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NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

BRIEF OF ACTION

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 in Room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), Madison, 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 2:10 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

1.B. Approval of agenda for February 25, 2015

Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval of the February 25, 2015 agenda, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg. The motion carried unanimously.

1.C. Approval of Brief of Action from January 28, 2015

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the January 25, 2015 Brief of Action, seconded by Ms. Wiley. 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. Presentation of the “Registered Laboratory of the Year Award” **PowerPoint**

Chris Liveris, Utility Manager, and Jack Wendler, Laboratory Technician/Lead Operator, received the award on behalf of the City of Ripon.

INFORMATION ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

3.A.2. Request approval of department recommendations for the FY 2016 Laboratory Certification and Registration Program Fee **PowerPoint**

Discussion followed on whether the actual fee for a typical commercial lab increases during an audit (Yes.).

Mr. Zimmer stated he toured one of these labs and lab staff had noted that the extra fee is needed. This program is very important to the level of confidence for them and to their users of their services.

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

3.A.3. Request adoption of Board Order LE-17-13, proposed rules affecting sections of Chapters NR 50 and NR 64 related to Law Enforcement Aids to Counties and Municipalities

Discussion followed on the total cost of this program (\$1,800,000) and whether the cost will increase with the proposed changes (Will not impact dollar amount.).

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

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

3.B.1. Request adoption of Board Order WM-11-13, proposed rules affecting Ch's. NR 1, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, and 45 related to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee's Report **PowerPoint**

Discussion followed on CDAC's even split on limiting the harvest of bucks during the traditional 9-day firearm and other seasons which are open during that period to the first two days of the season, and how this looks on a county-wide basis.

Public Appearances:

1. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) as Chair. He spoke in support of the majority of the permanent Deer Trustee Rule but objected to 1) the requirement that 2/3 of the counties in the zone approve the recommendation to implement any season framework or bag limit; 2) the statewide restriction on the harvest of white/albino deer which should be a CDAC option and not imposed state or region wide; 3) establishing by order of the secretary that antlerless tags issued to junior deer hunting license buyers are not valid in units where the DNR has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer; and 4) the requirement that season frameworks recommended by CDAC and implemented by the DNR would remain in place for three years. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on WCC's group bagging concern and whether the Board could help.

Mr. Bohmann asked the Board to mark their calendars to attend the WCC Convention scheduled for May 15 and 16.

2. **Ralph Fritsch**, Townsend, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF). He spoke in strong support of the Deer Management Assistance Program and offered that modifications be made to the program to assure goals are met and to assure fairness to other hunters and landowners not in the program. **(Handout)**
3. **Ronald Ruenger**, Sauk City, representing self, spoke in support of statewide protection of white and albino deer and that it remain as part of the deer trustee permanent rule changes. **(Handout)**
4. **Joe Bruner**, Hollandale, representing Quality Deer Management Association and Southwestern Wisconsin Branch spoke in opposition to the concept of "bonus bucks", supports simpler and traditional seasons that put the fun back into hunting, and strongly supports a standard "base" season structure for the entire state. **(Handout)**

Chair Cole requested that Mr. Bruner write his additional comments down and forward to the Board Liaison to be shared with the full Board.

5. **Malenna Smith**, Leland, representing self, encouraged the Board to make statewide protection of white and albino deer permanent law. **(Handout)**
6. **Mark McCaulley**, McFarland, representing self, stated that if a holiday hunt is needed at all it should be for antlerless harvest only. In addition, he opposes different counties within management zones to have different seasons and asked the department to keep it simple. **(Handout)**

Mr. Zimmer thanked staff and especially thanked the county committees and those that attended the Deer Trustee Report meetings. These people attended on a volunteer basis.

7. **Steve Gehrke**, Platteville, representing self, spoke in opposition to including bucks in the holiday hunt. In addition, the holiday hunt should be a tool for CDAC to use if necessary to reach their goals within their county. **(Handout)**

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley of the department's recommendations.

Mr. Zimmer submitted the following amendment that would eliminate the season framework option to allow the harvest of bucks during a holiday firearm season

Subject: Holiday hunt and bucks

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AMENDMENT 1 TO
BOARD ORDER WM-11-13**

February 2015 – Relating to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed deer trustee’s report.

Analysis

Board order WM-11-13 establishes a base set of deer hunting seasons that are open annually with no need for an action by the department. The rule also establishes the following optional season and bag limit variations that can be implemented by the department.

1. Antlerless-only season bag limit except for certain disabled people and military personal who are statutorily allowed to harvest deer of either sex.
2. In a farmland zone, buck harvest can be allowed during a holiday firearm season.
3. In the southern farmland zone, an antlerless-deer-only firearm season in December beginning on the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving Day holiday and continuing for 4 days.
4. In the central farmland zone, a holiday firearm season beginning on December 24 and continuing through January 1.

Implementation of the season and bag limit options would normally occur following the recommendation of county deer management advisory councils which are advisory to the department.

This amendment would eliminate the season framework option to allow the harvest of bucks during a holiday firearm season.

1. In SECTION 17, repeal the proposed NR 10.01 (3) (ex) 1. b.

(END)

**Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval of the amendment, seconded by
Ms. Wiley.**

Discussion followed on whether of the effect of this amendment is no buck hunting during the holiday hunt of any kind in any zone [Yes.], concern to take this off the plate as an option for CDAC to make recommendations, and the concern on the difficulty of commenting in the county that one hunts in.

Secretary Stepp stated that she understands most people do not go to meetings where they hunt. The department reaches out to license holders. Hunters have the option to comment on-line and thru surveys. The department has had a tremendous response.

Discussion followed on whether the comments emailed to the department are going to the appropriate CDAC [Yes.], and clarification that new this year every county has on the CDAC website to do a survey in the county you hunt in.

Mr. Zimmer's motion to amend carried unanimously.

Mr. Hilgenberg submitted the following amendment that would eliminate the requirement that the chair of the Conservation Congress present recommendations to the Board.

Subject: CDAC recommendations

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AMENDMENT ____ TO
BOARD ORDER WM-11-13**

February 2015 – Relating to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed deer trustee's report.

Analysis

Board order WM-11-13 establishes county deer management advisory councils for the purpose of seeking comment from members of the public on the status of the deer herd at the county level. Individual county councils are chaired by that county's Conservation Congress chairperson or their designee. The rule further establishes that the councils will make recommendations to the department for deer population objectives, hunting season frameworks, and antlerless deer permit quotas. The recommendations of county deer management councils shall be presented to the board by the chair of the Conservation Congress.

This amendment would eliminate the requirement that the chair of the Conservation Congress present recommendations to the board.

2. In SECTION 30, amend NR 10.104 (5) (c) 3. In the following way:

NR 10.104 (5) (c) *Deer management functions.* County deer management advisory councils will:

3. Make recommendations to the department for deer population objectives and hunting season framework options every three years and will annually recommend antlerless deer permit quotas. ~~The recommendations of county deer management councils shall be presented to the board by the chair of the Conservation Congress.~~

(END)

Discussion followed on the department's recommendation and that it empowers CDAC to understand that their recommendations will be reported directly to the Board

Mr. Thiede, Lands Administrator, stated the intent of the department's recommendation is to have CDAC recommendations be presented to the Board by the WCC chair. Nuance of this is that the recommendations go to the Board unfiltered than through the department.

Mr. Cole stated that CDAC Chairs are members of the WCC.

Mr. Bohmann stated he was in agreement with having the Chair of the Conservation Congress report to the Board with CDAC recommendations. WCC's intent is to back CDAC recommendations.

Discussion followed on whether a conflict of opinion could arise between WCC and CDAC recommendations, disagreement on whether CDAC's are a sub-committee of WCC, check and balances concern from CDAC on who will receive their report, whether the CDAC chairs should elect a person to give the CDAC recommendations to the Board, and that CDAC recommendations should not be filtered by department.

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED to amend, seconded by Mr. Zimmer. The motion to amend failed.

Mr. Kazmierski submitted the following amendment that would create a standard season framework that would be the same in all deer management zones. There would be no changes to the traditional 9-day November firearm season or the archer/crossbow season. (PowerPoint)

Subject: Standard season framework

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AMENDMENT 2 TO
BOARD ORDER WM-11-13**

February 2015 – Relating to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed deer trustee's report.

Analysis

Board order WM-11-13 establishes a base set of deer hunting seasons that are open annually. The base season structure varies by zone. The differences by zone are:

1. The December antlerless-deer-only firearm season occurs only in the central farmland and central forest zones.
2. The “holiday” firearm season for antlerless-deer-only occurs only in the central farmland zone.

There are a number of season framework or bag limit variations which the department can implement, but they are not part of the standard season framework and would be implemented based upon the recommendation of county deer management advisory councils.

This amendment would create a standard statewide season framework that would be the same in all deer management zones. There would be no changes to the traditional 9-day November firearm season or the archer/crossbow season. Under this season framework:

1. The December antlerless-deer-only firearm season would be open statewide.
2. The “holiday” firearm season would no longer be part of the standard season framework in the south. This would be an optional season which the department could implement based upon the recommendation of county deer management advisory councils. This “holiday” firearm season option would only be available in the southern and central farmland zones and is not an option in the northern or central forest zones.

3. In SECTION 10, amend the table created in NR 10.01 (3) (e) as shown below. Also in SECTION 10, strike s. NR 10.01 (3) (e) c. from the table:

Kind of animal and locality except when modified by the department under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ex)	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit except when modified by the department under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ex)
<i>NR 10.01 (3) (e) Gun deer season except as established in s. 10.01 (3) (ex).</i>		
b. Portions of the state located within the central forest and central farmland zones established in s. NR 10.28 (4) and <u>All that part of the state</u> not otherwise listed in subs. 2. to 4.	Firearm season beginning on the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving Day holiday and continuing for 4 consecutive days.	One antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104.

2. In SECTION 17, amend NR 10.01 (3) (ex) 1. b. as shown below, and repeal and recreate subdivision 2. to read as shown below:

[The following sentence highlighted in gray is stricken in order to be made harmonious with Zimmer amendment.]

~~NR 10.01 (3) (ex) 1. b. In a farmland zone, one buck per buck deer carcass tag during a holiday firearm season as established by s. NR 10.01 (3) (e) 1. c. in subdivision 2.~~

NR 10.01 (3) (ex) 2. The department may modify the deer hunting season dates and bag limit in a farmland zone by establishing that the firearm season reopens on December 24 and continues through January 1. Only antlerless deer may be harvested.

(END)

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED to amend the standard season framework, seconded by Mr. Bruins.

Discussion followed on the historical reason for restriction of antlerless was conflict with snowmobiling and winter enthusiasts, and a question on whether approved amendments will be made harmonious [Yes.].

Mr. Kazmierski's first motion to amend the standard season framework carried unanimously.

Discussion followed on whether the department will have authority to issue permits [Reference to item 1. The December antlerless-deer-only firearm season would be open statewide.] .

Mr. Kazmierski submitted the following amendment that would change the effective term of the season options so that season and bag limit variations implemented by the department would be in effect for one year. County deer management advisory councils could annually recommend implementing or not utilizing season and bag limit options established in the rule. This amendment would also strike the recommendation for zone-wide implementation after a recommendation of two-thirds of the councils. Season framework options could be implemented in individual counties following a recommendation from that county's deer management advisory council.

Subject: Terms and county application of season frameworks

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AMENDMENT 3 TO
BOARD ORDER WM-11-13**

February 2015 – Relating to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed deer trustee's report.

Analysis

Board order WM-11-13 establishes a base set of deer hunting seasons that are open annually with no need for an action by the department. The rule also establishes the following optional season and bag limit variations that can be implemented by the department.

1. Antlerless-only season bag limit except for certain disabled people and military personal who are statutorily allowed to harvest deer of either sex.
2. In a farmland zone, buck harvest can be allowed during a holiday firearm season.
3. In the southern farmland zone, an antlerless-deer-only firearm season in December beginning on the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving Day holiday and continuing for 4 days.
4. In the central farmland zone, a holiday firearm season beginning on December 24 and continuing through January 1.

Implementation of the season and bag limit options would normally occur following the recommendation of county deer management advisory councils which are advisory to the department. The season and bag limit options would be in effect for a period of three years unless the department determines that a shorter effective term is necessary to maintain a deer herd in balance with its range and with deer population and sustainable harvest objectives.

This amendment would change the effective term of the season options so that season and bag limit variations implemented by the department would be in effect for one year. County deer management advisory councils could annually recommend implementing or not utilizing season and bag limit options established in the rule.

This amendment would also strike the recommendation for zone-wide implementation after a recommendation of two-thirds of the councils. Season framework options would be implemented in individual counties following a recommendation from that county's deer management advisory council.

4. In SECTION 17, strike the notes in NR 10.01 (3) (ex) 1. and 2.

5. In SECTION 30, amend the language created in NR 10.104 (5) (c) 3. and (e) in the following way:

NR 10.104 (5) (c) 3. Make recommendations to the department for deer population objectives ~~and hunting season framework options~~ every three years and will annually recommend antlerless deer permit quotas and hunting season framework options necessary to maintain the deer herd in balance with its range, population objective and sustainable harvest objectives. The recommendations of county deer management councils shall be presented to the board by the chair of the Conservation Congress.

(e) *Effective term of season framework modifications recommended by deer management advisory councils.* Modifications to the deer hunting season framework in a ~~zone that are based on recommendations of two thirds of the advisory councils in that zone~~ unit shall be effective for three years of deer hunting seasons unless the department determines that a shorter effective term is necessary to maintain a deer herd in balance with its range and with deer population and sustainable harvest objectives one year of annual deer hunting seasons.

(END)

Mr. Hilgenberg requested that “zone” (highlighted in gray above) be stricken from third line on 2.(e).

Mr. Kazmierski accepted as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED to amend the terms and county application of season frameworks, seconded by Mr. Bruins.

Discussion followed on clarification that this makes management by county rather than zone and makes management recommendations for one year instead of three years.

Mr. Kazmierski’s second motion to amend the terms and county application of season frameworks carried unanimously.

Mr. Kazmierski submitted the following amendment that provides additional detail for management by highlighting that antlerless deer harvest quotas and permit levels should be set with the goal to move deer populations towards the established population objective for the unit.

Subject: Population management/2

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AMENDMENT 4 TO
BOARD ORDER WM-11-13**

February 2015 – Relating to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed deer trustee’s report.

Analysis

Board order WM-11-13 Establishes direction for the department’s management of deer populations. Deer population objectives will be established for management units and subunits such as metropolitan areas and non-tribal lands that are within the boundaries of tribal reservation units.

This amendment provides additional detail for management by highlighting that antlerless deer harvest quotas and permit levels should be set with the goal to move deer populations towards the established population objective for the unit.

6. In SECTION 30, amend NR 10.104 (1) (d) in the following way:

NR 10.104 (1) (d) Establishing deer hunting seasons and quotas with the appropriate antlerless deer permit levels ~~with the goal~~ to move the deer population in the direction of the established deer population objective for each deer management unit.

(END)

Discussion followed on whether there is a definition any place in the rule on deer permit levels [None.] and whether the CDAC committees are responsible for coming up with the population number or only to increase, decrease, or maintain [CDAC makes recommendation on number of antlerless deer and number of permits as well], and clarification on establishing deer hunting seasons [Reference to page 26 in Board Order.].

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED to amend population management, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg. The motion to amend carried unanimously.

Mr. Kazmierski submitted the following amendment that would change the allowable use of antlerless tags that are issued along with the purchase of an archer or a crossbow hunting license beginning with the 2016 deer hunting seasons. Under the amendment, use of the antlerless permit would be restricted to only the archery and crossbow deer hunting seasons. The permits could be used statewide except in units without an antlerless quota and the department could establish that these antlerless tags are not valid in a unit with an objective to increase or maintain the deer population.

This amendment would change the allowable use of antlerless tags issued along with the purchase of a firearm license so that they only may be used during a firearm season. This provision also would go into effect beginning with the 2016 deer hunting seasons.

Also under the amendment, antlerless permits issued to hunters age 17 or younger would be valid statewide except that the department could establish that

these antlerless tags are not valid in a unit with an objective to increase or maintain the deer population.

Subject: Use of antlerless permits/2

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AMENDMENT 5 TO
BOARD ORDER WM-11-13**

February 2015 – Relating to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed deer trustee’s report.

Analysis

Board order WM-11-13 establishes that each firearm deer license and archer or crossbow license includes a tag authorizing the harvest of an antlerless deer in a unit which is in a farmland zone. License buyers must select which unit and land type, either public-access or private, they prefer. The tag is not “weapon specific”, meaning that it authorizes the harvest of an antlerless deer during any open season as long as the hunter possesses the correct license. Antlerless permits issued with the purchase of a junior deer hunting license are valid statewide.

This amendment would change the allowable use of antlerless tags that are issued along with the purchase of an archer or a crossbow hunting license beginning with the 2016 deer hunting seasons. Under the amendment, use of the antlerless permit would be restricted to only the archery and crossbow deer hunting seasons. The permits could be used statewide except in units without an antlerless quota and the department could establish that these antlerless tags are not valid in a unit with an objective to increase or maintain the deer population.

This amendment would change the allowable use of antlerless tags issued along with the purchase of a firearm license so that they may only be used during a firearm season. This provision would also go into effect beginning with the 2016 deer hunting seasons.

Also under the amendment, antlerless permits issued to hunters age 17 or younger would be valid statewide except that the department could establish that these antlerless tags are not valid in a unit with an objective to increase or maintain the deer population.

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7. In SECTION 30, amend NR 10.104 (7) (a) 2. and 3., (b) 2. and 3., and (c) 2. and 3. in the follow ways:

NR 10.104 (7) (a) 2. During hunting seasons that open in 2015, licenses ~~Licenses~~ that authorize the hunting of deer with a bow and arrow, and not with a firearm or crossbow, may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for the taking of one antlerless deer in a management zone, unit, or portion of a unit specified on the tag that is in a farmland zone or a metropolitan deer management subunit established in ss. NR 10.28 (2) and (4) except that, where the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may establish that the antlerless tags under this subdivision are not valid. This antlerless deer carcass tag is not weapon or season specific, but the holder must possess the correct license for the method of harvest and season. This tag is valid statewide for a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the permit only for harvesting

antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b). A person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a crossbow during a season established under s. 29.014 (1m) (b), or Wis. Stats., s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep) will not receive the carcass tag established in this subdivision. A person may use any carcass tags issued with a license authorizing hunting with a crossbow during a crossbow deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep) under the authority of an archer hunting license during the archery deer season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (em).

3. Modifications by the department under subd. 2. and 2m. shall become effective upon issuance of an order of the secretary and publication in the official state newspaper.

NR 10.104 (7) (b) 2. During hunting seasons that open in 2015, licenses ~~Licenses~~ that authorize the hunting of deer with a firearm may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for taking one antlerless deer in a management zone, unit, or portion of a unit specified on the tag that is in a farmland zone or in a metropolitan deer management subunit established in s. NR 10.28 (2) and (4) except that, where the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may establish that the antlerless tag under this subdivision is not valid. This antlerless deer carcass tag is not weapon or season specific, but the holder must possess the correct license for the method of harvest and season. This carcass tag is valid for the taking of one antlerless deer in any unit statewide by a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the tag only for harvesting antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b).

3. Modifications by the department under subd. 2. and 2m. shall become effective upon issuance of an order and publication in the official state newspaper.

NR 10.104 (7) (c) 2. During hunting seasons that open in 2015, licenses ~~Licenses~~ that authorize the hunting of deer with a crossbow, and not with a firearm or bow and arrow, may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for the taking of one antlerless deer in a management zone, unit, or portion of a unit specified on the tag that is in a farmland zones or a metropolitan deer management subunit established in s. NR 10.28 (2) and (4) except that, when the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may establish that the antlerless tags under this subdivision are not valid. This antlerless deer carcass tag is not weapon or season specific, but the holder must possess the correct license for the method of harvest and season. This tag is valid statewide for a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the tag only for harvesting antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b). A person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a bow and arrow during an archery-only deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (em) will not receive the carcass tag established in this subdivision. A person may use any antlerless deer carcass tag issued with a license

authorizing hunting with a bow and arrow during an archery-only deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (em) under the authority of a crossbow hunting license during the crossbow deer season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep).

3. Modifications by the department under subd. 2. and 2m. shall become effective upon issuance of an order of the secretary and publication in the official state newspaper.

2. In SECTION 30, create NR 10.104 (7) (a) 2m., (b) 2m., and (c) 2m. to read:

NR 10.104 (7) (a) 2m. Beginning with hunting seasons that open in 2016, licenses that authorize the hunting of deer with a bow and arrow, and not with a firearm or crossbow, may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for the taking of one antlerless deer with a bow and arrow statewide except that, where the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may establish that the antlerless tags under this subdivision are not valid and these tags are not valid in units where the department has not established a quota for the harvest of antlerless deer. This tag is valid statewide for a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the permit only for harvesting antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b). A person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a crossbow during a season established under s. 29.014 (1m) (b), or Wis. Stats., s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep) will not receive the carcass tag established in this subdivision. A person may use any carcass tags issued with a license authorizing hunting with a crossbow during a crossbow deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep) under the authority of an archer hunting license during the archery deer season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (em).

NR 10.104 (7) (c) 2m. Beginning with hunting seasons that open in 2016, licenses that authorize the hunting of deer with a crossbow, and not with a firearm or bow and arrow, may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for the taking of one antlerless deer statewide except that, when the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may establish that the antlerless tags under this subdivision are not valid and these tags are not valid in units where the department has not established a quota for the harvest of antlerless deer. This tag is valid statewide for a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the tag only for harvesting antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b). A person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a bow and arrow during an archery-only deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (em) will not receive the carcass tag established in this subdivision. A person may use any antlerless deer carcass tag issued with a license authorizing hunting with a bow and arrow during an archery-only deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (em) under the authority of a crossbow hunting license during the crossbow deer season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep).

NR 10.104 (7) (b) 2m. Beginning with hunting seasons that open in 2016, licenses that authorize the hunting of deer with a firearm may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for taking one antlerless deer during a firearm season in a management zone, unit, or portion of a unit specified on the tag that is in a farmland zone or in a metropolitan deer management subunit established in s. NR 10.28 (2) and (4) except that, where the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may establish that the antlerless tag under this subdivision is not valid. This carcass tag is valid for the taking of one antlerless deer in any unit statewide by a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the tag only for harvesting antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b).

(END)

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED to amend use of antlerless permits, seconded by Mr. Bruins. The motion to amend carried unanimously.

Mr. Kazmierski submitted the following amendment on metrics that would move “public perception of population trends” to subdivision 5.

This amendment would add car killed deer information for a unit as an additional metric that the department would consider.

Under this amendment, the department is still required to use a specific method of estimating deer populations, which is identified as the Sex-Age-Kill method in both the proposed language and under the amendment. The note further describing the Sex-Age-Kill methods is repealed.

Also under the amendment, the department would not be required to consider the number of antlerless permits issued during the previous three seasons when it is determining a number of antlerless deer permits to issue.

Subject: Metrics

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AMENDMENT 6 TO
BOARD ORDER WM-11-13**

February 2015 – Relating to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed deer trustee’s report.

Analysis

Board order WM-11-13 establishes a specific method that the department shall use to estimate deer populations and provides a way for the department to use other methods of estimating deer populations if they are found to be comparable.

The order establishes a set of metrics which the department is directed to use in order to monitor progress towards a management unit's population objective. One of those metrics, which are actually two but which are listed together in the same subdivision, is deer hunter success and public perception of population trend.

In determining a number of antlerless deer harvest permits to issue to hunters, a factor the department is required to consider is the number of antlerless permits issued during the previous three seasons.

This amendment moves "public perception of population trends" to subdivision 5.

This amendment would add car killed deer information for a unit as an additional metric that the department would consider.

Under this amendment, the department is still required to use a specific method of estimating deer populations, which is identified as the Sex-Age-Kill method in both the proposed language and under the amendment. The note further describing the Sex-Age-Kill methods is repealed.

Also under the amendment, the department would not be required to consider the number of antlerless permits issued during the previous three seasons when it is determining a number of antlerless deer permits to issue.

8. In SECTION 30, amend NR 10.104 (5) (a) and (6) in the following ways:

NR 10.104 (5) DEER POPULATION MONITORING. (a) *Metrics.* The department shall monitor progress towards each management unit's objective of increasing, maintaining, or decreasing the deer population. The department shall consider all of the following:

1. Deer health.
2. Deer impacts on natural resources.
3. Deer impacts on society.
4. Deer hunter success ~~and public perception of population trend.~~
5. Car killed deer information.
- ~~5- 6.~~ Deer population trends and public perception of population trends.

a. In 2014 and continuing until the department determines that evaluation of the metrics are providing information that is comparable, the department shall utilize the sex-age-kill method for calculating deer densities. The sex-age-kill method uses the following quantitative data for each deer management unit: proportion of yearling bucks in the harvest, proportion of yearling does in the harvest, proportion of males and females at birth, the number of fawns seen per doe during the summer, the proportion of total buck mortality due to hunting harvest, and the harvest by sex as registered during the hunting seasons.

b. The department may make a determination that alternative methods of population evaluation are comparable, which shall become effective in lieu of or in addition to the sex-age-kill method after approval by the Natural Resources Board, and upon issuance of an order and publication in the official state newspaper.

Note: A determination under this paragraph does not prevent continued utilization of the sex-age-kill method as the department determines is valuable or necessary.

~~**Note:** The department annually calculates an estimate of the overwinter deer population for most deer management units using the sex age kill method for calculating deer densities. The sex age kill method uses the following quantitative data for each deer management unit: proportion of yearling bucks in the harvest, proportion of yearling does in the harvest, proportion of males and females at birth, the number of fawns seen per doe during the summer, the proportion of total buck mortality due to hunting harvest, and the harvest by sex as registered during the hunting seasons. The department also uses other commonly accepted models for estimating deer populations.~~

(6) ANTLERLESS DEER TAGS. The department may issue deer carcass tags that are valid for the harvest of antlerless deer that are in addition to those established in sub. (7). If the department issues antlerless deer carcass tags, the department shall issue antlerless deer hunting permits and tags in sufficient numbers to achieve the population objective established in sub. (4), after evaluating the results of population monitoring required under sub. (5). ~~The department shall also evaluate the public demand for antlerless deer tags in the previous three seasons.~~

(END)

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED to amend the metrics, seconded by Mr. Bruins.

Discussion followed on the public perception of deer population trends [In code to recognize there will always be dialogue that occurs and is taken into account.], and why last sentence on page 2 of amendment is stricken [Redundant language.].

Mr. Kazmierski's motion to amend the metrics carried unanimously.

The original motion as amended carried unanimously.

3.B.2. Request approval of the white-tailed deer population objectives for each deer management unit PowerPoint

Discussion followed on what the percentage of three-year population objectives from CDAC that were different from what the department would have recommended [No percentage was given but there were some. However, all CDAC recommendations were used in department's recommendation to Board.].

Mr. Hilgenberg commended the department for taking that position.

Discussion continued on whether farmers in the green colored counties (increase population) could apply for ag damage tags [Yes.].

Public Appearances:

1. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) as Chair spoke in support of the population recommendations forwarded by each County Deer Advisory Council. **(Handout)**

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Zimmer of the department's recommendations.

Mr. Kazmierski stated that the level of public involvement has been extraordinary. He thanked the department for reaching out and the concerned deer hunters and non-deer hunters that were part of the process for their efforts.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.3. Request approval to undertake a master plan amendment process at Rib Mountain State Park for the purpose of expanding the Granite Peak Ski Area

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

Ms. Wiley recused herself from any Board voting and discussion. She asked for a roll call vote.

The motion carried with a roll call vote of 5 – 2.

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

- 3.B.4. Request approval of department recommendations to issue a Stewardship grant that will prohibit at least two nature-based outdoor activities (NBOA) on non-department land: City of Waukesha, Waukesha County

Public Appearances:

1. Ron Grall, New Berlin, representing City of Waukesha as Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. He was not able to attend meeting but sent his support for this item.

Discussion followed on whether the department will be off the hook for wild animals that would inhabit this corridor [Yes.].

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

- 3.B.5. Request approval of department recommendations to issue a Stewardship grant that will prohibit at least two nature-based outdoor activities (NBOA) on non-department land: Village of Pewaukee, Waukesha County

Public Appearances:

1. Kelley Woldanski, New Berlin, representing Village of Pewaukee

as Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services spoke in support of the department's recommendation. **(Handout)**

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

Mr. Hilgenberg stated that he and Doug Haag, Facilities and Lands Bureau Deputy Director discussed this item due to the price which is on page 3 of the package. There was a huge disparity in appraisals that were performed on this property; one was for \$920,000 and one for \$350,000. The Department obtained a third appraisal which came in at \$645,000. There has been some recent criticism over the department overpaying on Stewardship purchases. He stated that he was satisfied with the number they came up with and that Mr. Haag did a yeoman's job of researching the appraisal. He applauds the department for focusing in on what was wrong here. In the long haul, we are getting a very good parcel at a very reasonable price. Hats off to the real estate program and department for paying attention.

Discussion followed that half of the land purchase amount is paid for by the Stewardship grant.

Mr. Kazmierski stated he is extremely familiar with the area and the department's boat launch on other side of the very busy lake. This is going to be a great addition.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Cole stated that this is a constant reminder that the Stewardship Fund does stimulate a ton of economic development to municipalities around the state.

3.B.6. Easement Purchase – Forest Legacy Program – Douglas County **PowerPoint**

Public Appearances:

1. **Edward Frank**, Madison, representing Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society spoke in support of the department's recommendations. **(Handout)**
2. **Sean Ross**, Lyme, New Hampshire, representing Lyme Timber Company Director of Forestry Operations spoke in support of the department's recommendations.

Discussion followed on whether the management costs will fall upon the department [Private land owner will retain all requirements and responsibilities to manage the property. The department will have easement monitoring to ensure landowner compliance.], whether all roads will continue to stay open and stay open to the public [Yes, roads now are public.], and whether Lyme Timber is committed to open barrens [A unique part of this easement has a provision specific to creating a rolling young forest component

within the property. They will harvest and clear cut in one area while they plant in another area.], and whether Lyme Timber will delay planting for a few years to retain clear cut as long as possible [Provision encourages more natural jack pine forest in those areas if components in the Managed Forest Law that require minimum stocking.].

3. **Tom Hittle**, Tomahawk, representing Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc. spoke in support of the department's recommendations. **(Handout)**

Dr. Thomas stated that, in reference to the Stewardship Program, with Phase 1 and Phase 2 we are securing benefits to the state of Wisconsin that we have been enjoying for decades. We are not getting something necessarily new. We are preventing something from going away that the citizens have had access to. We are securing fiber in our forest products industry, encouraging tourism, and we have public access. This is one of the really good things Stewardship money has allowed us to do at a time when the forest products industry has been divesting their lands. There is a real possibility that if the other 150,000 Managed Forest Law acres on the map come on the market on July 1, we could be in a position to have no way to deal with it.

Discussion followed on the historical transportation and forestry link to this property and that this also is a crucial migratory bird corridor.

Mr. Hilgenberg stated this is an amazing property. Mr. Haag assured him this is under the Best Management Practices program so it addresses clear cutting and other issues. He and Mr. Haag addressed the appraisal due to some disparity but he was well satisfied with it.

Discussion followed on the importance of partnerships on habitat.

Chair Cole thanked Vice Chair Hilgenberg who is acting in real estate valuation. The overviews he gives, his attention to detail after following up with staff, and making his own assertions is added value to this Board. He thanked Mr. Hilgenberg for his constant voice to make sure the citizens of Wisconsin get their monies worth in properties purchased through Stewardship.

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

~~3.B.7. Land Acquisition – Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit – Walworth County **DELETED**~~

3.B.8. Request approval to initiate a public involvement process which may result in a master plan amendment to the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest to expand the amount of land being leased for Camp American Legion

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

3.C. Scope Statements

- 3.C.1. Request approval of the Statement of Scope for Emergency Board Order OE-20-14(E) and Board Order OE-21-14, and grant conditional approval of the notice of public hearing and the notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearing House, regarding proposed changes to Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, related to the department's environmental analysis and review procedures

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

4. Citizen Participation

None

5. Information Items

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

None

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

None

5.C. Department-Wide

- 5.C.1. Project LEAD, DNR leadership program

Discussion followed on the prerequisite to enter Project LEAD and the selection Process.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

Chair Cole moved the meeting to agenda item 6 – Secretary's Matters.

6. Department Secretary's Matters

- 6.A. Retirement Resolutions

- 6.A.1. Byron Goetsch

- 6.A.2. Gary Harden

- 6.A.3. Richard Livingston

- 6.A.4. Gary Osness

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

6.B. Donations

None

Secretary Stepp then updated the Board on 1) the eagle endangered resources license plate contest and thanked staff for getting the word out, 2) White-nose Syndrome, and 3) played a video "Sharing our Story". She thanked the Office of

Communications team for an outstanding project and thanked the men and women of the department who are really the quality of the package that she gets to be the ribbon on. **(Video)**

Discussion followed as to where the video would play [On the department website and You Tube channel].

Secretary Stepp then updated the Board on the first session last week of the All Supervisor's training.

Mr. Bruins reported on the sturgeon spearing season in his neck of the woods and stated that he appreciates it for the big deal that it really is. The season was a huge success with an almost record number of sturgeon taken this year.

Chair Cole moved the meeting to agenda item 5.C.2.

5.C.2. 2015-2017 budget update **PowerPoint**

Discussion followed on whether the proposed park fee changes would change the patron license fee [No.], the number of vacancies in the Bureau of Science Services [Currently 9.], forestry relocation [The feasibility study to look at benefits and downside of relocating administration of forestry to northern Wisconsin to be prepared two years from now.], PECFA program funding, whether there is any estimated fiscal note to municipalities who may get contaminated properties back by those not paying property taxes [No, the department does not know what will happen to them in all cases.], and concern that the county will be responsible for remediation on those sites [Potentially].

Secretary Stepp stated there are brownfields programs and other assistance for those sites. PECFA has been around for a really long time and the Governor feels it is time to move on now. The deadline for people to have their claims in was February 3, 2015 with payment through the next biennium of 2.5 years.

Discussion followed on the recycling grant program, and whether the employees laid off in Science Services will have a safety net program put in place [Department will make use of vacancies and will do their best to avoid lay-offs].

Secretary Stepp stated that science is in everything they do. There are scientists all throughout the department. It is important for everyone to know that the department is still using science in all the decisions we make. This is an opportunity for us. There are some folks across the street who want to see more integration between the research division of the department into the priorities of what the department's programs want to see as far as research. They look to do this with the least amount of pain as possible who are part of the DNR family. Same thing with the Office of Communications; they have been so good that maybe you do not need that many people doing that anymore.

Chair Cole stated that the budget proposal is the beginning. Secretary Stepp will be in front of Joint Finance on Tuesday, March 3 at 9:00 a.m. He will be attending. If any additional Board Members plan on attending, please let the Board Liaison know. If four or more attend, then she will need to notice that the Board will be attending. Having talked to many of you about these issues, all of us have been receiving a fair number of calls from concerned citizens voicing their concerns from the advisory role of the Natural Resources Board to science services to recycling. People are concerned. He thought the Joint Finance process allows individuals to appear before them. Citizens from around the state can show up and give comment at Joint Finances three scheduled meetings that will be located around the state on this budget. We as a Board will respect that process. It is the Wisconsin Way.

He then transitioned the meeting to Board Members Matters to discuss the Natural Resources Board and what that these proposed changes in the Budget ultimately means to us. He asked Dr. Thomas, the preeminent expert on the Board, to give a presentation on the Role and History of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board.

- 7. Board Members' Matters
- 7.A. History of the Natural Resources Board **PowerPoint**

Dr. Thomas received a round of applause on her presentation. Dr. Thomas' presentation is located at:

<http://dnrmedia.wi.gov/main/Play/7a04e435bd1841c3849f10dcf964dc8a1d?catalog=9da0bb43-2fd4-48a6-9d86-756192a62f17> at 03:55:24 or click on Chapter icon (round circle with three horizontal lines within it) to 7.A.

Chair Cole thanked Dr. Thomas for her presentation which was very important. It will be part of the Board's public record. Now that each Board meeting is recorded, people can always have access to that presentation. This presentation will be codified in Natural Resources Board history.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

Board Members' Matters

Mr. Hilgenberg stated that he suspects other Board Members have been challenged by the media recently; he deferred that so far but tentatively has one Green Bay TV station coming to visit him later this week to talk about the future of the Natural Resources Board. He has been reluctant to publicly say anything about it. But fortunately, his colleague Dr. Thomas has set the stage quite well. He agrees with her analogy that when you take over, you have a penchant to reorganize things. All that is well and good provided they are well thought out

and they are to the benefit of who your constituents are – both in private and public sectors. Constituents of this Board are all the citizens of Wisconsin, taxpayers, all the employees of this department, and so on. He has been amazed in his brief tenure on this Board with the breadth of knowledge and the strong commitment to all the public.

He is very concerned that the role of an advisory board will not fulfill what he has come to see as the obligations of this Board are. He is hopeful that over these deliberations on this budget that wisdom comes to the forefront and that the position of the Board remain intact. He would hope that we would all convey that message to decision makers in that we can continue to have Wisconsin move forward. For Wisconsin to move forward we need continued citizen involvement which is a great check and balance system to some of those folks that Dr. Thomas had mentioned such as bureaucrats, departments, and all this business we have with so many different constituents. Every meeting we have in some shape or form we hear from if it is not the 10-20 emails we get per day. There are all kinds of communication channels that we are privileged to hear from people. He would seriously doubt that message would occur in a different format. He is hopeful that wisdom will prevail.

Ms. Wiley stated that when she looks back at when they held public hearings across the state and every single Board Member shared a meeting and listened to every single person that was interested in what went on in our state parks. As a result of that as you recall we changed the direction that had been put before us in terms of how many months of hunting and trapping would be allowed in state parks. It made a significant difference and we never heard back from the legislature. We did the right thing at the right time and every single Board Member had an active part in it. She wished she had the numbers in what the department did at that same time in terms of condensing things to two months of just incredible work with the literally thousands of emails and 500 people in attendance with 157 that spoke at those five hearings. The support of staff, the Board, and hearing the public made it work. It has worked ever since. We have not had accidents. People are hunting and people are trapping. Remember the trappers said “they will compromise”? They did not put anything in but dog-proof traps in all of our state parks. The trappers bought in to it. It was one of those magical times and as a Board we should be proud of that. We should be able to continue to do that sort of thing.

Mr. Kazmierski stated that this Board provides a function. He relayed a story on his past experiences testifying before the Board that Tim Andryk, Legal Services Bureau Director, brings up on occasion. He would trudge up to that podium that was then located next to the Secretary which was before the time there was a fence and give testimony on whatever issue it was at the time. He would give his three minutes and trudge back. That is what this Board provides. Not at one time did he expect an immediate change but he thought today they passed a change (White-tailed deer rule) as a result of many years of trudging up to the podium for testimony, bringing forth the public’s feelings on how we are managing our deer.

We had amendments today and testimony. This Board tries to put all those little pieces together in the best way that it can be done and he does know that there is no other body that is going to do that. This offers the public an additional kick at the can with policy. The public respects that. That is why this Board is so important to the State of Wisconsin.

Chair Cole stated that to him this is similar to God-Country-Family. Ensuring the right for people to appear before us. It also is about respect. There is a respect for the citizens that come before us, respect that we televise these meetings so they do not have to drive half way across the state of Wisconsin. What the citizens do have is value. That solves a lot of problems both for us and the legislature that they are being heard. Is he happy about the provision about removing the Board's policy authority? No. It is something that will have a detrimental effect on natural resources policy in this state in the future? Yes. As your Board Chair, he serves you. He needs advice from you as to what you would like to see him do. Now that being said, he is very respectful of the legislature and their process. We will stay in our lane. We are not about to trip into the waters and the myriad of issues that God bless them that they have the wisdom to navigate those mine fields. He wants to keep the Board in our lane. We are not bomb throwers. We are very respectful of the process because we are respectful people. We respect the legislature and the work that they have to do. He is here to serve you. He asked the Board what their expectation are of him as their chair.

Mr. Kazmierski requested the Board present a Resolution at the next meeting to document the Board's position while the process is going on and accept public input at that meeting. We are not crossing lanes but doing our job which is to seek public input.

Ms. Wiley asked whether Mr. Kazmierski's suggestion was for a public listening session.

Mr. Kazmierski replied that it could be at the next Board meeting.

Chair Cole stated that he will continue to have that conversation with you. Again, there are three hearings scheduled to be held by joint finance. He hates to provide a redundancy of things that have already been heard or said. If the people are interested in shaping the future on these issues, they should go to the Joint Finance hearings and participate as other Wisconsites will. Write letters to your senators, contact your legislators offices if there is something in the budget that specifically revolves around the Department of Natural Resources. With that said, he will work on a resolution and have something drafted for the April 8 Board meeting.

Mr. Hilgenberg concurred with that. He would be reluctant to open the flood gates to having 100 people show up to give testimony that he thinks most of the Board has heard. He has heard from a lot of people on this issue. It is incumbent upon the Natural Resources Board and of the leaders of public input into this

process be the ones that formulate that and make that presentation to the Joint Finance Committee.

Mr. Bruins stated that, in following-up on Mr. Hilgenberg's comments, we have heard from our constituents and we have read in paper. He thought there is a broader base support for continuing this Board in the capacity that it is now. Maybe there is not another single issue that has united the State the way this issue has. He thought they should create a statement as a Board stating their position as to how we feel on the issue and then be done.

Chair Cole stated that in the notion of entertaining public opinion, we have to be very careful of the Secretary's administration of what she has to get done. When you have folks coming before you and there has not been a plan as to what the human resources issues are, that would be very uncomfortable and certainly would put us into the Secretary's lane at that point. Other than the Natural Resources Board policy implications that is in the budget, we all have very different opinions about the other list of items that are in this. We are going to focus the Resolution on the Board and we will let the joint legislature deal with the other myriad of issues.

The Board concurred.

Chair Cole stated his excitement. With the history behind us and the future in front of us gives us an opportunity to reaffirm the impactful policy making authority that we have. As Dr. Thomas identified, the legislature always has opportunities to change what we do. It is a dual role that they have.

Mr. Zimmer offered his comment that it is better to create a Resolution than calling in people. He is free to help and provide the public's input.

Chair Cole stated his tremendous respect for Secretary Stepp and the work that she is doing to change the DNA of this organization. He believes it is *the* best run organization in state government due to her leadership and her team. He appreciates her comments about what the future would hold should we not have that policy making authority. With that said, the Board will put a Resolution forward. We are going to continue to work with her and her administration to invite people before us. We are going to be excited about what she is doing to change the DNA of the organization, to continue to provide service excellence; that we are not bureaucrats in this organization. That we identify bureaucrats and send them down the road because there is an expectation of the people to do their work in short order. We do not have to be bureaucrats to get done the work of the people. He agrees with her in that model. We have work to do. This Board has work to do relative to our policy making authority; something we hold very sacred.

Mr. Hilgenberg stated to make sure in the message we convey he thought Dr. Thomas was right on with what we know what we have right now. We know what we have with the department and the direction you had just sighted. That does not insure that in ten years from now we are going to have that same luxury as citizens of Wisconsin. Whoever is sitting in that leadership position and with a Board being an advisory board could dramatically have a different impact on public policy on our natural resources.

Chair Cole stated we know the elected officials, as Dr. Thomas identified in that presentation, will create a vision - it is an opinion, and the public has an opportunity to weigh in on that opinion. That is what you can count on in the future. There will be a continual amount of opinions about what we do. No question about that. Be excited about reaffirming what we do in this society in this great State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Bruins MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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Natural Resources Board Liaison: Laurie Ross at 608-267-7420 or
laurie.ross@wisconsin.gov

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