

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Retirement Resolution - Robert E. Strous Jr.

**FOR:** FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

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

**SUMMARY:**

Robert E. Strous Jr. retired on January 29, 2010 after 24 years with the Department, including over 20 years in the Remediation and Redevelopment Program.

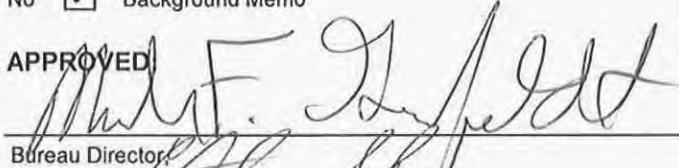
**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Retirement Resolution for Robert E. Strous Jr.

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

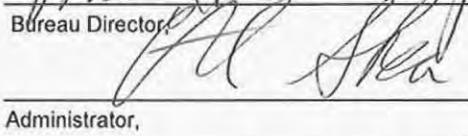
- No  Fiscal Estimate Required
- No  Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
- No  Background Memo

- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached

**APPROVED**

  
Bureau Director

11/7/10  
Date

  
Administrator

1/10/10  
Date

  
Secretary, Matt Frank

2-3-10  
Date

## *Retirement Resolution*

Robert E. Strous Jr. is retiring from the Department of Natural Resources on January 29, 2010 after completing more than 24 years of service to the citizens and resources of the State of Wisconsin.

Bob began his career as an LTE in the Groundwater Section of the Water Resource Management Bureau on June 22, 1985. He moved on to the Water Grants Program as a project employee on March 17, 1986 and was promoted to a permanent position in July, 1987. Bob transferred to the Bureau of Waste Management in July 1989 and served as an Environmental Repair Program Coordinator until promoted to Unit Leader in June 1991. Creation of the Remediation and Redevelopment Program in 1996 led to Bob's assignment as Team Leader of the State-Funded Response Team in January, 1997. Bob was promoted to Section Chief of the Fiscal & Program Evaluation Section (now Fiscal & Information Technology Section) on Feb 15, 1998. Bob has served as Section Chief until his retirement.

Bob's career with the Remediation & Redevelopment Program has focused on the administrative aspects of program operations (budget & personnel) and on the cleanup of orphaned sites through the State-Funded Response component of the program. Bob has quietly "kept the train on the tracks" through numerous budget cycles both good and not so good. Bob is the recognized authority on contract procurement and administration. He and his staff have overseen the responsible expenditure of millions of dollars from the Environmental Fund for hundreds of projects across the state. Through his efforts the state's groundwater resources are safer and countless sites are able to be redeveloped and used without fear of chemical contamination. Bob's pride in working productively with staff throughout the Department and with contractors and municipal officials is well-recognized and appreciated. Under his guidance (and with the contributions of many others) the RR Program's Information Technology capabilities have grown to be a nationally recognized system with a comprehensive database of sites in Wisconsin that is second to none.

Bob and his wife Cheryl Rezabek were pioneers in alternative energy, living "off grid" since 1994. Bob brought that passion to his work and was instrumental in installing solar electric panels at the Refuse Hideaway Landfill Superfund site as one of his last projects before retiring.

*WHEREAS*, Robert E. Strous Jr. 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 February 2010 meeting at Madison, 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