

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

SUBJECT: Retirement resolutions

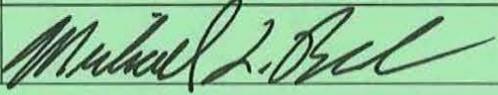
FOR: August 2015 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Stepp

SUMMARY: The Department requests the following employees be recognized and commended for faithful and exemplary public service:

Employee	Years of Service
1. Donna Anderson	31
2. Mark Kubisiak	33
3. Scott Laurie	31
4. Michael (Mike) W. Meyer	24
5. Phillip A. Miller	22
6. Paul W. Rasmussen	35
7. Clifford Sebero	43
8. Raymond Sobiesczyk	15
9. Kathleen M. Sylvester	25
10. William G. Wawrzyn	37
11. <u>James Tomasko</u> - ADDED	23

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adopt the retirement resolution(s) for August 2015.

Approved by	Signature	Date
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		7/20/15

Retirement Resolution

Donna Anderson, Customer Service Representative - Senior in Eau Claire, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on April 29, 2015 after 31 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Donna's career began in 1980 as an Institutional Aid at the Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled, Donna's career went through several changes working as a Social Worker in Rusk County. In 1986, she returned to the Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled working as a Resident Care Technician and Resident Care Supervisor.

In 2006, Donna accepted a position as a Customer Service Representative - Senior with the Bureau of Customer and Outreach Services for the Department of Natural Resources. She became part of the statewide Call Center, allowing her to serve thousands of customers by telephone, as well as face to face over the counter.

Throughout her career, Donna has been a dedicated and valuable staff member. She has been willing to share her knowledge serving as a resource for customers and staff members. She was part of the 2011 Customer Service Team receiving Honorable Mention for the Dream Team portion of the Secretary's PRIDE awards and in 2014 was nominated and received the Chief's Mug from Law Enforcement for her service excellence.

WHEREAS, Donna Anderson has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Donna a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Mark Kubisiak, Ranger in Woodruff, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on May 1, 2015 after 33 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Mark Kubisiak was born into the Wisconsin Conservation Department, the son of Warden Ronald Kubisiak. Mark followed into the Department of Natural Resources, starting as an LTE fire towerman from 1974 to 1978. He gained law enforcement credentials, and served as a Deputy Warden in the Oshkosh and Appleton area from 1979 to 1982. During that same time he held positions as an LTE Ranger at High Cliff State Park and the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. In 1982 he was hired by UW-Eau Claire as a campus police officer, a position he held until 1987 when he became a Ranger at Pike Lake State Park. Mark was a Deputy Warden in the Eau Claire Area during this time. In 1989 Mark transferred to the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest where he was a Ranger and Deputy Warden until his retirement.

Mark was a thoughtful and thorough Ranger. He was presented the 2009 Excellence in Law Enforcement Award by the Division of Forestry for his role in apprehending a homicidal fugitive and other meritorious service.

WHEREAS, Mark Kubisiak has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Mark a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Scott Laurie, Forester in Whitehall, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on June 12, 2015 after 31 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Scott began his career as a Natural Resource Assistant in 1984 in Black River Falls. He promoted to a Forest Fire Control Assistant in 1989 protecting life, property and resources from forest fires in Richland County. After a short time as a Natural Resource Specialist in Durand he was promoted in 1992 to Forester in Whitehall.

Scott spent the rest of his career providing sustainable forest management assistance to private landowners in Trempealeau County and on DNR state lands in the Coulee Region of West Central Wisconsin. He also served in forest fire protection as a Resource Unit Leader and Field Observer in Wisconsin and Nationally.

Scott was well respected by the public and partners he served and the colleagues he worked with throughout the Department.

WHEREAS, Scott Laurie has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Scott a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Michael W. Meyer, Natural Resources Research Scientist in Woodruff, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on June 26, 2015 after 24 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Mike began his career in December 1989 as a limited-term employee with the former Bureau of Research and later advanced to a permanent position in December 1991. He was a well-rounded wildlife scientist, having earned his PhD from the University of Wisconsin, but Mike's specialty and area of research focus was on wildlife toxicology. He conducted groundbreaking and internationally recognized work on mercury and other toxins in common loons and bald eagles.

In conducting his research, Mike built numerous partnerships with communities and citizen scientists, including the Wisconsin LoonWatch program that he co-lead with Northland College. Most recently, Mike worked with numerous local, state and federal agencies and local citizens to develop a shoreland restoration program for northern Wisconsin lakes.

Throughout his career, Mike authored and coauthored more than 75 scientific publications on topics ranging from loon and eagle toxicology to shoreland restoration. He received numerous awards for this work, both within and outside the agency.

WHEREAS, Michael W. Meyer has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Michael a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Phillip A. Miller, Aircraft Pilot in Spooner, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on July 17, 2015 after 22 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Phil consistently demonstrated a 'can-do' approach and has never hesitated to take on any task identified as in need of development or improvement. The most recent example of this is the outstanding work that he has done with identifying and recommending a comprehensive direction for the Forestry fire simulation training program.

Phil's accomplishments include: the development and promotion of the Search & Locate Team (SALT) within the Cumberland Dispatch Group; writing the "Wildland Fire Fighting Standard Operating Procedure for WI Pilots; researching and writing the Wisconsin SEAT Contracts; development of the computer flight log program for the Aeronautics Team; instrumental in the development and implementation of the Aeronautics Operation Team (AOT).

Phil exemplifies outstanding. He not only identifies areas for improvement but then provides the solution. His heart-felt concern for the work that we do, the programs and communities that we serve and the overall DNR mission serve as daily reminders to all of how fortunate we have been to have Phil in the DNR.

WHEREAS, Phillip A. Miller has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Phillip a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Paul W. Rasmussen, Biometrician in the Bureau of Science Services in Madison, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on June 26, 2015 after 35 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Paul began his service at the department in March 1987, after working several years at the University of Wisconsin. As the DNR's only biometrician, Paul provided statistical consultation to virtually every program in the agency, helping countless researchers ensure that their experimental designs and statistical analyses were sound, rigorous, and defensible.

Paul helped assess recreational use on the Lower Wisconsin River, develop thermal standards for waterways, establish walleye harvest limits in the Ceded Territory, evaluate forestry best management practices, and test environmental laboratories' proficiency in detecting microorganisms in drinking water.

Although much of his work was behind the scenes consultation, Paul also authored and coauthored numerous landmark publications covering a wide range of scientific topics including the status, distribution, and abundance of various species, contaminant concentration trends in fish and wildlife, factors affecting growth and mortality of fishes, and the movement of walleyes among interconnected lakes.

WHEREAS, Paul W. Rasmussen has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Paul a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Clifford Sebero, Advanced Fisheries Technician in Peshtigo, will retire from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on April 4, 2016 after 43 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Cliff's employment with Wisconsin DNR began in April of 1973 at the Thunder River Rearing Station and he worked there for 2 years. In August of 1975, he accepted a fisheries position at the DNR Horicon station. In April 1977, Cliff transferred to Poynette as a Fisheries Technician.

In February 1979, Cliff transferred to Marinette, later Peshtigo. Cliff's new work activities consisted of trout stream and lake restoration projects in Florence, Marinette, Oconto and Shawano Counties, beaver control, Trout Unlimited Outings, spring pond dredging projects and trout stream temperature monitoring.

During these later years, Cliff worked closely with various Trout Unlimited chapters, Florence & Marinette County Forestry Departments, and several cooperative habitat projects with various townships and the U.S. Forest Service.

WHEREAS, Clifford Sebero has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Clifford a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Raymond Sobiesczyk, shipping and mail associate in Green Bay, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on June 1, 2015 after 15 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Ray started for the department as an LTE, hired to do a variety of tasks needing accomplishing at the then regional headquarters building. After a few years, he was hired on as a part-time permanent employee doing many of the same tasks, but primarily focusing on mail related duties. At that time, the department had staff stationed in four locations around the Green Bay area. Ray did a fair amount of driving between offices to deliver and pick-up mail, packages, supplies, and more.

More recently, Ray has seen the changes in staff, mail, security, and buildings. His trips around Green Bay diminished when the offices consolidated into one location in Howard, but his tasks increased with the new, and more complex, building.

Ray enjoyed his many friendships with the staff over the years, many of which were victim's of his teasing. He will be missed greatly by the staff he assisted every day.

WHEREAS, Raymond Sobiesczyk has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Raymond a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Kathleen M. Sylvester, Advanced Hydrogeologist in the Remediation & Redevelopment Program in Oshkosh, Northeast Region, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on June 30, 2015 after 25 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Kathy started in the Solid & Hazardous Waste Program in 1990, where she used her experience from a former career in oil exploration to work on remediation of Underground Storage Tanks. For 25 years, she has been a hydrogeologist project manager in the program that has become the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment.

Kathy has participated in the development of code and guidance documents. Over the years, her experience and advice was often sought by internal & external people, and as a lively speaker at many trainings. Kathy's ability to form trusting partnerships with other DNR programs, departments, consultants, and citizens, has resulted in many success stories, such as Riverside Park & Leach Amphitheater in Oshkosh.

Her dedication and commitment to her job is summed up best by an environmental consultant in 2014, "I have worked with Kathy Sylvester on and off on various projects for many, many years. She's always a delight to work with. Very protective of the rules/environment, as she should be, but also an active partner in getting projects done. She's a keeper. "

WHEREAS, Kathleen M. Sylvester has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 12, 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Kathleen a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

Retirement Resolution

William G. Wawrzyn, Fisheries Biologist in Milwaukee, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on July 10, 2015 after 37 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

William Wawrzyn was passionate about restoring, enhancing and creating fisheries habitat in Southeast Wisconsin. Over many years, Will has worked on vital projects that have enhanced fisheries habitat in an effort to make fishing better in southeastern Wisconsin. Specifically, Will worked tirelessly on several key projects in the Milwaukee River water shed including dam removals, fish passage and habitat projects.

WHEREAS, William G. Wawrzyn has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes William a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair

ADDED

Retirement Resolution

James Tomasko, Wildlife Technician in Wautoma, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on June 3, 2015 after 23 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Jim began his career with the Department of Natural Resources in April of 1992, as a Fisheries Technician working out of the Horicon, Wisconsin office. Jim was later transferred to the Montello Fisheries Technician position in 1993. Jim's primary work as a Fisheries Technician was survey work on all streams and lakes in Marquette County.

In 1998, Jim was transferred to the Facilities and Lands program as a Wildlife Technician assigned to the Wautoma office where he was responsible for the management of several Department properties throughout a four county area.

Throughout his career, Jim excelled at providing exceptional property management and habitat work within his area of responsibility. Jim was instrumental in fostering strong working relationships with area partners that assisted in the management of Department lands. Jim's abilities are probably best exemplified in the redevelopment of Buffalo Lake Dam where Jim played an instrumental role in working with the City of Montello, Marquette County and the Lake District to assure this project was successful over its long time period of 2008 - 2015. His enthusiasm for the job and his diligence in maintaining high standards of service reflect well on a career of outstanding achievement.

WHEREAS, James Tomasko has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2015 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes James a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair