

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Retirement Resolution - Robert J. White

**FOR:** FEBRUARY 2010 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Matt Frank

**SUMMARY:**

Robert J. White will retire after more than 39 years of service to the citizens of the state of Wisconsin

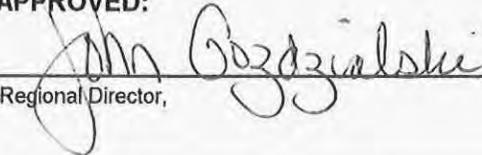
**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Retirement Resolution for Robert J. White

**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,

01-20-2010  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date  
  
2-3-10  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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

## *Retirement Resolution*

Robert J. White retired from the Department of Natural Resources on January 8, 2010 with nearly 40 years of service to the State of Wisconsin.

Bob began his career with the Wisconsin Conservation Department on March 30, 1970. His first job was as a seasonal Conservation Aid 2-Towerman at Tomah, Wisconsin, with a beginning pay rate of \$2.55 per hour. In addition to manning Norway Ridge or Greenfield fire towers during times of fire danger, Bob performed other fire control duties including tasks such as maintaining Conservation Department phone lines and fire towers, erecting property boundary signage, brushing for survey work, and picking up car killed deer.

In May of 1975 Bob transferred to the Webster Ranger Station. His position there was classified as a seasonal Natural Resource Assistant 1. His assigned fire fighting equipment consisted of a T-6 International tractor-plow with a surplus U.S. Army 6x6 tanker. During Bob's time at Webster he plowed on many fires, including two significant fires in 1977, the 13,375 acre Five Mile Tower Fire and on the following day, the 420 acre Turkey Farm Fire.

In December of 1978, Bob promoted and moved to a permanent, full time, Forest Fire Control Assistant 2 position at Ladysmith, where he would spend the next 31 years working out of the Ladysmith Ranger Station and Service Center. Bob found a home at Ladysmith, both at work and within the community. He raised a family at Ladysmith including his daughters, Heather and Andrea. He was active in the community, serving as a Rusk County EMT for 30 years. He has served as president of the local equestrian club, and was heavily involved with the development of the Copper Park Equestrian Trails.

When he moved to Ladysmith, Bob joined forces with Forest Ranger John Pohlman. Sharing a passion for forest fire fighting, Bob and John Pohlman formed a strong working relationship, as well as a life long friendship. In 1986 Bob was honored with John when they received the Governor's Distinguished Merit Award. Bob and John received the award for their work in co-authoring a guide that provides instructions for planning and installing dry fire hydrants. This guide, portions of which are part of the NFPA national standards, has become popular with fire departments across the US and Canada.

Bob's passion for fire fighting never waned over the years, including his passion for traveling to wherever the fire occurred. In 1973, he was a member of the first Wisconsin DNR out-of-state fire crew. Bob traveled to many states to fight wildland fire, including California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Texas and Florida, and to Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina duties. Bob also plowed on significant forest fires throughout Wisconsin, including the Four Corners, Oak Lake, Village, Canoe Landing Two, and Cottonville fires.

While Bob's work responsibilities and co-workers changed during his 39+ year career, he proved to be resilient and adaptable to changing environments and personnel. Bob served for many years as a Fire Equipment Certification (FEC) instructor for the Park Falls area. Late in his career his responsibilities included timber marking on the Rusk County Forest and helping to reconstruct roads on the Flambeau River State Forest. His co-workers appreciated Bob's willingness to lend a hand when it was needed.

*WHEREAS*, Robert J. White 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 February 2010 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*

Jonathan P. Ela, CHAIR