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WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

DRAFT BRIEF OF ACTION (rev. 03/14/16)

The regular meeting of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 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 1:25 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

William Bruins – present	Gary Zimmer – present
Julie Anderson – present	Preston Cole – present
Dr. Prehn – present	Terry Hilgenberg – present
Greg Kazmierski – present	

1.B. Approval of agenda for February 24, 2016

Mr. Zimmer MOVED, seconded by Ms. Anderson, approval of the February 24, 2016 agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

1.C. Approval of Brief of Action from January 27, 2016

Dr. Prehn MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski, approval of the January 27, 2016 Brief of Action. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Mr. Bruins, approval 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” recognition **PowerPoint**

The Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility was recognized as the 2016 Registered Laboratory of the Year. Employees John Nehmer, Laboratory Manager, and key laboratory employees Ryan Hoffman and Kevin Neu were in attendance to receive their recognition and plaque.

Mr. Neher thanked the department for the recognition and stated that their staff are the reason for their success.

INFORMATION ONLY – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- 3.A.2. Request approval of the FY 2017 Laboratory Certification and Registration Program Fee Adjustment **PowerPoint**

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

- 3.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife
 3.B.1. Request approval of recommendations for the second phase of land sales to occur under the direction of the 2013-15 state biennial budget bill **PowerPoint**

Chair Hilgenberg thanked Doug Haag, Facilities and Lands Deputy Bureau Director, for his briefings and due diligence as well as by his staff. Chair Hilgenberg and Board Member Bruins had the privilege of working with real estate staff a few years ago to draft the land sales program guidelines. Mr. Bruins did a great job. What is coming before the Board today has received a lot of public review and input. The public's input is appreciated and he encouraged their involvement to continue.

Discussion followed on whether the department will use minimum bids, status of the Uihlein property, and whether the department would be on the hook for maintaining trails.

Dr. Prehn MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski, approval of Group 1 – Landlocked parcels recommended for sale to other Government entities including restrictions.

Chair Hilgenberg noted that the following appearances may be testifying on one or more of the four parcel groups.

Public Appearances:

Rhineland DNR Service Center (1):

1. ~~**Erick Arnold** (or tribal representative), Odanah, representing Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa~~ He withdrew his request to testify.

Madison DNR Central Office (4):

1. **Dan Carter**, Waukesha, representing Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) **(Handout)**
2. **John (Duke) Welter**, Viroqua, representing Trout Unlimited
3. **George Meyer**, Madison, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as Executive Director **(Handout)**
4. ~~**Paul Heinen**, Madison, representing The Nature Conservancy~~ He withdrew his request to testify.

4. **Larry Bonde**, Kiel, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Vice-Chair

The motion for Group 1 parcels carried unanimously.

Dr. Prehn MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer, approval of Group 2 - Accessible parcels recommended for sale to other Government entities including restrictions.

Dr. Prehn MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer, to amend the department's recommendation for parcel FI 1063. He directed the department to move the parcel from Group 2 - Accessible parcels recommended for sale to other Government entities including restrictions if it does not sell first to the County to Group 4 - Accessible parcels recommended for sale to the general public subject to a stream bank easement.

Discussion followed on how this process would work [Municipalities would be offered to purchase the parcel first and then offered to the general public.], whether a municipality could drag the sale out for years [Most likely not.], whether Stewardship funds could be used to purchase a parcel [No. Parcel sale funds will be used to pay down Stewardship debt.], concern about critical habitat.

The motion to amend Group 2 parcels carried unanimously

The original motion as amended for Group 2 parcels carried unanimously.

Mr. Kazmierski requested, seconded by Mr. Zimmer, to amend one additional item in Group 2 - Accessible parcels recommended for sale to other Government entities including restrictions.

Chair Hilgenberg asked the Board whether they are in favor of reconsidering the Group 2 - Accessible parcels recommended for sale to other Government entities including restrictions.

The motion to reconsider Group 2 parcels carried unanimously.

Chair Hilgenberg placed this item back on the table for amendment.

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED, seconded by Dr. Prehn, to amend Group 2 - Accessible parcels recommended for sale to other Government entities including restrictions. He directed the Department to sell parcel WR 500 C (3) to Iron County as follows: The sale will be subject to a deed restriction to include entering the land under the County Forest Law (Sec. 28.11), prohibiting development of the property, and requiring the land be open to the public for all five NBOA's in perpetuity.

Discussion followed on the reasoning behind this motion, what would happen if there is a disparity between the philosophies of the county or town and the department, whether the NBOA restriction would devalue the parcel, and support for working with local Governments and Tribes.

Mr. Kazmierski's motion to amend Group 2 carried 6 – 0. Mr. Zimmer abstained.

The original motion as amended for Group 2 parcels carried 6 – 0. Mr. Zimmer abstained.

Mr. Bruins MOVED, seconded by Dr. Prehn, approval of Group 3 - Landlocked parcels recommended for private sale to adjoining landowners.

Discussion followed on Mr. Welter's request to retain Elk Creek on the Dunn/Eau Claire County Line, Parcels 109 and 109A: property access [By stream or private property owner approval.], the process of selling a landlocked parcel and whether the department is restricted to selling it to an adjoining landowner [Yes, to avoid trespass or harassment, the department will restrict sales to adjoining landowners.], and whether this parcel could be developed, and that the real asset to these parcels is the cold water fishery.

Discussion followed on Mr. Meyer's request to retain Parcel FO 83 Z (1) in Forest County on the Peshtigo River: whether the department has approached the County Forest representatives, location of nearest road access to the property, and whether the Board should direct the department to retain this parcel if the County is not interested.

Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer, to amend Group 3 - Landlocked parcels recommended for private sale to adjoining landowners. He directed the department to move Group 2 parcel FO 83 Z (1) to Group 1 – Landlocked parcels recommended for sale to other Government entities including restrictions. If this parcel is not sold to the County, it will be retained by the department.

Discussion followed on whether Tribal groups could purchase [No, only adjoining landowners can purchase.], whether a deed restriction would hold if a Tribe was an adjoining landowner and purchased a parcel [Would presume property would be closed to public.], and whether this amendment might put the department in a bad negotiating position.

Secretary Stepp noted that these sales are going to get harder. She noted her appreciation to Doug Haag and his team. They are doing extraordinary work. She offered that perhaps instead of moving for the department to retain the parcel, to bring it back for other options. This would give the department a different bargaining position.

Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer, to amend his motion for Group 2 parcel FO 83 Z (1) to move it to Group 1 – Landlocked parcels recommended for sale to other Government entities including restrictions. He directed that if this parcel is not sold to the County, it will then be held for future study in the land sales program.

Mr. Cole's motion to amend carried 6 – 1.

Discussion followed on the concern that parcel G 1771 could be sold to a group that would develop the sensitive area parcel.

Ms. Anderson MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer, to amend Group 3 - Landlocked parcels recommended for private sale to adjoining landowners. She directed the department to move Group 3 parcel G 1771 to Group 1 - Landlocked parcels recommended for sale including restrictions to the county or a conservancy group.

Discussion followed on whether it could be restricted to be sold only to a conservancy group [No, it is not legal to select one private group.], and the original purchase price of this parcel [\$0. It was donated to the department.].

Ms. Anderson MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer, to amend her motion for Group 3 - Landlocked parcels recommended for private sale to adjoining landowners. She directed the department to move Group 3 parcel G 1771 to Group 1 - Landlocked parcels recommended for sale to other Government entities including restrictions. If this parcel is not sold to the County or Town, it will be held for future study in the land sales program.

Discussion followed on whether the department could give this parcel to the county since it was not purchased with state dollars [Board was reminded of legislative intent to pay down Stewardship. The Board was knowledgeable.].

Ms. Anderson's motion to amend carried 6 - 1.

The original motion as amended for Group 3 parcels carried unanimously.

Dr. Prehn MOVED, seconded by Mr. Bruins, approval of Group 4 - Accessible parcels recommended for sale to the general public.

Discussion followed on File P 248 - Bayfield County 34.3 acres: whether the Lake Superior frontage should be retained, whether a Tribe would be considered as the general public [This parcel is in the competitive bid category.], what the differential in revenue would be if sold to a Tribe or to the public [Possibly \$500 per acre ballpark.].

Dr. Prehn MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer to amend Group 4 - Accessible parcels recommended for sale to the general public. He directed the Department to hold parcel WR 563 for future study. This will allow the Department to evaluate options including a possible sale to the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands or other conservation partners to ensure the land remains available for public hunting.

Discussion followed on the need to evaluate this parcel for conservation partners since there is public land on both sides of parcel, whether the department has approached the Board of Supervisors, whether the department would retain recreation rights, that this is a great piece and is a connector for trails.

Dr. Prehn's motion to amend carried unanimously.

Ms. Anderson MOVED, seconded by Mr. Cole to amend Group 4 - Accessible parcels recommended for sale to the general public. She directed the Department

to hold parcel FI 1189 and offer it for sale to the County or Town. If this parcel is not sold to the County or Town, it will be held for future study in the land sales program.

Discussion followed on the 1974 purchase price, whether this parcel was initially created as a subdivision greenspace, whether there is any uplands that could be developed, whether a restriction should be used instead of retaining for future study to keep the parcel undeveloped, whether the maker of the motion would amend to have the parcel remain in the same category but to restrict development to preserve the wetland area.

The motion to amend failed on a roll call vote of 3 - 4.

William Bruins – no

Gary Zimmer – yes

Julie Anderson –yes

Preston Cole – yes

Dr. Prehn – no

Terry Hilgenberg – no

Greg Kazmierski – no

Dr. Prehn MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer to amend Group 4 - Accessible parcels recommended for sale to the general public. He directed the Department to offer parcel FI 1189 for sale subject to a deed restriction prohibiting development and subdivision of the property.

Discussion followed on the potential concerns of pursuing this motion.

Dr. Prehn’s motion to amend passed on a vote of 6 – 1.

Discussion continued on remnants of department land in Waukesha County which were created by developers for subdivision greenspace and were sold or donated to the department.

The original motion as amended for Group 4 carried unanimously.

Discussion followed on when phase 3 of the land sales start.

Chair Hilgenberg requested the Board receive a quarterly report for Phase 3, which should be before the Board at their September 28, 2016 Board meeting.

Mr. Haag stated that the department also plans to create a new tab on their webpage for phase 3 and will continue to update the public on the department’s website <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/RealEstate/landsale.html>.

Dr. Prehn requested the department include in the quarterly report the file #, to follow the same group categories, and include status and negotiations. He then requested that the department have ready for display when phase 3 is before the Board, the parcel maps on the overhead projector.

Mr. Cole requested the department include dollars received from the land sales.

Mr. Zimmer thanked staff for their work.

Chair Hilgenberg reported on a housekeeping (agenda) change and thanked Chief Warden Todd Schaller for giving a safety update this morning. No official business was discussed.

- 3.B.2. Request adoption of Emergency Board Order CS-04-16(E), proposed rules affecting Ch.'s NR 8, 10, 12, 20, and 23 related to modernizing the automated system for issuing recreational license products **PowerPoint**

Discussion followed on an explanation of a digital file image, in addition to the pdf image, whether a picture of the license is legal [No.].

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

Discussion continued on the possibility of modifying the emergency rule over the next 12 months, carcass tags, that the emergency rule should have time to play out.

Secretary Stepp offered to keep the Board updated.

Discussion continued on how "Go Wild" will move Wisconsin into the forefront.

Ms. Anderson called the question.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.3. Request approval to initiate a 15-year Master Plan Review process for the Brule River State Forest and initiate a Master Plan amendment process for the remaining six Northern State Forests specific to motorized road access and land management Classifications **PowerPoint**

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

Doug Haag, Facilities and Lands Deputy Bureau Director, requested he be allowed to combine presentations for agenda items 3.B.4. through 3.B.8.

Chair Hilgenberg approved. He noted that voting will take place after public testimony.

- 3.B.4. Request approval to ratify the department's determination that the prohibition of at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) is necessary to protect public safety on land purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. Sponsor: City of Racine, Racine County

Public Appearances:

~~1. **State Representative Cory Mason**, Racine, 66th Assembly District (He withdrew his request to testify.)~~

1. **John Dickert**, Racine, representing City of Racine as Mayor (**Handout**)

Discussion followed on the donors (Developer and City).

2. **Jolena Presti** of Vandewalle and Associates, Milwaukee, representing property owner/developer Rodney Blackwell of Financial District Properties She withdrew her request to testify.
- 3.B.5. Request approval to ratify the department's determination that the prohibition of at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) is necessary to protect public safety on land purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. Sponsor: City of Marinette, Marinette County

Public Appearances:

1. **Brian Miller**, Marinette, representing City of Marinette as City Engineer
- 3.B.6. Request approval to ratify the department's determination that the prohibition of at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) is necessary to protect public safety on land purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. Sponsor: City of Shawano, Shawano County

Public Appearances:

1. **Matt Hendricks**, Shawano, representing City of Shawano Park and Recreation Department (**Handout**)
- 3.B.7. Request approval to ratify the department's determination that the prohibition of at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) is necessary to protect public safety on land purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. Sponsor: City of Delafield, Waukesha County

Public Appearances:

1. **Tom Hafner**, Delafield, representing City of Delafield as City Administrator/Director of Public Works
- 3.B.8. Request approval to ratify the department's determination that the prohibition of at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) is necessary to protect public safety on land purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. Sponsor: City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire County

Public Appearances:

1. **Phil Fieber**, Eau Claire, representing City of Eau Claire

Mr. Zimmer MOVED, seconded by Dr. Prehn, approval of the department's recommendations for agenda items 3.B.4. - Request approval to ratify the department's determination that the prohibition of at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) is necessary to protect public safety on land purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. Sponsor: City of Racine, Racine County, 3.B.5. – Request approval to ratify the department's determination that the prohibition of at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) is necessary to protect public safety on land purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. Sponsor: City of Marinette, Marinette County, 3.B.6. - Request approval to ratify the department's

determination that the prohibition of at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) is necessary to protect public safety on land purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. Sponsor: City of Shawano, Shawano County, 3.B.7. - Request approval to ratify the department's determination that the prohibition of at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) is necessary to protect public safety on land purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. Sponsor: City of Delafield, Waukesha County, and 3.B.8. - Request approval to ratify the department's determination that the prohibition of at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) is necessary to protect public safety on land purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. Sponsor: City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire County. The motion carried on a voice vote of 5 – 0. Ms. Anderson and Mr. Hilgenberg abstained.

3.B.9. Land Sale – Lower Wisconsin State Riverway – Iowa County

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

Discussion followed on project boundaries.

Public Appearances:

1. **Ron Brisbois**, Richland Center, representing Grant County Economic Development and Prosperity Southwest Wisconsin

The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.10. Land Acquisition and Partial Donation – Straight Lake Wilderness State Park – Polk County

Public Appearances:

1. **Kevin Thusius**, Cross Plains, representing Ice Age Trail Alliance (**Handout**)
2. **Herbert W. Lundberg**, Stillwater, MN, representing self (**Handouts**)

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

Secretary Stepp thanked Mr. Lundberg and presented him with an acknowledgment of donation plaque. Mr. Lundberg and his wife received a standing ovation

3.C. Scope Statements – Citizen Testimony and Written Comment Welcome

- 3.C.1. Request approval of the Statement of Scope for Emergency Board Order WM-01-16(E) for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 10 related to establishing the 2016 migratory bird hunting seasons

Discussion followed on whether a devastating spring would change the survey.

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

Chair Hilgenberg moved the meeting to agenda item 5.A.1.

5. Information Items

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

5.A.1. Update on the department's strategic analysis related to fish passage at dams in Wisconsin **PowerPoint**

Mr. Kazmierski applauded staff for how they went about this process. He believes this should set a precedent as to how the department should move forward on big agenda items.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

5.A.2. Update on the City of Waukesha's application for a diversion of Great Lakes water

Discussion followed on whether the department is doing everything they actually can to procure this diversion of water out of the Great Lakes [Department's job is to review the application per statutory authority.], approval process and whether a simple majority is needed, whether any adjoining counties or cities have diverted water under the compact [No.], background of the compact, service area concept, whether treated wastewater would return to the Great Lakes or to the Mississippi [Great Lakes.], whether any other municipalities are in the situation that they cannot get a diversion [Council of Great Lakes Governor's know of no other applicants in waiting.], whether the application review will be political or by the merits of the application [Merits of the application.], and the percentage of the 10.1 million gallons per day that would need to be returned.

Mr. Cole stated that he had called for this item and thanked Kurt Thiede, Deputy Secretary, and Laurie Ross, NRB Liaison, for their assistance in getting this on the February agenda yesterday. Part of the department's superstar team in this issue are Eric Ebersberger, Environmental Management Deputy Division Administrator, Shaili Pfeiffer, DNR water use specialist, and staff. This Board should know we have really talented people working on one of the biggest deals facing Wisconsin in years. The citizens of Milwaukee have a stake in this. This is a complex and deep issue with many communities watching. Wisconsin is in a position to be a leader with regard to this.

Discussion followed on whether Reverse Osmosis (RO) could be used on some deep wells, what would happen if there is no agreement, whether Milwaukee could sell water anyway, what the ramifications would be for breaking compact [Force of Federal Law; would take five states saying they are out.], perspective of 10 million gallons of water used per day [10 MGD is less than one millionth of 1% of the volume just of Lake Michigan. The water would be returned to the Great Lakes basin.], and who is paying for the application review [Applicant paid \$5,000 application fee.].

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- 6. Department Secretary's Matters
- 6.A. Retirement Resolutions
- 6.A.1. Kris Belling
- 6.A.2. Jeffrey Dauterman
- 6.A.3. Teri Heathcote
- 6.A.4. Robert P. Olynyk
- 6.A.5. Dora Puckett
- 6.A.6. Ellyn Talley
- 6.A.7. Arthur F. Techlow III
- 6.A.8. Philip F. Theiler
- 6.A.9. Mary VanFossen

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

- 6.B. Donations
- 6.B.1 The Estate of Evelyn M. Rieck will donate \$80,000 to the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit purchase equipment and supplies to be used in prairie and woodland restoration efforts at the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit and Lapham Peak State Park

Mr. Zimmer MOVED, seconded by Dr. Prehn, approval of the department's recommendation and to acknowledge the donation. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6.B.2. The Natural Resources Foundation will donate \$51,000.00 to be used to complete a coastal assessment of the southeastern Wisconsin Lake Michigan shoreline
- 6.B.3. The Natural Resources Foundation will donate \$25,889.92 to be used to support State Natural Area restoration and Wisconsin's rare birds

Chair Hilgenberg requested the Board vote on agenda items 6.B.2. and 6.B.3. in aggregate.

Mr. Zimmer MOVED, seconded by Dr. Prehn, approval of the department's recommendations and to acknowledge the donations for 6.B.2. The Natural Resources Foundation will donate \$51,000.00 to be used to complete a coastal assessment of the southeastern Wisconsin Lake Michigan shoreline and 6.B.3. - The Natural Resources Foundation will donate \$25,889.92 to be used to support State Natural Area restoration and Wisconsin's rare birds. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Hilgenberg then asked Camille Zanoni to the podium to speak on both agenda items and to receive the donation acknowledgement plaques.

Public Appearances:

- 1. **Camille Zanoni**, Madison, representing the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin as Director of Development.

- 6.B.4. The Paul E. Stry Foundation, Inc. will donate \$15,000.00 to be used to support the management of State Natural Areas

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

- 6.C. Department Secretary’s Matters

Secretary Stepp updated the Board on the Alignment, Paul Smith’s article on the Sturgeon fishery, and coyotes.

Chair Hilgenberg formally introduced and welcomed George Althoff, the department’s new Communications Director.

Chair Hilgenberg requested a motion to go into Closed Session under the authority of s.19.85(1)(g) Wisconsin Statutes for purposes of discussing litigation matters.

Mr. Bruins MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski that the Board convene into closed session under the authority of s.19.85(1)(g) Wisconsin Statutes for purposes of discussing litigation matters. The motion carried on a roll call vote.

William Bruins – yes	Gary Zimmer – yes
Julie Anderson –yes	Preston Cole – yes
Dr. Prehn – yes	Terry Hilgenberg – yes
Greg Kazmierski – yes	

Chair Hilgenberg stated to those in the audience and viewing on-line that the meeting will reconvene at approximately 1:10 p.m.

Chair Hilgenberg reconvened the meeting. He reported that during the Closed Session, no action was taken.

Chair Hilgenberg moved the meeting to agenda item 4.A.

- 4. Citizen Participation
Public Appearances:

- 1. **Nick Kaufmann**, Elroy, representing Wisconsin Seasonal Residents Association (WISRA) as President and Executive Director **(Handout)**
Topic: Seasonal residents provide an opportunity to sell more recreational products

Discussion followed on Mr. Kaufmann’s state of residence (WI.), and whether many of the association’s members are non-resident 2nd home owners.

Chair Hilgenberg requested a copy of the research report be sent to NRB Liaison Laurie Ross so that it can be shared with the Board.

7. Board Members' Matters
7.A. Board Members' Matters

Mr. Bruins requested a report back to the Board in the next few months regarding the Little Plover River study.

Mr. Zimmer thanked the customer service and licensing staff as well as the hot line staff for the Board tour after the January 27 Board meeting. He said the tour was enlightening and that he is in awe at what department staff are doing and for their passion for their work.

Chair Hilgenberg thanked Secretary Stepp and staff on the terrific items they have moved forward with such as the land sales program, Go Wild. The resources being devoted to making these things happen is substantial.

Chair Hilgenberg stated that the scope of policies and responsibilities of the Department of Natural Resources is very broad. Not only is the scope wide-ranging, but the complexity of the issues is equally challenging. As the policy making body for the agency, it is our responsibility to stay abreast of these complex issues. Fortunately the agency has competent and talented staff that can advise both the Secretary and the Board on these highly technical, legally challenging, scientific and occasionally divisive issues. While the entire Board would like to be able to delve into all these complex issues with the same level of detail, that simply isn't practical.

In the past the Board has tasked "issue committees" on both the Conservation as well as the Environmental Management sides of the agency to become more immersed in their respective subject areas. At this time...with such complex issues as CWD and Water Quality before us we could again consider committees. However, upon reflection and in conversations with Board members, the best logistical solution, in his opinion, is to assign specific Board members with engaging with staff on the pressing issues of the day, so that they can become resources for other Board members during our deliberations.

This has served the Board well on recent topics such as hunting in state parks, where former NRB member Jane Wiley became a resource for the NRB during those discussions as well as land sales with Bill Bruins and himself.

The current issues of the day seem to revolve around water...including Kewaunee County, drinking water, CAFOs, and high capacity. In conversations with Board members, Dr. Fred Prehn has agreed to step forward and engage in this topic. Therefore, I am requesting Dr. Prehn to be our point person to:

- 1) Work with Department experts to engage with the Department to better understand the water related issues of the day;
- 2) Evaluate existing efforts and resources;
- 3) Together with the agency, identify any areas where additional progress can be made; and
- 4) Serve as a resource for the NRB in the future on policy items that come before the Board.

He thanked Dr. Prehn for his willingness to engage on this important topic.

Dr. Prehn stated that clean air and clean water are in the public trust of this department and Board. With this complex and multi-government issue, he will dig in to the details and report back as needed.

Secretary Stepp thanked Chair Hilgenberg for taking this on. This administration has been very active in this issue and appreciates the appointment of Dr. Prehn.

Chair Hilgenberg presented a gift from the Board to outgoing Chair Preston Cole for his outstanding service that he gave not only to the State of Wisconsin and citizens, but to the Board and to the appointment. Mr. Cole received a standing ovation.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

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