

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution - Buzz H. Vahradian

FOR: JUNE **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Matt Frank

SUMMARY:

Buzz H. Vahradian retired April 10, 2009 after 24+ years of state service.

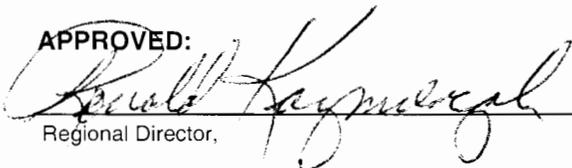
RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Retirement Resolution for Buzz H. Vahradian

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,

5/04/09

 Date

 Administrator,

 Date

 Secretary, Matt Frank

 Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8
 Todd VanDen Heuvel-NER

Retirement Resolution

Buzz H. Vahradian will retire from service with the Wisconsin DNR in April, 2009 with more than 24 years of exemplary service to citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Buzz began his career with the Department as a Forestry Aide in Eau Claire. He completed forestry work in Neillsville, Hayward, Eau Claire, Tomahawk, Conover, Crandon, Nekoosa and Babcock. In 1994, Buzz transferred to the Waupaca eventually becoming the Forester/Ranger, a position he held for eight years. While in Waupaca the forestry program flourished. Team accomplishments during this time include completing an average of 90 MFL plans per year, establishing 800 acres/year of MFL timber sales, suppressing an average of 52 forest fires per year, administering cost-sharing an average of 30 practices per year, and planting an average of 350,000 trees per year with a peak year of 700,000, training 18 fire departments, and enforcing the forestry laws.

In 2002 Buzz promoted to Forestry Team Leader. Under his leadership the Waupaca Team was able to clean up one of the largest MFL practice backlogs in the State, complete State Lands inventory, develop Area prescription standards, an Area silvicultural checklist, Area time accounting system, and a field checking procedure to evaluate marked and unmarked timber sales. Buzz served on the Waupaca Incident Management Team and worked on the Blue Moon Fire, the Crystal Lake Fire, and the Emmons Creek Complex.

Buzz served on the DNR Private Lands Management Team, the Silviculture Team, the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program team, and the Cooperating Plan Writer team. He is the primary author for the new Oak Chapter of the Silviculture Handbook and has provided important comment on a range of Forestry Division policies. Buzz did a great job of mentoring young foresters and counseling older foresters. He served as a trusted advisor to the Northeast Regional Forester, Wautoma Team Leader, the Waupaca Area Forestry Leader, and was an important part of the NER Forestry Leadership Team.

He is a member of the Society of American Foresters and a life member of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners. Buzz has been instrumental in the development and delivery of the Department landowner programs to help our current partners and engage those who have not yet become partners in forestry.

Throughout his career, Buzz has set the standard for promoting quality, accomplishment, professionalism, and accountability in the Forestry program and the Forestry profession. He is truly a champion of and an advocate for sustainable forestry. In February of 2009, his contributions were recognized by Waupaca County when they presented Buzz the "Friend of Conservation" award.

WHEREAS, Mr. Vahradian has been a critical member of the Department of Natural Resources – Forestry Division's Forest Management and Fire Management programs, he has faithfully served the people of the State of Wisconsin for the past 24+ years, and will be missed by those who had the privilege of working with him:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its June 2009 meeting at New Richmond, 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