there are a lot of things farmers can do to reduce depredations.

1. **Melissa Tedrowe**, Wauwatosa, representing The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). She spoke in opposition to the wolf hunt and quota.

She requested that the Board suspend the wolf hunt or drastically reduce proposed quota. **(Handout)**

**Mr. Kazmierski** questioned Ms. Tedrowe as to whether HSUS participated when the 350 management goal was established (he said they did).

**Ms. Tedrowe** stated 350 was set in 1999 and that number is about to be revisited. Her main message is on uncertain science and that she is commenting on the quota for the coming season.

2. **Bob Boucher**, River Hills, representing self. He spoke in opposition to wolf hunt and quota. He asked that the department consider developing a land ethic as an enlightened policy for the DNR and to suspend the hunting season this year. **(Handout)**

**Ms. Wiley** asked Mr. Boucher what he is requesting the Board to do.

**Mr. Boucher** stated he is asking the Board to suspend the wolf hunting season this year and to not tinker with more than 5%.

**Mr. Kazmierski** asked Mr. Boucher whether all animals should be managed to the same carrying capacity as he recommended that wolves be.

**Mr. Boucher** stated yes, where habitat is suitable.

**Mr. Kazmierski** stated that carrying capacity is one thing, and that the social carrying capacity is another. That is what we are dealing here with on wolf and deer.

**Mr. Boucher** said that this is political and not science and does not think the current policy is sound.

- Dr. Thomas** offered a general comment that we have gotten into arguing with citizens and that could tend to keep people from coming to testify before the Board. She then stated to everyone that is going to testify that Wisconsin has a state law that there will be a wolf season. The issue here is how many and where. Population goals for most critters are a combination of what the landscape can stand and what can people who live on the landscape can stand.

25. **Jodi Habush Sinykin**, Milwaukee, representing Midwest Environmental Advocates. She requested to be moved earlier in the speaker list. She asked the Board to not approve a wolf quota based on so tenuous a scientific footing as to place Wisconsin in legal and ethical peril. **(Handout)**
4. **Carl Schoettel**, Neosho, representing self. He was not able to testify before he had to leave. **(Handout)**
6. **David Hochtritt**, Pickett, representing self. He spoke against the wolf hunt, trapping and how they kill them, and the quota. He disagrees with how the department counts wolves.

7. **Mike Brust**, Wausau, representing Wisconsin Bowhunters Association. He requested that the department increase the quota. He also asked the department to set an unlimited quota for zone 6 (unsuitable range for wolves).
8. **Adam Kassulke**, Milwaukee, representing Wisconsin Wolf Front as Director. He asked that the quota be set at zero and that an independent study be conducted separately from the department to reevaluate wolf management in WI.
10. **Diana Miller**, Neopit, representing self. She spoke on behalf of her wolf relatives and against the wolf hunt and quota. They do not need to be managed.
11. **Al Lobner**, Milladore, representing self. He spoke in support of raising the harvest quota to a more responsible number and to continue to try to honor the request of many county boards, farmers and cattlemen, sportsmen and sportswomen, along with their clubs and associations.
12. **Joseph Ogrodnik**, Bridgeview, IL, representing self. He was not in attendance.
13. **Melissa Smith**, Madison, representing self. She requested that the quota numbers and the number of wolves to be killed be based on sound science instead of who gave the most to this campaign science. **(Handout)**
14. **Bob Welch**, Madison, representing Hunters Rights Coalition. He spoke in support of increasing the quota.
16. **Laura Menefee**, Sturgeon Bay, representing Sierra Club, John Muir Chapter. She spoke in opposition to the wolf harvest goal until tested methodology and open process on peer reviewed science are used. **(Handout)**
17. **Ralph Fritsch**, Madison, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as Wildlife Committee Chair. He spoke in support of a 250 wolf harvest level for 2014.

**Dr. Thomas** requested that David MacFarland, Carnivore Staff Specialist, frame what was said today.

**Chair Cole** asked Mr. MacFarland to do so after the public appearances.

21. **Angela Laughingheart**, Milwaukee, representing self. She spoke in opposition to the wolf hunt and asked for a 0 quota. This killing campaign is being bankrolled by the tax dollars from private citizens.

22. **Kathleen Raddatz**, Waukesha, representing self. She spoke in opposition to the wolf hunt, asked for 0 quota, sound science, and equal representation on the wolf committee.
24. **Mike Gappa**, Eau Claire, representing Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association. He requested an accurate survey on wolf population. He spoke in opposition to raising the population goal in Wisconsin and in opposition to lowering the harvest quota.
27. **Gloriann Klein**, Greendale, representing self. She asked the Board to take the following actions: 1) proceed with caution until the Wolf Management Plan is fully revised, 2) dismiss the outdated, inappropriate 350 population goal, 3) do not put further recovery efforts at risk by ignoring wolf biologist recommendations, 4) to review independent peer-reviewed science, and 5) allow the wolf/wildlife biologists to do their job without political pressure and job repercussions. **(Handout)**
28. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) as Chair. He stated their Executive Committee unanimously supported the WCC Wolf Study Committee's quota recommendation of 200 wolves for 2014. **(Handout)**

**Chair Cole** asked Dave MacFarland back to the podium that Board members address questions around the science issue.

Discussion followed on why the wolf quota of 156 was chosen, whether this number took into consideration vehicle kills and poaching (yes), what percentage of the wolf population that the 156 quota represents (24% of late winter and reservation), who regulates whether dogs can be used in the wolf hunt (state law), the science for the use of dogs in the wolf hunt, defending the credibility of the winter wolf count, whether parts of zone 6 do not do tracking surveys (correct – Milwaukee), and the make-up of the past and current Wolf Advisory Committees (reformed when the wolf went from endangered species to game species).

**Secretary Stepp** stated that state law requires implementation of the wolf hunt. To move forward, they needed people in the group that would be partners in this effort. The department is challenged to manage and implement. Telling them not to harvest wolves does not help.

**Kurt Thiede**, Land Division Administrator, added that the individuals that represent these organizations on the wolf committee we thank for the management of other species in Wisconsin. They are conservationists and do great things.

Discussion continued on the harvest numbers of different age groups and sexes of wolves for the past two years and what the proposed ratio is, whether the US FWS

reviews the department's work in the context of the Wolf Management Plan, whether US FWS is the oversight agency for state agencies, what has been seen on the landscape from other states on this issue, whether US FWS makes sure states do not go far afield on their management plans, whether the US FWS throws a flag if a recommendation is too high or low, explanation as to how the department came to quota number, risk assessment on models, providing decision makers in the future with a vetted and appropriate approach, whether there will be an opportunity for the public to weigh in on a population goal or what the process going forward is for the Wolf Management Plan, what the timeline is for the US FWS 2012 review of the wolf harvest quota, whether the department is confident that the quota of 156 will not involve the feds in managing wolves in Wisconsin, and whether the department projected calculations on every possible quota.

**Mr. Hilgenberg** thanked the department for taking the bull by the horns in a very challenging process and applying resources available to us to the fullest extent.

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

**Ms. Wiley** requested a roll call.

**The motion passed on a vote of 6-1.**

<b>William Bruins – yes</b>	<b>Gary Zimmer – yes</b>
<b>Christine Thomas – yes</b>	<b>Jane Wiley – yes</b>
<b>Terry Hilgenberg – yes</b>	<b>Preston Cole – yes</b>
<b>Greg Kazmierski – no</b>	

**Dr. Thomas** stated that the most contentious part of the discussion last year was the use of dogs. Folks are afraid and are still today that there would be a situation where dogs are harmed by wolf interactions or that wolves would be harmed by dogs. The hunting community showed up and said that would not happen. Department wardens stated the same. She asked staff at that time to gather as much information on that point and on all points of the hunt so they have the confidence to report, based on research, that this is not happening. The plan put in place last year did not give us definite results.

**Mr. Thiede** stated the department collected information and assessments were done. They determined all wolves were shot. They could not get to a guarantee due to status of the carcasses. They followed up on social media contacts and no citations were issued. Hunters and trappers followed the law as far as the department could see.

**Dr. Thomas** stated she is more interested in going forward than backward.

**Dr. Thomas** requested that the department come before the Board at the August meeting with an information item that tells the Board how the department will gather information voluntarily during the next wolf hunt and then return to the

Board at the February 2015 meeting with appropriately scoped options for gathering data. Know what the plan is in August and then know what data gathering is for the permanent rule.

**Chair Cole** questioned whether this request should be as an official resolution to staff or requested during agenda item 7 – Board Members Matters.

**Mr. Hilgenberg** asked what the timeline is and commitment to the Board to get this done.

**Mr. Thiede** stated February 2015 with the draft rule and management plan. They would be back again next summer with a new number for the updated plan. For the use of dogs, the department would go back and work with user groups.

**Mr. Cole** asked that the February 2015 report be vetted by the US FWS with added value in having the 2012 and 2013 data vetted as well. Create the plan and obtain federal input. In the best of abilities, send the feds the information necessary so their analysis can be sped up.

**Dr. Thomas MOVED that staff bring back to the Board at their September 2014 meeting a voluntary plan for monitoring the condition of harvested wolves as they come in from the dog hunting season to allow biologists to understand the condition of harvested wolves taken with the assistance of dogs seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously**

Discussion followed regarding the need for flexibility on options for the follow-up permanent rule.

**Mr. Kazmierski** stated that most dog hunters out there complied with the law. Voluntary reporting gives the dog hunting community an opportunity to step up and show that.

**Chair Cole** moved the meeting to agenda item 4 – Citizen Participation.

4.A. Citizen Participation  
Public Appearances

1. **Devan Jenkins**, Milwaukee, representing self.  
*Topic:* What he likes about fishing and hunting. He stated it is great that the department is doing so much to support kids with fishing clinics and learn to hunt programs. **(Handout)**

**Chair Cole** stated he had met with the Inner City Sportsmen’s Club. They are excellent sportsmen.

**Dr. Thomas** stated that she hopes Devan will come to see her at UW-Stevens Point.

2. **George Meyer**, Madison, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as Executive Director.

*Topic:* Access to the Natural History Inventory List for Private Land

He stated that it costs a private landowner \$75 - \$100 to obtain records from the department and asked that these fees be included in the upcoming budget proposal.

3. **Reggie Hayes**, Milwaukee, representing Inner City Sportsmen's Club

*Topic:* Background of organization and some concerns. He informed the Board of their club make up and short and long range goals. He asked for help in the growth of their club.

**Chair Cole** stated that this club has short and long range goals that are consistent with the department's. He asked Mr. Hayes to introduce himself to the groups in attendance and to create a coalition with fellow sportsmen around the state. The Board stands ready to help in any way we can.

4.B. Citizen Recognition

4.B.1. Addressing site issues at DNR Park on the Wisconsin State Fairgrounds

**Secretary Stepp** stated that DNR urban and forest health specialists surveyed and carefully monitored the ash trees at the DNR Park and decided that 19 of the ash trees needed to be removed due to emerald ash borer damage. ArborJet generously donated the material and labor to treat the remaining ash trees for the next ten years. Jeff Palmer, Upper Midwest Regional Technical Manager, was responsible for the donation and is doing the treatment work. DNR staff will gather on June 30 for a workday to replace trees, shrubs, and plants on the site. She thanked the Wisconsin Nursery and Landscape Association along with Johnson's Nursery, McKay Nursery, and Avant Gardening and landscaping, Inc. for donating stock to rehabilitate the site.

**Brian Knox**, representing Arbor Jet, thanked the department for their acknowledgement and stated they are proud of their decade long donation at state fair park and look forward to continuing the partnership.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

**Chair Cole** moved the meeting to agenda item 3.B.3.

3.B.3. Request approval of department recommendations for the first phase of land sales to occur under the direction of the 2013-15 state biennial budget bill

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

Discussion followed on the well thought out directives on the first page of the green sheet.

**Public Appearances:**

1. **George Meyer**, Madison, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as Executive Director. He spoke in support of the department's recommendations.

**Mr. Hilgenberg** noted that the green sheet should refer to *preliminary* title policy and not title policy.

Discussion followed on whether people are hunting in the exclusionary zones as noted on pages 11 and 14, and whether the Board's approval of this block means the department can go to conclusion and not come back to Board (correct).

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Chair Cole** requested that agenda items 3.B.4., 3.B.5, 3.B.6., and 3.B.7. be voted on in aggregate.

**Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley of the department's Recommendations on 3.B.4. - Land Acquisition – Governor Thompson State Park – Marinette County, 3.B.5. - Land Acquisition – Glacial Habitat Restoration Area – Fond du Lac County, 3.B.6. - Land Acquisition with a cash donation – Sandhill Wildlife Area – Wood County, and 3.B.7. - Land Acquisition – Stream Bank Protection Fee Program – Walworth County**

3.B.4. Land Acquisition – Governor Thompson State Park – Marinette County

3.B.5. Land Acquisition – Glacial Habitat Restoration Area – Fond du Lac County

Discussion followed on the importance of habitat management and the attention it needs to actually improve recreational opportunities.

**Mr. Hilgenberg** stated the department has another person doing the appraisal review for the department. They were very responsive and did a good job.

3.B.6. Land Acquisition with a cash donation – Sandhill Wildlife Area – Wood County

3.B.7. Land Acquisition – Stream Bank Protection Fee Program – Walworth County

**The motion in aggregate carried unanimously.**

3.C. Scope Statements

3.C.1. Request approval of the Statement of Scope for Board Order WM-08-14(E) 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 10, Wis. Admin. Code related to issuance of antlerless

permits through the Deer Management Assistance Program and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee's Report

Discussion followed on whether DMAP will work on certain public land applications (focus is on private), whether the owner can sell permits for face value or can give them away, how the process would work, whether people participating in DMAP can lease opportunities for hunting on their private lands (i.e. private land tags for elk out west), and a comment that this proposed rule is for antlerless tags and not for bucks.

**Public Appearances:**

1. **Ralph Fritsch**, Townsend, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) as Wildlife Committee Chair. He stated WWF does not necessarily oppose the DMAP deer harvest permit program but has the following concerns: 1) Baiting and feeding of deer on DMAP property should not be allowed; 2) Require DNR to make transparent the lands where DMAP property owners have private deer harvest tags to issue; and 3) A clear explanation needs to be made of who the new additional DMAP tags are not going to have an impact on the county's deer population. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on whether WWF was on the DMAP Committee (yes) and how the DMAP Committee handled the issues Mr. Fritsch testified on today.

Discussion continued on whether it might be appropriate to bring these issues forward to the DMAP committee before the final rule is drafted, that the department will take the public's concerns seriously and deal with them which will determine the success of the program, the need to find a sweet spot between hunters, land owners, and the department so management objectives are addressed, and whether landowners will be at the table as the department is developing this program (yes).

**Secretary Stepp** thanked Mr. Fritsch for his testimony. She then stated that this is a new way of doing business. The public will be arm in arm with the department. The department will balance science with sociology and will better communicate with the public.

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

- 3.C.2. Request approval of the Statement of Scope for Emergency Board Order OE-10-14(E) and Board Order OE-09-14 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse, for housekeeping changes to comply with the intent of the recent NR 150 rewrite.

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

5. Information Items

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

None

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

5.B.1. Inception to date summary report regarding hunting and trapping in state parks as expanded by 2011 Act 168. Follow up from February 2014 Board Order WM-21-13 agenda item in which the Board adopted permanent rules pursuant to 2011 Act 168 (PowerPoint)

**Chair Cole** requested that Dan Schuller, Parks and Recreation Bureau Director, start his presentation on slide 7.

**Dr. Thomas** commented that in her federal life, the committees that she is on give advice to the Secretaries of Interior on hunting and fishing. There is a constant push to open national parks for hunting and a pushing back due to the culture of the parks and the laws that preclude. At their last meeting, there was an exhaustive description under which hunting on properties can take place.

We need to look at educational programs in the role that hunters play in conservation and with the wildlife damage issue. Now that we gotten this far, we need to shift the conversation to “now we are here, how do we make something of that?”

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

6. Department Secretary's Matters

6.A. Retirement Resolutions

6.A.1. Lee Boushon

6.A.2. Paul Heinen

6.A.3. Paul Martin

6.A.4. Michael Staggs

6.A.5. Laura Van Slyke

**Secretary Stepp** acknowledged Paul Heinen, who was in attendance. She stated her appreciation for him and that he worked with class and dignity. She asked that he approach the podium.

**Paul Heinen** commented on how all Board Members he met and had taken over to the Capitol have amazed him. In the future he hopes he will be an ambassador as well. He has watched the Board over the years. Wisconsin is very lucky to have you.

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

**Chair Cole** requested that donation agenda items 6.B.1, 6.B.2, 6.B.3., and 6.B.4. be voted on in aggregate.

6.B. Donations

6.B.1 The Friends of Harrington Beach State Park will donate \$206,678.18 (\$149,698.18 project cost and \$56,980.00 in-kind) to be used to construct a handicap accessible cabin within the Harrington Beach State Park Family Campground for the camping enjoyment of those with physical impairments

**Secretary Stepp** thanked the Friends of Harrington Beach State Park for their very generous gift and asked Rhondella “Ronnie” Morgan, President; Neil Kraemer, Treasurer; and Ray Cary, Member to approach the podium to accept their donation acknowledgement and to say a few words.

**Ronnie Morgan** stated she is proud of their friends group and talked about the background of this project. She thanked the department for letting them do this.

6.B.2. Ducks Unlimited and Dow AgroSciences will donate sunflower seed valued at up to \$31,500 to provide for increased hunting opportunities for bird hunters in Wisconsin and will be used to manage sunflower fields for dove hunting

6.B.3. The Ruffed Grouse Society will donate \$29,500 to be used to support nine ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat and education projects across Wisconsin

**Mr. Zimmer** abstained from voting on the Ruffed Grouse Society donation.

6.B.4. Andrew F. Bell & Edith M. Bell Charitable Trust will donate \$19,304.00 to be used to continue support of endangered species priorities

**Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval of the department’s recommendations and to acknowledge the donations, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski for agenda item 6.B.1. - The Friends of Harrington Beach State Park will donate \$206,678.18 (\$149,698.18 project cost and \$56,980.00 in-kind) to be used to construct a handicap accessible cabin within the Harrington Beach State Park Family Campground for the camping enjoyment of those with physical impairments, 6.B.2. - Ducks Unlimited and Dow AgroSciences will donate sunflower seed valued at up to \$31,500 to provide for increased hunting opportunities for bird hunters in Wisconsin and will be used to manage sunflower fields for dove hunting, 6.B.3. - The Ruffed Grouse Society will donate \$29,500 to be used to support nine ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat and education projects across Wisconsin [Gary Zimmer abstained]; and 6.B.4. - Andrew F. Bell & Edith M. Bell Charitable Trust will donate \$19,304.00 to be used to continue support of endangered species priorities. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Secretary Stepp** announced that the department recently joined the Water Council. She wanted to announce that today since the Board had a great tour yesterday afternoon at the School of Freshwater Sciences. She then thanked the department's information technology (IT) staff for the live feed from Rhinelander. Our team has really risen to the challenge. Lastly, she stated that she was at Mirror Lake State Park for the dedication of their new amphitheater. She thanked our partners for their passion and spirit behind our state parks. This will bless generations to come.

7. **Board Members' Matters**

**Dr. Thomas** noted that the Board received the Secretary's media release on the long-eared bat extension.

**Secretary Stepp** thanked Dr. Thomas for bringing this up. She stated that the department received a six month extension. Staff will continue to garner input from 33 other states who are very interested in what is going on with the listing. The department is very supportive of protecting the bat. Management practices in the field were concerning. We need sound science and common sense. She then thanked Dr. Thomas for her many federal leadership roles who has been very supportive and has played a big role in the department receiving the six month extension.

**Mr. Hilgenberg** updated the Board on the well inspection form. Staff did a very good job in working with the groups involved and at this point in time, it is very well accepted. It was reduced from eight to nine pages to one page.

**Mr. Kazmierski** stated that a lot of good ideas came from the public today during public testimony on the wolf quota and number of licenses to issue for the 2014-2015 wolf hunting and trapping season. One of the ideas was from Mike Brust (#7 on public appearance list) to make an unlimited quota for area 6. He asked the department to take note of these ideas when looking at the management plan.

**Mr. Zimmer** spoke on the Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership that he is involved with and is watching grow. There are a lot of partners involved in putting together a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) right now. He encouraged more involvement with the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Their involvement has been limited. This has a lot of ramifications on a lot of things we are doing such as habitat improvements. He also encouraged the department to review the MOU which is on hold. They have 12 different partners ready to go

but they are waiting for approval from the department. He asked Secretary Stepp if the MOU could be looked at.

**Secretary Stepp** responded to Mr. Zimmer that the MOU will be reviewed.

**Ms. Wiley** stated that Scott Gunderson, Executive Assistant, and Keith Warnke, Hunting and Shooting Sports Coordinator, traveled to Marathon County to talk

about a combination shooting range that would include the Marathon county sheriff shooting range as well. Some real headway was made about cooperative and collaborative efforts when thinking about usage being more than just a hunting range for public. Law enforcement has a place to do shooting plus it brings in additional income.

**Chair Cole** stated that the August 12 Board meeting will be held in Hayward, WI at Famous Dave's Conference Center at Grand Pine's Resort. He stated that the unsung heroes at these meetings are becoming our IT folks and Board staff --- from taking testimony at remote locations to videotaping. They are shedding a light on what goes on within the DNR.

**Ms. Wiley MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.\*\*\*

The Natural Resources Board and Department of Natural Resources are committed to serving people with disabilities. If you need Board information in an alternative format, please contact:

Natural Resources Board Liaison: Laurie Ross at 608-267-7420 or [laurie.ross@wisconsin.gov](mailto:laurie.ross@wisconsin.gov)

**NOTE: Each Natural Resources Board meeting is recorded and webcasts are posted to the Board webpage. Recordings are posted on-line at: <http://dnrmedia.wi.gov/main/Catalog/Full/5449d652227e46a8b511bfc430ca79ce21>**  
**The following resources also are available: Agenda Item Packets (green sheets), supporting documents, and public comment.**