

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Retirement Resolution -Steve Schram

**FOR:** OCTOBER 2009 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Matt Frank

**SUMMARY:**

Steve Schram will retire after 31 years of service to the citizens of the state of Wisconsin

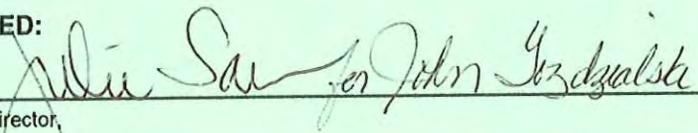
**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Retirement Resolution for Steve Schram

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- No  Fiscal Estimate Required
- No  Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
- No  Background Memo

- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached

**APPROVED:**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regional Director,

08-07-2009  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Administrator,

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secretary, Matt Frank

8-25-09  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8  
 Susan Krantz-NOR/Spooner

## *Retirement Resolution*

Steve Schram started his career in fisheries management with the Wisconsin DNR in the summer of 1976 as a Seasonal Natural Resources Specialist 1 – Assistant Area Fish Manager at Brule. He was hired as a permanent full time fish manager in 1978. He promoted through the Specialist series to Natural Resources Specialist 4 – Fish at Brule in 1983. In 1985 he was promoted to Natural Resources Supervisor 2 – Fish at Bayfield where he began his long working “affair” with Lake Superior. During the Department reorganization in 1997 when fisheries supervisor positions were discontinued Steve stayed working on the “Big Pond” being appointed to a position of Lake Superior Fish manager. When Fisheries supervisor positions were brought back to the Department in 2002 Steve once again became the Lake Superior Work Unit Supervisor and has held this position until retirement.

Steve began working with inland fisheries management but has spent the bulk of his career working on Lake Superior and its major tributaries. He has seen some difficult times including the saga of the first failed Brule River Lamprey Barrier which was sarcastically referred to as the “Schram Dam”. Steve inherited the failed dam which was already under construction and he oversaw its removal and replacement. The current barrier is effective and does double duty in measuring fish runs. He also was at the helm in working through contentious issues including the retirement of the majority of the non-tribal commercial fishing licenses on Lake Superior and the negotiation of State-Tribal agreements for tribal fish harvest from the lake. But he has also been the leader for Wisconsin in some remarkable success stories highlighted by the nearly complete rehabilitation of native lake trout stocks in the Apostle Islands and the emergence of Chequamegon Bay as a national destination for smallmouth bass fishing.

Steve has spent most of his career working at the top of Wisconsin and it may truly be said that he is now at the top of his field. He has been the author or co-author of numerous professional fisheries journal and DNR management reports on the diverse Lake Superior fishery. He was instrumental in developing the model which guides lake trout management on Lake Superior. He has mentored many DNR employees and graduate students from several universities who have completed thesis work which has helped advance the scientific understanding of Lake Superior fisheries. He is recognized by fisheries managers from other states and provinces surrounding Lake Superior as Wisconsin’s key player in joint management of the fishery.

Most people hope to look back on a career and be able to say that they made at least some small difference. Steve can honestly look back and say he has had a major influence on the preservation and improvement of the fishery resources of Lake Superior.

*WHEREAS*, Steve Schram 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 2009 meeting at Madison, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

*Natural Resources Board*

Christine Thomas, CHAIR