

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 7.A.7

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution - Paul Kooiker

FOR: MAY, 2008 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Matt Frank

SUMMARY:

Paul Kooiker will retire with 35 years of service to the citizens of the state of Wisconsin.

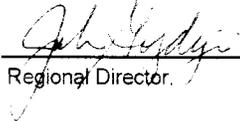
RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Retirement Resolution for Paul Kooiker.

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.

4-28-08

 Date

 Administrator.

 Date

 Secretary, Matt Frank

 Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/5

Cc: Susan Krantz NOR/Spooner

Retirement Resolution

Paul A. Kooiker, Natural Resources Area Wildlife Supervisor for the St. Croix Area at Grantsburg, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on June 14, 2008, after 35 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Upon graduating from the University of Michigan, at East Lansing earning a Master of Science Degree in Wildlife Ecology, Paul began his career working for the Department in 1972 as a Wildlife Manager in Neillsville. Paul quickly advanced to an Assistant Area Manager in Neillsville and served in an exceptional manner in that capacity until 1980. During his initial years, Paul was formally recognized for his qualities of patience and persistence which increased the Department's credibility. These qualities formed Paul's legacy and hallmark for the rest of his long career with the Department. For the next 17 years, Paul served as the Natural Resources Supervisor for the Glacial Lake Grantsburg Work Unit where he administered multi-faceted programs on the Crex Meadows, Fish Lake, Amsterdam Sloughs and Danbury Wildlife Area's. Paul was responsible for completing and dedicating the first Ducks Unlimited Habitat USA Project at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. In addition, Paul was the driving force, along with help from many others, to turn the Crex Educational Facility from concept into reality. Paul continued his broad approach to resource management as a Natural Resource Basin Supervisor for the Burnett Sub-team from 1997 to 2002. Throughout the Department's reorganization, Paul served as a "steady hand" and became a force to further integration with forestry, parks, and wildlife programs. Paul completed his career as the St. Croix Area Wildlife Supervisor covering Burnett, Washburn, Polk and Barron County's.

Paul has consistently been a high performer and a "class act to follow". His humble yet relentless approach to protect and enhance our natural resources through a team approach has been emulated and passed on to many. His leadership with land acquisition in the Northwestern Wisconsin has and will continue to protect fish and wildlife resources, forest and water resources and be enjoyed by generations to come. Paul exemplified his dedication to resource management by integrating wildlife, forestry, and fisheries management on State Managed Fishery Properties. Throughout his career he worked diligently in developing partnerships with local landowners, a wide spectrum of natural resource enthusiasts, and the Conservation Congress. In addition, Paul worked hand-in-hand with the Bureau of Endangered Resources to manage osprey, trumpeter swans and has played a critical role in all aspects of Karner Blue Butterfly recovery efforts.

Paul's legacy was built on how he worked together with others for a common cause. In fact, the qualities that he admired the most in the people he worked with throughout his career were the qualities he portrayed himself. According to Paul, he "admired creativity and the ability to think outside the box: a passionate dedication to the wildlife "cause"; and above all a healthy dose of common sense". Paul's retirement letter capsulated his career well when he stated that he would be working right on through until the effective date of his retirement. Paul ended his career the way he started it, with passion, dedication, and a cooperative spirit. Paul's commitment to protecting our wildlife resources will continue to benefit the State of Wisconsin through the legacy he has passed on to others.

WHEREAS, Paul Kooiker 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