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WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

DRAFT BRIEF OF ACTION (rev. 02/05/16)

The regular meeting of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, January 27, 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 12:45 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

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

1.B. Approval of agenda for January 27, 2016

Mr. Zimmer MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski, approval of the January 27, 2016 agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

1.C. Approval of Brief of Action from December 8-9, 2015

Ms. Anderson MOVED, seconded by Dr. Prehn, approval of the December 8-9, 2015 Brief of Action. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

Mr. Bruins MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski, approval of the Real Estate Transactions. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Action Items

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

3.A.1. Request adoption of Board Order AM-15-14, proposed rules affecting chapters NR 172, 400, 404, 405, 420, 425, 439, 484, and 494, related to consistency with Federal rules and repeal of obsolete rules

Discussion followed on department costs to administer.

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

3.A.2. Request adoption of Board Order WT-31-10, proposed rules affecting chapter NR 106 relating to the calculation of water quality based effluent limitations for the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit program regulating wastewater discharges **PowerPoint**

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

3.A.3. Request adoption of Board Order WT-11-12, proposed rules affecting chapters NR 106, 205, and 212, Wis. Adm. Code related to policies and procedures related to the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit program for regulating wastewater discharges **PowerPoint**

Discussion followed on procedures, whether EPA is satisfied with department progress, whether the rule package affects all 126 entities, whether the rule package affects CAFO's [no], and the breakdown of where the department is at with the original 75 EPA items [with approval today, 51 resolved, 18 will be in future rule packages, and in the 6 that remain 5 are statutory and 1 may need negotiations with the EPA].

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

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

3.B.1. Request approval of the bear harvest quotas for the 2016 season **Handout**

Discussion followed on this being a real success story for Wisconsin, comments received by the Board to split Zone C, concern of declining body weights in Zone C, and public and private land tags.

Mr. Kazmierski requested that the department start a dialog on public and private tags.

Discussion continued on the declining success rate in Zone C and whether there is a threshold.

Mr. Zimmer requested that the department add a column in the future for acceptance rate of tags.

Mr. Bruins stated that Marathon and Clark counties have the highest number of farms in Wisconsin. There are serious bear damage issues in Sawyer and Rusk counties. He noted that staff has been sensitive to this but he wants to make sure that continues.

Public Appearances:

1. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair]. Mr. Bohmann arrived late so his testimony was moved to later in discussion.

2. ~~**Michael Fuge**, Stevens Point, representing self~~ **(Handout)** He did not testify.

3. **Kevin Marquette**, Shawano, representing self . **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on whether Mr. Marquette has a suggested success rate and whether he felt dividing Zone C would make a difference.

4. ~~**Bill Tollard**, Omro, representing self~~ He did not testify.

5. **Ralph Fritsch**, Townsend, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (**Handout)**

Discussion followed on the declining harvest and why the 2016 quota recommendation in Zone C is an increase of 1,300 to a total of 6,190 estimated permits, consideration of expanding the season which was suggested by speaker Kevin Marquette [Extending season has not been discussed by department or committee.], bait only zone, and potential for public land and private land tags as a useful tool.

Public Appearances:

1. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair

Chair Cole stated the Board has shown an interest for a public/private permitting system, dividing up Zone C, and an adjustment to the quotas and permits. He questioned what the path forward is for change.

Dave MacFarland, Carnivore Staff Specialist, stated that the department could convene the Bear Advisory Committee to investigate alternatives and bring forward a proposal to the Board for the 2017 season.

Secretary Stepp stated that the department is up against the wall for 2016. She would like to bring in the committee for discussion and their consideration of the concerns the Board and public has raised. The department has acknowledged those concerns. She had a meeting with staff and said we need to be creative and get our stakeholders together to be part of this discussion. The department has a really good relationship with the bear committee. She asked the Board to be gracious to engage with the committee for the 2017 season to discuss all the concerns raised and allow the department to move forward with what they presented today.

Mr. Hilgenberg stated his appreciation for the 2017 review but would also ask for a trial run as it relates to Zone C in particular, including extending the season. Put everything on the table and have that conversation with the bear committee. Let's not try to prejudge any of the issues. Get everyone's input. For 2017 we can have real change or at least a trial.

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

Chair Cole then moved the meeting to agenda item 3.B.6. – Congress Matters

3.B.6. Congress Matters: Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2016 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions **Video**

Mr. Hilgenberg thanked the Congress for their hospitability at their January 8-9, 2016 executive council Meeting in Rothschild. It was a nice event and good learning experience. Any Board Members that have an opportunity to attend in the future should do so.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

Chair Cole returned the meeting to agenda item 3.B.2.

3.B.2. Request approval of Wildlife Management's 2016 spring meeting agenda

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

Discussion followed on question 4 and how the department plans to gather information.

The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.3. Request approval of Fisheries Management's 2016 spring meeting agenda of advisory questions

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

3.B.4. Request approval of Glacial Lake Grantsburg Properties Master Plan (includes Crex Meadows, Fish Lake, and Amsterdam Sloughs) **PowerPoint**

Discussion followed on the number of visitors from Minnesota and whether there are any prairie chickens on the property [No.].

Mr. Hilgenberg requested that staff use much more current data than 2004 and 2006 in the master plans. He then asked the department to seriously look at ways to be very creative to try to figure out the means by which we can generate revenue to support all the wonderful programs that we are giving to people free. He then noted that it is referenced that 75% of the plan is for birders. How do we get into their wallet? The hunters and fishers, ATV, snowmobile people and others are all paying in to the department's coffers but we have a lot of people that are not.

Mr. Hilgenberg then stated that these properties total approximately 48,000 acres and include only five boat landings. He asked the department to think about this and to better develop the resource.

Discussion followed on user fees, whether the plan supports an increase in sharp tail numbers [Yes, an increase in the sharp tail population is the department's intent.], the cost of managing property and encouraging the department to find ways to increase revenue streams from publicly held property.

Chair Cole asked Mr. Hilgenberg to work with the Secretary's Office on increasing revenue and to frame the question so they can answer succinctly.

Discussion continued on the department's budget and managing property, and an overview of the Crex Meadows Youth Conservation group.

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

3.B.5. Request approval of the Blue Mound State Park Master Plan Amendment **PowerPoint**

Discussion followed on the proposed mileage change and private land easements for snowmobiles to the north and south of the park.

Public Appearances:

1. **Karl Heil**, Barneveld, representing self **(Handout)**

2. **John Koffel**, Town of Ridgeway, representing self **(Handout)**

   Discussion followed with Mr. Koffel on what the silent sport groups plans might be should the snowmobile trail be approved today and his concern that no public display of the planning process was posted at the park.

3. **Dave Newman**, Unity, representing the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs **(Handout)**

   Discussion followed with Mr. Newman on the estimated number of days the snowmobile trail would be open each season [20 days], amount of traffic on the trail when open, whether the proposed trail was a compromise with the snowmobile clubs, DNR policy on trail width, what constitutes when trail is open or closed, and whether silent sports can use trails when open, closed, or in off-season [Yes.],

4. **Walter Hougas**, McFarland, representing Capital Off Road Pathfinders Bike Club **(Handout)**

5. **Sam Landes**, Dane, representing Dane County Council of Snowmobile Clubs **(Handout)**

   Discussion followed with Mr. Landes on when the trail to the north was developed and reconnected, location of corridor 23 [Iowa County by Ridgeway.], whether UTV's are allowed on Dane County trails [No.], whether any UTV trails are planned, estimated trail usage in Dane County on average per season [Depends on weather and conditions.] , that many snowmobile trails go through agriculture lands that have crops on them during the growing season and cannot be used year-round, concern with safety if there is no posted speed limit in the park, and whether the club would be supportive of a speed limit and stop signs since this trail would go through a silent sport park [Yes.].

6. **William Van Haren**, Verona, representing Friends of Blue Mound State Park **(Handout)**

~~7. **Judy Archibald**, Verona, representing self~~ **(Handout)**

Chair Cole asked for a department response to Mr. Heil's concern that the new proposed trail crossing does not meet minimum WI Dept. of Transportation (DOT) specifications for a pedestrian crossing on a 35 mph roadway.

Ben Bergey, Park and Recreation Director, stated that staff have done measurements per DOT guidelines and are confident on the road crossing sightlines. They will make sure all safety requirements are met.

Discussion continued on who will pay to relocate the ski trail [Costs would be incurred by the DNR.], keeping snow on the trails, and spring thaw concerns.

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

Mr. Zimmer MOVED to amend the motion to keep the trail speed limit at 35 through the park with appropriate signage for road and trail crossings in the park.

Secretary Stepp stated this is the concept plan for now and asked the Board to allow the department to discuss with their engineers and experts on safety to make sure that if we feel there is a concern and a validated need for a posted speed limit that you allow the process to work through. We certainly will keep all these comments in mind but to be too prescriptive at the Board level on the speed limit on a certain segment of a trail in Wisconsin, you might be really busy in the coming years if handled that way versus the process to allow our engineers to pursue those avenues.

Dr. Prehn, stated that one of his concerns that sometimes when you delineate checklist after checklist, it might be technically okay at 55 mph. because it might meet all DOT and other guidelines. When in reality for this particular site, he hopes the department realizes this is a grave concern here. This was a tough decision that we are going to make right now because it does mix the two right dead in the center of the park. Just because it meets the guidelines, what he and possibly Mr. Zimmer are saying in this case is that he hopes you understand that if this meets the guidelines for 55, the Board does not want it 55 mph.

Secretary Stepp stated staff has heard you loud and clear and we will make that discussion part of the process.

Mr. Zimmer withdrew his amendment.

The motion to approve carried unanimously.

[3.B.6. Congress Matters: Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2016 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions This item was taken up before Board prior to agenda item 3.B.2.]

Chair Cole requested a motion to go into Closed Session under the authority of s.19.85(1)(e) Wisconsin Statutes for purposes of discussing potential real estate transactions.

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED, seconded by Ms. Anderson that the Board convene into closed session under the authority of s.19.85(1)(e) Wisconsin Statutes for purposes of discussing potential real estate transactions. The motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

Chair Cole reconvened the meeting. He reported that during the Executive Session no action was taken.

3.B.7. Request adoption of Emergency Board Order FH-05-16(E), proposed rules affecting chapters NR 20 and 23 related to modifications in walleye harvest management in Ceded Territory waters

Steve Hewett, Fisheries Management Section Chief, submitted the following amendment:

(f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Balsam lake, Big Round lake, Big Butternut lake, Half Moon lake, Pipe and North Pipe lakes combined, Ward lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18

"The regulation will keep the 3-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum size limit on Balsam Lake during the last part of the 2015-16 open season, as was proposed by the local biologist. This regulation matches the permanent rule change that takes effect on April 1, 2016."

Public Appearances:

1. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair

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

Mr. Zimmer MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski, to amend the motion to include the department's amendment to add Balsam lake to the list. The motion to amend carried unanimously.

The original motion as amended carried unanimously.

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

4. Citizen Participation

4.A. **Citizen Appearances**

1. **Claudia Bricks**, Sheboygan, Friends of the Black River Forest **(Handout)**
   Topic: Opposition to the building of a 5th Kohler golf course in Sheboygan County.

Discussion followed with Ms. Bricks as to whether the Town of Wilson's elected officials called the question as to whether they are going to allow this course to be permitted as of today.

Chair Cole asked Board Attorney Quinn Williams how the department got to the position of the department's action coming before the Town's action.

Attorney Williams stated the department will review and get back to the Board.

Ms. Bricks added that the application for the conditional use permit is with the Town but they need additional information.

Chair Cole reminded the public that there are very few Natural Resources Boards that allow citizens to come before them. We open the doors in Wisconsin to hear what concerns you may have as it relates to our programs, properties in which we manage, and what is going well. You do not find that type of opportunity in many places across America. We should be proud of that.

Chair Cole moved the meeting to agenda item 3.C.1.

3.C. Scope Statements

3.C.1. Request approval of the statement of scope for Board Order WM-02-16 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse for proposed rules modifying Ch's. NR 10 and 45 related to hunting hours and on the placement and use of tree stands and hunting blinds on DNR managed lands

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

3.C.2. Request approval of the Statement of Scope for Board Order WY-17-15 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse, for proposed rules affecting chapters NR 102, 104, and 219 related to revising Wisconsin's water quality criteria for pathogens to be consistent with federal recommendations **PowerPoint**

Discussion followed on whether the higher standard is deemed safe for humans [Yes.].

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

3.C.3. Request approval of the Statement of Scope for Emergency Board Order CS-04-16(E) and Board Order CS-03-16 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse, for proposed rules affecting chapters NR 8, 10, 19, and 45 related to modernizing the automated system for issuing licenses, permits, and registrations

Discussion followed on whether there is a possibility of registration on phone via instant text feature, and whether the scope statement is broad enough to include text registration [Yes.].

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

3.D. Department Wide - None

Chair Cole moved the meeting to agenda item 5.

5. Information Items
5.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement - None

5.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife
5.B.1. Motorized Road Access on Department Lands **PowerPoint**

Discussion followed on the inventory of closed roads and whether they will include roads currently closed and may have trees growing in them, when the meetings will take place, how the department will identify who the users are to obtain institutional knowledge of historical roads, the number of miles of roads the department has identified, whether there is a portion of these roads already open for use, or whether the department is identifying roads that are currently not being used,

Mr. Bruins and **Dr. Prehn** requested information as this process progresses on the total roads located and what percent is open to motorized use at the present guidelines.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

5.B.2. Recreational Licensing and Vehicle Registration Systems Replacement **PowerPoint**

Discussion followed on whether the department will cut back on the number of agents used.

Secretary Stepp thanked staff for the extraordinary amount of work that went into this.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

6. Department Secretary's Matters

Secretary Stepp offered a special thank you to the Friends of the Wisconsin State Parks. The Blue Mound State Park friends group that was here earlier is a very passionate, committed, spirited, selfless, giving group of individual Wisconsin citizens like all of our state park friends. We appreciate the Blue Mounds group's willingness to walk through this with us. She reemphasized the commitment that we are going to make sure we take all their concerns into consideration.

6.A. Retirement Resolutions
6.A.1. Vicki Dufty-Sprinkel
6.A.2. Kenneth W. Jonas
6.A.3. Rodney M. Lange
6.A.4. Linda Pederson
6.A.5. Victoria Stovall
6.A.6. Gary L. Zielske

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

6.B. Donations
6.B.1 Lake Poygan Sportsmen's Club will donate $90,000 to be used to construct Phase I of a breakwall for habitat restoration on Lake Poygan, Winnebago County

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

6.C. Department Secretary's Matters

Secretary Stepp updated the Board on open record requests.

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

No matters of the Board were offered.

7.B. Review of Spring Hearing Questions

Mr. Kazmierski submitted the following question:

Question . Exceptions that allow harvest of antlerless deer in units where the department has not established a quota for the harvest of antlerless deer.

Wisconsin's deer herd is managed using a variable antlerless quota system which allows permits to be issued at a level necessary to increase, maintain, or decrease deer populations. In units where the population objective is to increase the deer herd, county deer advisory councils have the ability to recommend an antlerless harvest quota of zero (Buck-Only Units).

However, even in units where no bonus antlerless deer permits are issued and free farmland zone antlerless tags are not available, some legal antlerless deer harvest is still occurring. Under state statute, holders of Class A and C permits for hunters with disabilities and certain active duty military personal are issued a statewide antlerless permit that currently allows the harvest of antlerless deer in buck-only units. Under department rules junior deer hunters, age 17 and younger, are also issued one antlerless permit that is valid statewide and allows the harvest of antlerless deer in buck-only units.

To understand the level of antlerless deer harvest in units without an antlerless quota, consider the following information. Note that harvest by Class A and C permit holders and active duty military personal is not described because disabled permit and military status are not recorded when deer are registered.

2012 antlerless harvest by junior hunters: 266 in six units without an antlerless deer harvest quota (1,737 square miles of deer range for a kill of 0.15 per square mile).

2013 antlerless harvest by junior hunters: 95 during the 9-day season in four units without an antlerless deer harvest quota (1,109 square mile of deer range for a kill of 0.09 per square mile).

2014 antlerless harvest by junior hunters: 3,277 during the 9-day season in sixteen units without an antlerless deer harvest quota (13,118 square mile of deer range for a kill of 0.25 per square mile). Note that Douglas, Marinette and Florence counties are not counted because they either had a portion of the unit that had a quota or had high numbers of damage tags.

2015 antlerless harvest by junior hunters: 1,560 during the 9-day season in nine units without an antlerless deer harvest quota (5,132 square miles of deer range for a kill of 0.30 per square mile). Note that Douglas, and Florence counties are not counted because they either had a portion of the unit that had a quota or had high numbers of nuisance tags.

Some people think that allowing the harvest of any antlerless deer in units where it is not otherwise allowed may slow or prevent a Buck- Only Unit from reaching its goal to increase the deer population. In responding to this question, you are asked to weigh the concerns about harvesting antlerless deer and reaching population objectives against the additional hunting opportunity that is available for certain people under current state law and department rules. This would only apply to Buck- Only Units and the antlerless tag issued these certain individuals would still be valid in all other deer management units.

Question . Do you support eliminating exceptions that currently allow harvest of antlerless deer in Buck- Only management units where an antlerless deer quota of zero has been established for the year?

YES_____ NO_____

Mr. Zimmer submitted the following question:

Question . Establishing consistent season end dates for fall turkey, pheasant, gray (Hungarian partridge), fisher trapping, and bow deer hunting.

Historically, a number of hunting seasons ended on the last day of the year. In 2002, the last day of the archery season was changed to the Sunday nearest January 6. This assured that hunting would always be allowed over the entire New Year's holiday weekend, a time when people are likely to have an opportunity to hunt.

The last day continues to be December 31 for fall turkey (zones 1 – 5), pheasant, and Hungarian partridge hunting and for fisher trapping.

Modifying all of the seasons that currently end in December so that the last day would always be the Sunday nearest January 6 may have some advantages. It may be less confusing if all of these

seasons end on the same date as the bow deer season. For the small game species and fisher, it would provide additional opportunity at a time of year when many people also have time away from work. A standard last day for these hunting and trapping seasons would allow combination hunts instead of a person only being able to hunt deer beginning on January 1. It may also be more likely that members of a family or group who gather over the holiday would each have a hunting opportunity available to them.

The department anticipates that changing the last day of these seasons would result in only modest changes in harvest that would not affect management of any of those species.

> Question . Do you support modifying the fall turkey (zones 1 – 5 only), pheasant, and Hungarian partridge hunting seasons and the fisher trapping season so that the last day is the Sunday nearest January 6 instead of December 31, consistent with current season for bow deer hunting?
>
> YES_____ NO_____

7.C. Election of Officers

Chair Cole opened nominations for officers, beginning with Chair.

Mr. Bruins MOVED, seconded by Dr. Prehn to nominate Terry Hilgenberg for Chair of the Natural Resources Board.

Mr. Bruins MOVED, seconded by Dr. Prehn that nominations for Chair be closed. The motion to elect Terry Hilgenberg as Board Chair carried unanimously.

Chair Cole opened nominations for Vice-Chair.

Dr. Prehn MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer to nominate Greg Kazmierski for Vice-Chair of the Natural Resources Board.

Dr. Prehn MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer that nominations for Vice-Chair be closed. The motion to elect Greg Kazmierski as Vice-Chair carried unanimously.

Chair Cole opened nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED, seconded by Dr. Prehn to nominate Julie Anderson for Secretary of the Natural Resources Board.

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED, seconded by Dr. Prehn that nominations for Secretary be closed. The motion to elect Julie Anderson as Secretary carried unanimously.

Dr. Prehn stated that the time he has had on the Board under Chair Cole has been enlightening. He has been on quite a few boards and Preston Cole has done a stellar job in keeping the meetings going and giving the public a fair chance to speak. Chair Cole is very politically tactful and we are going to miss your leadership. [Chair Cole received a standing ovation.]

Mr. Hilgenberg presented a plaque in appreciation to Preston Cole's three years as chair of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board for his outstanding leadership. You did a fantastic job in facing many challenges. He thanked him for the warm welcome he has given to our new members, to the public, and to our new staff. Preston was one of the Board Members that gave him a very warm welcome when he first came on the Board. Being a kid from Northern Wisconsin, this is big time. Preston made it very clear that everyone's opinion counted. We thank you very much. The best part of this is you will still be on the Board.

Chair Cole thanked the Board for their kind words. He had the opportunity to work with really talented people, certainly on the Board, staff, and Madam Secretary. Secretary Stepp's leadership of this department and reshaping is what he calls the new service heart of your employees. That is what brings him to service as well. He has been a government employee most of his life because he loves serving others and certainly loves serving the public in this capacity. His hope is they have generated that same type of service heart in others. We are going to count on those individuals who come after us to use their guiding light in managing our natural resources. These are very difficult decisions and we take them very seriously. Seven members, seven ordinary citizens, weigh in monthly on some of the most critical issues facing this state. That is a daunting task and he is so glad to have served each and every one of you and served on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin.

Mr. Hilgenberg thanked the Board for their confidence and support that you have given him as incoming chair. The strength, growth, and accomplishment that we will achieve together will be dependent upon everyone sitting around this table and the great staff in the department in collaboration to do what we are responsible for. The citizens of Wisconsin have high expectations of what we are going to do. He hopes that we will be able to focus on protecting our natural resources. The areas he hopes the Board and Department can devote much attention to are to being the best managers possible of these assets, in particular our properties, to be affective in all regulatory issues, and in particular eliminating all unnecessary regulation and bureaucratic gamesmanship. When we introduce new rules and regulations we fully understand the implications they have and how they affect real people. He would like to devote a great deal of attention to our most precious resource – our water resources. As Claudia Bricks (4A speaker) pointed out, that same article appeared in the Appleton Post Crescent and Green Bay Press Gazette. Based on his business you cannot sell a property that does not have water. A home is not a home unless you have good quality water. He is very pleased that Secretary Stepp has acknowledged that this is the priority of the department. In collaboration with the department, we will move forward in making sure that resource is protected.

Chair Cole noted that the customer service and hotline program tour will begin at 1:30 p.m.

> **Dr. Prehn MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

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