Form 1100-001
(R 9/07)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 4.A.1

SUBJECT: 2007 and 2008 Rebecca Wallace Award

FOR: DECEMBER 2008 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Matt Frank

SUMMARY:

This award has been presented annually, except for a one year hiatus in 2007, at a NRB meeting by the DNR Secretary. DNR employees nominate a co-worker to receive this award in honor of Becky Wallace. Becky was Chief of the Nonpoint Source Management Section (now Runoff Management) in the Bureau of Watershed Management. Becky was an 18 year veteran employe of DNR who was killed in an automobile accident, along with her husband Lyle, in February of 1997. He staff developed this award in memory of Becky and her distinct ability to balance her professional career with her family and community.

This year we selected two nominees for the award to continue the annual tradition, making up for 2007 when no award was given.

Announcement will be made at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

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

APPROVED:

Bureau Director, _____ Date _____

Administrator, _____ Date _____

Secretary, Matt Frank _____ Date _____

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8

The Rebecca Wallace Memorial Award

Rebecca R. Wallace had been an environmental engineer with the Department of Natural Resources, since 1979. At the time of her death, she was Chief of the Runoff Management Section, in the Watershed Management Bureau. Becky was a persistent advocate for improvement and protection of Wisconsin's water resources. Her vision for the state's Nonpoint Program was clear and succinct: "Clean Water". Becky became a symbol of what goals could be achieved through not only hard work and dedication, but also with compassion and empathy for others. Becky and her husband, Lyle, died in an automobile accident on February 22, 1997, leaving three children, Spencer, Mitch, and Jeremy.

In February 1997, the Natural Resources Board passed a memorial resolution honoring Becky Wallace. As part of that resolution, the Board established the Rebecca Wallace Memorial Award. Becky's staff were instrumental in the development of the criteria and guidelines for this award. Each year an award is given to an employee nominated for making the greatest contribution toward either the improvement of relationships with external partner agencies and organizations on environmental quality issues or mentoring of Department staff. The first award was presented in June, 1998, by Governor Tommy Thompson. In another tribute to Becky, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed 1997 Assembly Resolution 25, honoring both her career with the DNR and her strong commitment to her family.

The Natural Resources Board resolution states that the award is:

> "to be awarded annually to the employee making the greatest contribution toward either the improvement of relationships with external partner agencies and organizations on mutually-shared environmental quality issues or the mentoring of Department staff."

Mr. James McEvoy, a retired DNR artist from Brooklyn, Wisconsin, created a pen and ink watercolor for the award. A print is given to each award recipient.