

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution - Tom Blackwood

FOR: APRIL 2010 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Matt Frank

SUMMARY:

Tom Blackwood will retire after more than 30 years of service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

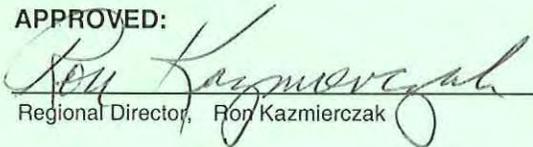
RECOMMENDATION:

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:



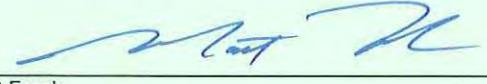
 Regional Director, Ron Kazmierczak

1/27/10

 Date

 Administrator,

 Date



 Secretary, Matt Frank

3-29-10

 Date

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

Retirement Resolution

On December 28, 2009, Thomas C. Blackwood retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Tom was hired as a Park Supervisor Trainee in 1979, assigned to the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Southern Unit and Peninsula State Park. Tom was promoted to the Assistant Superintendent at Peninsula State Park in 1982. In 1986, he was promoted to Superintendent and served in that capacity until his retirement in 2009. Tom's commitment to Peninsula State Park is evident. He oversaw more than 125 development and facilities improvement projects at the park over a 25-year span. These all served to protect the park's resources, improve its infrastructure and better serve over one million park visitors each year. He administered and developed various contracts and nurtured productive partnerships with Peninsula Golf Associates, American Folklore Theatre, Door County Historical Society, Nicolet Bay Concessions and the Friends of Peninsula State Park. He oversaw over \$2 million in improvements to Peninsula State Park Golf Course in partnership with Peninsula Golf Associates. Tom hired the Park's first full-time Naturalist, thereby developing one of the most ambitious educational, resource management and public outreach programs in the State Park System. Tom served as the Northeast Region's representative to the Parks Management Team for five years. He chaired the State Parks Administrative Procedures Committee for many years. He was the recipient of the State Parks Community Service Award in 1996 and the Northeast Region Employee of the year award in 2008. He served on the Board of Gibraltar Area Schools for nine years. Tom also represented the park on a committee that developed portions of the Town of Gibraltar's Smart Growth Plan.

In 1985, Tom started a column in the local newspaper entitled 'Your State Parks'. The column dealt with a myriad of topics related to the county's five State Parks as well as the State Park System in general. That column continues to this day. Tom's love of the outdoors and the natural world was apparent as well as his sincere desire that others share in that experience.

WHEREAS, Tom Blackwood 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 April 2010 meeting at Green 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

Jonathan P. Ela, CHAIR