

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

SUBJECT: Retirement resolutions

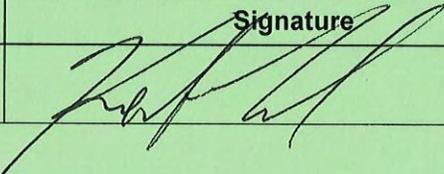
FOR: August 2016 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Stepp

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

Employee	Years of Service
1. Daniel (Dan) Fuller	40
2. John F. Olson	42
3. Kurt I. Welke	30

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adopt the retirement resolution(s) for August 2016.

Approved by	Signature	Date
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		8/13/16

Retirement Resolution

Daniel (Dan) Fuller, Fisheries Technician Advanced in Poynette, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on May 2nd, 2016 after 40 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Dan began his original employment as a permanent DNR employee in 1976 as a Natural Resources Assistant at the Wilson Nursery in Boscobel. In 1981 Dan transferred to a Natural Resources Assistant position which was ultimately reclassified to a Natural Resources Technician position for the Field Operations Crew here at Fitchburg. Dan started out doing survey, warmwater propagation and habitat work, then performed heavy equipment work, and finally had a working title as the Inland Contract Fisherman "supervisor".

Dan transferred to a Fisheries Management Technician position at Dodgeville in May of 1991 and a year and a half later, in January of 1993, Dan transferred to his final position/location as Fisheries Technician – Advanced at Poynette.

Dan prided himself in the lasting accomplishments he and the Fisheries Management program contributed in cold and warmwater fish habitat projects, public fishing easements, and improving access for fishing.

WHEREAS, Daniel (Dan) Fuller has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2016 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Daniel a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair

Retirement Resolution

John F. Olson, Furbearer Ecologist in Ashland, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on July 1, 2016 after 42 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

In 1973, John began his career as a limited term employee in a number of positions as a forestry technician, wildlife technician, and forest habitat coordinator. Since 1979 John served 4 months as the forest habitat coordinator, 10 years as the wildlife biologist in Mercer, 3.5 years as the area wildlife supervisor in LaCrosse, and most recently, 23 years as the state furbearer ecologist.

Throughout his career John worked hard to build strong relationships with the WI Trappers Association and the Conservation Congress to highlight the importance of furbearer management. John developed Wildlife Fur School training for agency staff and University Fur Schools for college students in resource management programs. These fur schools are now being replicated in other states throughout the country.

John's leadership role extended beyond Wisconsin where he is nationally known for coordinating the Best Management for Trapping (BMP) effort in Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest. John is widely recognized for his ability to bring people and groups together for the good of a common cause.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2016 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes John a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Kurt I. Welke, Fisheries Biologist - Senior in Fitchburg, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on May 13th, 2016 after 30 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Kurt became a permanent employee in 1986 as a Fisheries Research Technician in Madison. Kurt transferred to Prairie Du Chein in 1988 where he spent 12 years as the Fisheries Manager working with freshwater mussels and fish of the Mississippi River. In 2000 Kurt moved for the last time and transferred to the Fisheries Biologist position in Fitchburg with responsibilities for Fisheries management in Dane and Green Counties.

Kurt's major accomplishments include cooperating with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and neighboring states through the UMRCC to affect the closure of commercial harvest of freshwater mussels on the Mississippi River to protect the rare and endangered species from over-harvest. As the Fisheries Biologist in Fitchburg, Kurt excelled at working with partners to manage the area waters. Through these cooperative efforts, Kurt implemented innovative techniques and methods to manage common carp to improve lake habitat and water quality. Kurt also acquired many fishing easements on area streams for public fishing and habitat improvement.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2016 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Kurt a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair