

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Retirement Resolution - Steven J. Michalko

**FOR:** SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Secretary Matt Frank

**SUMMARY:**

Steven J. Michalko is retiring July 31, 2009 after 33 years of state service.

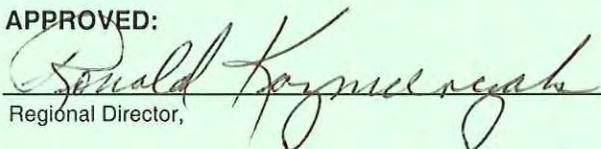
**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Retirement Resolution for Steven J. Michalko

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

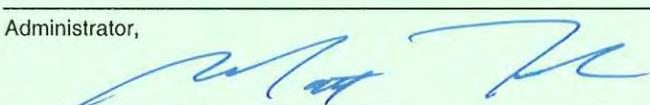
- No  Fiscal Estimate Required
- No  Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
- No  Background Memo

- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached

**APPROVED:**

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

7/20/09  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date  
8-25-09  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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

## *Retirement Resolution*

Steven J. Michalko retired from the Department of Natural Resources on July 31, 2009 with more than 33 years of dedicated and committed service to the State of Wisconsin and its' citizens.

Steve began his career with the DNR in April 1976 as a seasonal Natural Resource Assistant stationed at the Goodman Ranger Station. His principle duties in this capacity were wild land fire suppression. He was promoted to a Forest Fire Control Assistant I (FFCA-I) soon after. In July 1978, Steve transferred to the Wausaukee Ranger Station as a permanent full-time FFCA I. In January 1984, Steve was again promoted to FFCA II, and relocated to Hayward where he worked until 1989; he then transferred to the Whiting Ranger Station. Soon after, Steve transferred to the Oconto Falls Ranger Station where he has worked since 1990, and remained there until his retirement. In the early 1990's Steve's position was reclassified more appropriately to a forest technician, and again in 2000, to a Forestry Technician – Advanced due to the expanding role and varied nature of the position which performs a wide range of both forest management and fire control duties.

During the course of his outstanding career, Steve accumulated many notable achievements. For example, Steve served as the Oconto Falls Ranger in an acting capacity from May 2000 to January 2001. This period of service earned him the distinction and deserved recognition from his peers, and was selected Forestry Technician of the Year – 2000. Because of his wild land fire expertise, Steve also functioned as a valued member of several other team activities including the Forestry Training Cadre for statewide fire training courses such as Engine Boss, Dozer Boss and Strike Team Leader, and the Forestry Equipment and Safety Specialist Team. Steve was also nationally qualified in several wildfire capacities.

Steve was a well-seasoned wild land firefighter, both locally and nationally. During his career, Steve contributed to firefighting efforts in California, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Michigan, Florida, Oklahoma and in Ontario, Canada. In recognition of his professionalism, leadership and expertise in wild land fire suppression, Steve received numerous commendations from external partners as well. In 1999, Steve received a Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management for his participation as a member of the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Team.

Steve was known as a talented coach and mentor to many forest technicians and foresters alike. His common sense approach to solving complex challenges and fairness to all earned him the respect of his co-workers, colleagues and supervisors. Steve leaves the Department with a proven track record of distinguished performance, leadership and exemplary service.

*WHEREAS*, Steven J. Michalko 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 September 2009 meeting at Sturgeon Bay, 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