

## **2016 NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD**

*(revised 03/22/16)*

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board sets policy for the Department of Natural Resources and exercises authority and responsibility in accordance with governing statutory provisions. Chapter 15 of the Wisconsin Statutes delineates the formal duties of the seven-member board. Board members are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the state senate. Three members each must be selected from the northern and southern portions of the state and one member serves at large.

2011 Wisconsin Act 149 states that beginning May 1, 2017, at least 1 Board member must have an agricultural background and at least 3 Board members must have held a hunting, fishing, or trapping license in at least 7 of the 10 years before the year of nomination except if an individual served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces or national guard during the 10 years previous to the year in which the individual is nominated, the number of years in which the individual is required to have held an annual hunting, fishing, or trapping license equals 7 minus the number of years of active duty served during those 10 years. Terms expire on May 1.

The Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month in January, February, May, June, September, and October. The Board meets on the second Wednesday in April, August, and December. The Board does not have regular scheduled meetings in March, July, and November. Board meetings are held at the DNR Building in Madison from approximately September through April and at locations throughout the state from May through August. The [Board calendar](#) lists upcoming meetings.



Front row, from left: Gary Zimmer, Dr. Frederick Prehn, Julie Anderson (Secretary), and Greg Kazmierski (Vice-Chair)

Back row, from left: William Bruins, Terry Hilgenberg (Chair), and Preston Cole

**JULIE ANDERSON (Southern Member)**

Julie was raised in Hales Corners and spent her childhood summers at her grandparents' cottage along the shore of Lake Michigan, just north of Harrington Beach State Park. Those memorable experiences helped shape Julie's love of Wisconsin's state parks, nature and the Great Lakes.



Julie attended UW-Eau Claire and earned a bachelor of arts degree in Geography in 1990. Julie furthered her education by attending UW-Milwaukee where she obtained a master of arts degree in Geography in 1996.

Julie has been employed by Racine County since 1991, starting in the Planning & Development Department as a Zoning and Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Technician. Upon earning her Masters degree, she was promoted to senior land use planner in 1996. Julie was later promoted to a cabinet level position as the Director of Planning and Development in 2003. In January 2012, Julie was appointed director of a newly created department that merged several divisions, now known as Racine County Public Works and Development Services. This includes the division of development services, land conservation, unsewered sanitation, highways, parks, engineering, buildings and facilities and land information.

Julie has served on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for the Racine County Economic Development Corporation (RCEDC) since 2003 as an at-large member. In 2014, Julie received the public-sector Len Ziolkowski award for outstanding public service. Julie was also featured in the Kenosha News "She" magazine in the April/May 2013 edition for her work as Racine County's first female public works director. Julie also serves as the land use co-chair for the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission VISION 2050 Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan.

Julie has familiarity with various DNR regulations and several aspects of the DNR agency, with over 24 years of technical and practical experience with various subjects including, but not limited to, soils, private onsite waste-water treatment systems, drinking water supply, shoreland, floodplain, wetland, coastal, land use and non-metallic mining.

Julie and her family have camped and hiked in numerous Wisconsin State Parks and Recreation areas and they especially enjoy vacationing in the Crivitz area. Julie also enjoys fishing, golf and taking nature photos. Julie currently lives in Oak Creek with her husband of 24 years, Steve, and their 2 daughters.

Term expires May 1, 2021.

**WILLIAM BRUINS (At-Large Member)**



Bill Bruins was elected to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) Board of Directors in 1988 to represent District 5 on the board, which includes Juneau, Adams, Waushara, Marquette, Green Lake, Winnebago and Fond du Lac counties. Prior to being elected President, Bill served as the Board vice-president from 1997 until his election as president in 2003.

Bill is the general manager of his family's dairy partnership, Homeland Dairy, consisting of 600 milking cows and 1,300 acres of cropland.

Bill is the president of the Rural Mutual Insurance Board of Directors. He is a board member of the coordinating committee for the Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative, and was appointed to Governor Doyle's Bio-based Industry Consortium in 2005. He is also a member of the Farm Bureau Life Board of Directors and serves on the Farm Bureau Life Audit and Budget Committee. He currently serves on the UW Madison College of Ag and Life Sciences Board of Visitors and was appointed to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Board of Directors in May of 2011.

He has also served as vice president of the Equity Cooperative Livestock Association, on the Wisconsin Beef Council Board, and on the UW-Platteville Environmental Farm Steering Committee.

Over the years Bill has served on the National Rural Health and Safety Committee, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Dairy, Resolutions, and Rural Health and Safety Committees and the American Farm Bureau Federation Dairy Advisory Committee.

In Bill's early years with Farm Bureau, he served as chairman of the Young Farmers Committee in 1978, and was the Farm Bureau's Discussion Meet winner. Bill is a graduate of the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course.

Bill and his wife Mary have six children and 20 grandchildren. Bill participated in a gospel quartet for many years.

Term expires May 1, 2017.

**PRESTON D. COLE (Southern Member)**

Preston D. Cole holds a senior level appointed position as Director of Operations for the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works. This position acts as the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works. His span of control covers approximately 2,400 employees, \$300 million O&M and enterprise budgets, along with a \$108 million capital budget.



Additionally, Preston leads a team of innovators that improve department wide functions i.e., employee relations, construction contract management, re-development coordination, and communications activities.

Prior to his promotion to Director of Operations, Preston has served the Department as the Environmental Services Superintendent and City Forester. He has been employed by the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works since 1991.

Life prior to Milwaukee, Preston was Parks Superintendent for the City of St. Louis. He also served as a Resource Forester for Missouri Department of Conservation. Preston has the unique distinction of being the first African-American forester hired by that conservation department. Preston holds a Bachelor of Sciences degree from University of Missouri-Columbia in Forest Management.

Preston is a member of the mayor's "Milwaukee Green Team," where he and his colleagues seek to create a more sustainable Milwaukee through stormwater reduction practices, energy conservation programs, waste reduction initiatives, all while creating green jobs.

Preston recently completed a nine-year term with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD.) Preston served as chair 2007-2009. MMSD is a regional government agency that provides water reclamation and flood management for 1.1 million customers in 28 communities. MMSD serves 411 square miles that covers approximately six watersheds.

Currently, Preston is one of seven-members that make up Wisconsin's Natural Resources Board. In this capacity, Preston sets statewide policy for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding forestry, fisheries, wildlife, air, water and Stewardship programs.

Term expires May 1, 2019.

**TERRY HILGENBERG (Northern Member)**



Terry N. Hilgenberg is a Realtor and President of Coldwell Banker Hilgenberg Realtors® in Shawano. He has been in the real estate business since 1975. He also is President of Hilgenberg Realty, LLC specializing in commercial real estate in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and is a partner in Hilgenberg & Associates, Inc., an investment and development real estate company.

Terry became a licensed real estate broker in 1973 after graduating from UW-Madison with a masters degree in Real Estate and a BBA in accounting. He spent two years as a credit officer for the Ford Motor Credit Company at their world headquarters located in Dearborn, MI.

Terry has been very active in the local, state and national Realtors® Association. He served as President of the Wisconsin Realtors® Association in 1988 and was recognized as the State Realtor of the Year. He also has been the Regional Vice President and on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Realtors® as well as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Association Political Action Committee. He has held many positions with the local realtors association including Past President.

Being a second generation Realtor and real estate professional, Terry and his brother and partner, Phil, have been involved in all aspects of real estate, from residential to commercial to industrial to farm, recreational and development and investment real estate and auctions.

As a community-minded person, Terry has been President of the Shawano Rotary, Shawano Optimist, and Shawano Dollars for Scholars, Shawano Area Chamber of Commerce, Shawano County Economic Development, Inc. as well as being active and involved in civic fundraising efforts, including the building of two schools – a high school and an elementary school in Shawano, the Boy Scouts and Special Olympics. Terry is an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Shawano.

Terry and his wife Bonnie, a teacher in the Shawano school district, have resided on the Wolf River for more than 35 years. They are the proud parents of two children, Heidi and T.J. and have a granddaughter, Adelyn, and a grandson, Eliam.

Term expires May 1, 2017.

**GREG KAZMIERSKI (Southern Member)**

Growing up on a dairy farm in the rural community of Mukwonago inspired Greg's appreciation of Wisconsin's natural resources. He experienced firsthand the balance that can be achieved through sustainable management and the economic and agricultural use of resources.

Greg's rural experience also led to a life-long interest in many outdoor recreational activities, one of which ultimately became his career path. For more than three decades he believes he has been fortunate to share his passion of the outdoors in his successful sporting goods business in Delafield, Wisconsin.



His years of volunteer work for numerous organizations, testifying frequently before the state Natural Resources Board (NRB) and legislative committees, as well as serving on several stakeholder committees established by the NRB and DNR, have made him quite familiar with the process.

He brings to the board a diverse experience in the "regulated community" with a background in agriculture, as a former licensed water well driller, a forest and wetland owner, a business property owner, and an avid sportsman.

Term expires May 1, 2017.

**DR. FREDERICK PREHN (Northern Member)**



Dr. Frederick C. Prehn was born and raised in Wausau. He is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Wausau dentist and has been in practice in central Wisconsin for over 30 years, having earned his DDS degree at Marquette School of Dentistry after studying botany and bacteriology at both UW Marathon and the University of Wisconsin Madison. Prehn, along with his wife Linda, own and operate a cranberry marsh located in Monroe County. He also has a Federal Firearms license and is the owner and operator of Central Wisconsin Firearms, a successful retail business in downtown Wausau. He has four grown children.

Along with his busy dental practice, Prehn is chairman of Wisconsin's Best Cranberries Cooperative which represents 25 growers selling cranberry products in 15 countries. He introduced wind and solar energy on a large scale to the cranberry industry and runs two large wind generators and solar array on his farm. He also served on the Wisconsin Cranberry Board that funds research, education, and promotion of Wisconsin cranberries.

His civic involvement is varied and broad. Prehn served on and was past president of the Wausau School District Board of Education. He serves on various Aspirus Wausau Hospital and state dental committees. He is a member of the Land O Lakes and Wausau Airport Commissions. As a member of the Walter Alexander Foundation he has helped make Wisconsin a better place. He is civic minded and believes in giving back to his community.

Prehn is an avid outdoorsman and has held Wisconsin hunting and fishing licenses for over 45 years. He is an active member of many conservation groups such as Whitetails Unlimited, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, and Ducks Unlimited. He has the upmost respect for our outdoors and recreation. As an Eagle Scout, Scoutmaster, and later as Samoset Council BSA President, Prehn has introduced many youth to the wonders of Wisconsin's woods and streams.

Prehn also is an accomplished mountain climber who started his skills on the granite of Rib Mountain and Eau Claire Dells in Central Wisconsin as a child. He has climbed many 14,000 foot peaks in the western U.S. and has summited the highest point in the Americas which is located in Argentina called Mt. Aconcagua at 22,841 ft.

Dr. Prehn has many hobbies, including collecting old cars, flying, avid skier, scuba diving, hunting, fishing, shooting sports, cycling, mountaineering, and amateur radio---but nothing compares to casting musky bait on one of northern Wisconsin's clean clear lakes in late November.

Term expires May 1, 2021.

**GARY ZIMMER (Northern Member)**

Gary Zimmer, from Laona, retired in June of 2015 after 14 1/2 years as the Coordinating Biologist for the Ruffed Grouse Society in the Society's Western Great Lakes Region. Zimmer received his B.S. in Wildlife Management and M.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. His graduate work involved the first comprehensive survey of breeding common loons across Wisconsin. Zimmer is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and federally licensed migratory bird bander.



His first formal work assignment was as a Limited Term Employee with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for three years conducting waterfowl research on Horicon and Grand River Marshes. Following that assignment he began an 18 year career with the US Forest Service working in forest and wildlife management on the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest. For the last 12 years on the Forest he was a District Wildlife Biologist on the Lakewood/Laona Ranger District. Zimmer left the US Forest Service in December of 2000 for a position as a Regional Biologist with the Ruffed Grouse Society, a non-profit conservation organization.

Zimmer has previous board experience having been the conservation representative for seven years on the Board of the Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association and later the Great Lakes Timber Profession's Association. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Lake States Resource Alliance for six years including two as the Alliance's treasurer.

He served as a third party joint SFI/FSC auditor for forest certification audits of the Wisconsin State Forests, Wisconsin County Forests, Ohio State Forests, Menominee Tribal Lands and additional Wisconsin state managed properties.

Zimmer is an Eagle Scout and since 1982 has been caretaker/ranger for the 1120 acre LeFeber Northwoods Boy Scout Camp owned and operated by the Three Harbor's Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He and his wife Olivia live on the camp property and have raised three daughters there. He enjoys playing softball, running, hunting, fishing, gardening, bird watching, making maple syrup and participates as a citizen monitor for numerous wildlife surveys each year. His family also owns property in Forest County that they enjoy being the land stewards of.

Term expires May 1, 2019.