

# NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 7.A.4

**SUBJECT:** RETIREMENT RESOLUTION FOR GARY A. HOLZBAUER

**FOR:** MAY, 2008 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** MATT FRANK, DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

**SUMMARY:**

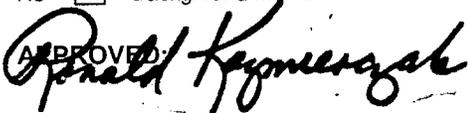
Gary A. Holzbauer will retire after 34 years of service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

**RECOMMENDATION:** BOARD APPROVAL AND ADOPTION

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

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

- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached

**APPROVE:** 

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/5

*4/22/08*

## *Retirement Resolution*

Gary A. Holzbauer retired from the Department of Natural Resources on March 31, 2008 after completing over 34 years of dedicated service to the people of the State Wisconsin. Gary began his career as Seasonal Park Ranger at Big Foot Beach State Park in Lake Geneva. He was reallocated to Natural Assistant I in May of 1973 and completed the training to become a certified law enforcement credentialed officer in March of 1974.

On April 1, 1974 Gary was promoted to Foreman of the Thunder River Hatchery in Crivitz. His duties included planning, administrating and directing the fish propagation program at the hatchery to raise trout and salmon to stock for fishing in the waters of the state. He was responsible for transporting fingerling to the station, feeding fish, monitoring fish health, treating fish disease and stocking fish.

Gary planned and directed the maintenance of the Thunder River Hatchery buildings and grounds. He took pride in sustaining the scenic grounds for visitors to enjoy and in retaining the rustic log buildings to preserve the historic aspects of this early era hatchery. He refurbished the buildings and brought the electrical system up to standard to meet code requirements. He completed fish rearing pond repairs and developed the first alarm system to detect rising waters from the river system supply water. Many long nights had to be spent dealing with high water and flood threats from rapid snow melt or heavy rain events to protect the facility infrastructure and the trout and salmon in the ponds.

Gary implemented many innovations over the years. He developed and wrote the first computer propagation feeding projection program from scratch. He wrote the program on the first generation personal computers available, using the now antique, VIC-20 and Commodore 64 computers. The program was tailored for Thunder River and based on historical water temperature units and the growth potential for brown trout. The program calculated the amount of food to feed fish through the rearing season as the fish grew. The results lead to efficient use of feed, less waste in the ponds and consistently meeting the facility quotas for fish production. The program was adapted to modern computers and is still in use today.

Gary also developed a fish health vaccination system utilizing two nested and hinged fish baskets. The vaccination system allowed the proper dosage to be set in the larger basket while the fish were exposed for the proper time in the nested mesh basket. The system enabled treating a substantial number of fish at the proper dosage in an efficient manor without added stress to the fish.

**WHEREAS**, Gary A. Holzbauer 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 May 2008 meeting at Milwaukee, 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