

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

SUBJECT: Alex Neimon Eagle Scout Project Recognition at Kettle Moraine State Forest - Lapham Peak Unit

FOR: April 2015 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUMMARY:

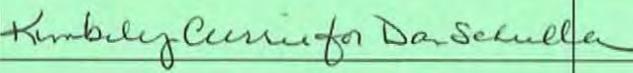
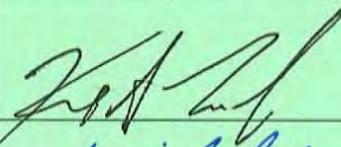
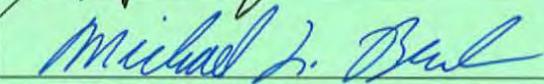
Alex Neimon provided the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and its users with an outstanding product as the result of his efforts as an Eagle Scout candidate. Working with the Lapham Peak Property Manager Brett Johansen off a previous trail sign project completed by his brother Joseph, Alex installed trail map signs at strategic locations throughout the park. The installation of these maps allows users of the park to navigate around with ease. It also allows for Lapham Peak to scale back on the purchasing of paper trail maps, and with the advance of smart phones, may lead to paper map elimination altogether. While in the field planning for the installation, Alex found it amazing how many people were in need of assistance in navigation and commented how great it will be to have the signs in place. The day of installation was a culmination of a lot of planning, removal of posts, and repositioning of posts for Alex.

As part of his Eagle Scout project, Alex also wanted to take his project to the next level. The intersections signs throughout the park were intended to assist emergency personnel and staff. However, if a true emergency occurred and someone dialed 911 there would be a gap in the response time as there was no link between the signs and emergency dispatch. In order, to do it correctly, Alex had to engage in a very laborious task of physically going to all 40 intersection signs in the 1,100 acre park and identifying their exact locations as it relates to the ground. Then he had to go the Land Information Department at the Waukesha County Courthouse, use their computer maps to drill down from aerial shots and map where the intersections were located. This mapping established GPS coordinates into Waukesha County's database system, which also has a map of the Park's trail system. This system is linked to the countywide dispatch center. When a Lapham Peak trail user has an emergency, they can call 911, tell dispatch that they are in Lapham Peak State Park and provide the sign number. Their coordinates and a map to their location will be provided to the responding emergency personnel's on-board computer. Alex's work is unique and will provide a tremendous service for park users and for emergency responders. The Department greatly appreciates and thanks Alex Neimon for his dedicated work and service to Lapham Peak. (Alex did earn his Eagle Scout award as the result of this project).

RECOMMENDATION: "Information only"

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

- Alex Neimon Article
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A

Approved by	Signature	Date
Dan Schuller, Bureau Director		3/12/15
Kurt Thiede, Administrator		3/16/15
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		3/16/15

cc: Board Liaison – AD/8

for

Alex Neimon Finishes Eagle Project at Lapham



Alex Neimon, 13, from Troop 49, American Legion Post 196, wanted his Eagle Project to be one that would have a huge positive impact on his community. He wanted it to be something that would help people. Lapham State Park Ranger Brett Johansen gave him a project that took the work his eagle scout brother Joseph Neimon did and brought it to a new level for the park. Joseph added signs to all the intersections and created a new map for the park. Alex's project built on that foundation and is two fold. First he would install trail signs at strategic locations throughout the park. The implementation of these signs allow users of the park to navigate around with ease. It also allows for the Park to scale back on the purchasing of paper maps and who knows with the implementation of phone apps these days might eliminate them all together. While in the field planning for the installation it was amazing how many people were in need of assistance in navigation and commented how great it will be to have the signs in place. The day of installation was a culmination of a lot of planning, removal of posts, and repositioning of posts for Alex. The ranger also added 4 more informational signs onto Alex's plate for good measure.

What the ranger did not plan for was that Alex wanted to take his project to the next level. The intersections signs throughout the park were intended to assist emergency personnel and staff. However, if a true emergency occurred and someone dialed 911 there would be a gap in the response time as there was no link between the signs and

emergency dispatch. In order, to do it correctly, Alex had to engage in a very laborious task of physically going to all 40 intersection signs in the 1,000 acre park and identifying their exact locations as it relates to the ground. Then he had to go the Land Information Department at the Waukesha County Courthouse, use their computer maps to drill down from aerial shots and map where the intersections were located. This mapping established GPS coordinates into Waukesha County's database system, which also has a map of the Park's trail system. This system is linked to the countywide dispatch center. What does this all mean? It means that if a person calls 911, tell dispatch that they are in Lapham Peak State Park and provide the sign number. Their coordinates and a map to their location will be provided to the responding emergency personnel's on-board computer.

The entire project required the installation of 22 trail signs, 4 informational signs, 5 new posts and data entry of the GPS coordinates. It took over 75 man hours to complete all of which were under the leadership of Alex. "We could not do this for him. He had to take command of the project from planning, through installation and final write up," said Michael Neimon, proud parent and scoutmaster for Troop 49. "We are proud of him. He thought beyond himself and completed a project that will benefit society for many years to come."

Alex said, "an important lesson I have learned is that instead of counting on others all the time to make things happen, I have to take the lead to make sure things get done."

Alex and the Town of Delafield Fire Department have completed a mock 911 call and were able to successfully navigate off of the on-board mobile devices directly to the sample intersection (The City of Delafield Police have the same capabilities). The Ranger is the primary response person to situations in the park but if there ever is a situation where emergency personnel (ie. Town of Delafield EMT or City/County law enforcement) need to get to a scene immediately the capabilities now exist for them to do so.

One of Alex's goals is to reach the rank of Eagle Scout. On February 22nd he had reached that goal by passing his Eagle Board of Review. He is proud of his eagle project. It is believed to be the first of its kind in the state. The support and vision of Lapham State Park Ranger Brett Johansen has been immeasurable in this process from initial planning, his faith in Alex to complete the tasks, his assistance throughout the project and allowing Alex to expand his project to include the 911 feature.

Users are able to navigate the park with ease and God forbid if anyone should be in need of immediate medical attention or their safety is at risk to the point that they need to call 911, there is an avenue of relief that might help save their life. How cool is that!