Form 1100-001
(R 2/07)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 7.A.6

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution-James R. Keir

FOR: JUNE, 2007 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Scott Hassett

SUMMARY:
James R. Keir retired after more than 33 years of service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Retirement Resolution for James R. Keir

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No	☑	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☑	Environmental Assessment or Impact Stetement Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☑	Background Memo	Yes	☐	Attached

APPROVED:

Scott Humrickhouse — 5/14/07
Regional Director, Scott Humrickhouse — Date

Administrator, — Date

Scott A. Hassett — 5/21/07
Secretary, Scott Hassett — Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/5
Colleen Higgins-Eau Claire

Retirement Resolution

James R. ("Jim") Keir retired from the Department of Natural Resources on May 29, 2007 with over 33 years of dedicated service to the people and resources of the State of Wisconsin.

After graduating from the University of Maine, Jim did his graduate work at the UW-Madison, graduating in 1973 with a Masters Degree in Wildlife Biology. Jim did his graduate research on red tailed hawks.

Jim was hired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a Wildlife Biologist in January 1974 and was stationed in Friendship with responsibility for Adams and Juneau Counties. Jim is a dedicated "wildlifer" and spent his entire career doing wildlife work out of this station. This longevity at one station allowed Jim to develop relationships and knowledge that made him a very effective and productive Wildlife Biologist.

In 1982 Jim was given the additional responsibility for management of project lands in Central Wisconsin dedicated to the State's remaining Greater Prairie chicken population. This involved management of 13,000 acres of land spread over 3 counties in 3 separate projects. Jim took this assignment with great enthusiasm and over the years became the agencies expert on the Greater Prairie Chicken and its management. Jim was innovative in his approach to management and was able to work with local farmers to develop and maintain a high percentage of project lands using sharecropping and grazing agreements.

Very early, Jim recognized the need for more lands spread over a much larger area to truly secure the future of Wisconsin's prairie chickens. In 1990 Jim developed the idea of a landscape scale project to protect the necessary grassland acres over a large enough area to secure the future for the prairie chicken. In October of 2004 persistence and dedication paid off when this idea came to fruition with Natural Resources Board approval of the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area (CWGCA). This visionary and ambitious project is intended to provide grassland habitat through acquisition and by working in partnership with other organizations and the farm community. Since Jim took charge of the prairie chicken lands over 3000 acres of additional lands have been secured.

Jim's land protection efforts on behalf of Wisconsin's prairie chickens and the establishment of the CWGCA are accomplishments that will continue to benefit all grassland species in Central Wisconsin into the future.

WHEREAS, the dedication, professionalism, and competence of Jim Keir have earned him the admiration and respect of the public he served and his colleagues and associates throughout the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its June 2007 meeting at Waukesha, 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