

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

**SUBJECT:** Retirement resolutions

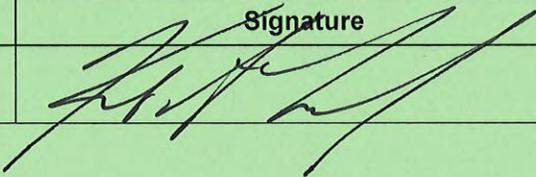
**FOR:** October 2016 Board meeting

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Secretary Stepp

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

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
1. Kathie Koch (Information Technology)	31
2. Michael L. Lawler (Drinking Water and Groundwater, Customer Service, and Parks)	22
3. Mary S. Ripp (Parks)	25

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

<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		10/10/16

## **Retirement Resolution**

Kathie Koch, Information Technology Coordinator in Madison, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on April 16 after 31 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, Kathie Koch lead the DNR through tremendous changes in Information Technology, from Data Entry, to Security, to Asset Management, to Desktop Workstations, and to Resource Management Systems, and more;

WHEREAS, Kathie Koch provided excellent customer service, in mentoring new staff, in teams implementing new operating systems, in leading the implementation of RMS/ServiceCenter, and in leading inventory management, and more;

WHEREAS, Kathie Koch engendered extreme dedication, a team spirit, a One DNR approach, and ensured ongoing team building and team gatherings, and more;

WHEREAS, Kathie Koch 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 October 2016 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Kathie 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**

Michael L. Lawler, Environmental Program Associate in Dodgeville, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on September 16, 2016 after 22 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Michael L. Lawler began his career with the department in 1994 as a Facilities Repair Worker then Maintenance Mechanic at Blue Mound State Park. In 2003, Mike transferred to a Natural Resources Customer Service Representative position with the Bureau of Customer Service in Madison. In 2007, Mike transferred to Dodgeville as a Customer Service Specialist. In 2009, Mike joined the Drinking Water and Groundwater Program as an Environmental Program Associate in Fitchburg and then Dodgeville.

WHEREAS, Michael L. Lawler 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 October 2016 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Michael a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

*Natural Resources Board*

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair

## **Retirement Resolution**

Mary S. Ripp, Ranger in Sturgeon Bay, WI at Potawatomi State Park, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on November 21, 2016 after 25 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

In her Ranger position, Mary served as the Law Enforcement lead-worker at Potawatomi State Park and Door County State Park Court Officer. Mary began working at Potawatomi on Memorial Day weekend 1993. Prior to Potawatomi, Mary worked at High Cliff (1992-93) and Mill Bluff (1991-92) State Parks as a seasonal Ranger, and as a limited-term Ranger at Whitefish Dunes State Park (1988-91).

Mary's duties at Potawatomi included administering all aspects of the law enforcement program, recruiting, training, and working closely with limited-term Rangers, as well as interacting with and assisting park visitors.

In addition to law enforcement, Mary assisted with maintenance, worked closely with park Naturalists, coordinated the Camp Host program, and actively worked with the Friends including assisting with the annual Run Wild event.

Throughout her career, Mary has been dedicated to her work, and has developed many close relationships with DNR staff, park visitors, volunteers, other agencies, and various other partners.

WHEREAS, Mary S. Ripp 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 October 2016 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Mary a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

*Natural Resources Board*

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair