

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

**SUBJECT:** Retirement resolutions

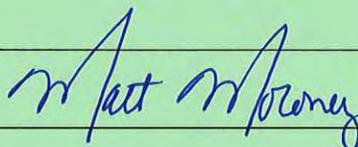
**FOR:** January 2013 Board meeting

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Secretary Stepp

**SUMMARY:** The Department requests the following employees be recognized and commended for faithful and exemplary public service:

Employee	Years of Service
1. Robin Capen	35
2. Don Hoefft	26
3. Kerry Isensee	18
4. Terry Mace	32
5. Patrick McKee	37
6. Gregory Pilarski	36
7. John Torke	30

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board adopt the retirement resolutions for January 2013.

Approved by	Signature	Date
, Bureau Director N/A		
, Administrator N/A		
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		1/11/13

cc: Board Liaison - AD/8

## **Retirement Resolution**

Robin Capen, Air Management Engineer in Rhineland, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on January 8, 2013 after 35 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Robin began his service with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on November 7, 1977 as an Electronics Technician for monitoring with the Air Program in Milwaukee.

Robin worked full time PLUS went to college to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from the Milwaukee School of Engineering in Milwaukee on February 22, 1991. Robin was his class valedictorian! He passed the Engineer in Training exam in April 1991 and the Professional Engineer exam in October 1991.

On June 14, 1992 Robin began work as an Air Management Engineer in Rhineland writing air pollution control permits for facilities in the North Central District. Robin worked his way up through the engineer classifications to the advance level and moved from writing permits to doing compliance work.

Significant achievements over Robin's carrier include organizing the District-wide workshop in 1994, filling is as upper Chippewa Basin land leader in 1998, volunteer for opening day deer registration for most of the years he has worked in Rhineland and CWD work at many locations.

WHEREAS, Robin Capen 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 January 2013 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Robin a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, Chair

## *Retirement Resolution*

Don Hoeft retired in January of 2013 after more than 26 years of service to the State of Wisconsin.

Don began his career with the Department of Natural Resources in May of 1986 at the Hayward State Nursery. He was hired by Nursery Superintendent John Borkenhagen as a Natural Resource Assistant 2 seasonal employee. Don was promoted in February of 1989 to a full time position as a Natural Resource Technician 1. During his 11 years at the Nursery Don performed a wide variety of duties including buildings and grounds maintenance, soil maintenance, seedbed preparation, hand and mechanical seeding, stock fertilizing, and lifting and shipping of tree stock. Don was a crew leader during spring tree shipping seasons and even returned after his tenure to assist when the unit was short-handed.

In April of 1997 Don transferred to a Forestry Technician position at the Winter Ranger Station. While at Winter Don was assigned duties for forest fire control suppression with heavy equipment within the Winter Fire Response Unit. Don also regularly performed forest management work on the Sawyer County Forest and the Flambeau River State Forest, and occasionally on private lands. Don did significant improvements to fire towers he was responsible for, and assisted or advised fellow forestry technicians in their efforts to repair or improve their fire towers. During these years Don also made significant contributions to the regular maintenance of the Tuscobia State Trail.

In 2005 Don transferred to a position where his home station continued to be the Winter Ranger Station, but he reported to Hayward for his fire control duties and to the Flambeau River State Forest for forest management and heavy equipment operation. At Hayward Don operated Hayward 1 heavy unit and assisted with the wildland fire program in the Hayward Fire Response Unit. Don traveled out of state on more than one occasion for wildland fire suppression duties as an engine operator and tractor plow operator. At the Flambeau River State Forest, Don assisted with timber sale establishment and administration, including scaling timber on active timber sales in the winter months. He built or improved many miles of forest roads and recreational trails. Don undertook and oversaw several capital development/repair projects including the renovation of 60 miles of hunter walking trails, improvement projects on campgrounds and campsites, and roof replacement on 2 buildings at the Winter Ranger Station.

Don was a team player; he regularly adjusted his work schedule to accommodate the completion of projects. Don volunteered on multiple occasions to work clearing trails with chainsaws and heavy equipment in State Parks, State Forests, and State Trails. This work was hot, difficult, and dangerous, but Don was always one of the first to volunteer to help. Don willingly assisted other Department programs over the years, including the Wildlife program where he helped register deer in the old days, and helped erect Elk traps in more recent times.

Over the years many co-workers came to know Don's generous nature, and many were surprised with unexpected gifts or donations of leave from Don.

*WHEREAS*, Don Hoeft 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 January 2013 meeting at Madison, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Don a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

*Natural Resources Board*

David Clausen, CHAIR

## **Retirement Resolution**

Kerry Isensee, Natural Resources Property Supervisor in Pattison and Amnicon State Parks, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on April 5, 2013 after 18 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Kerry began his career with the National Park Service in 1977 as a Park Ranger at the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway out of Pine City, MN. In 1983, he was promoted to Chief, Interpretation & Resource Management (Chief Ranger) at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield near Springfield, MO. In 1989, he was promoted to Chief, Resource Management & Visitor Services (Chief Ranger), and later served as Assistant Superintendent, at Petrified Forest National Park in northeast Arizona.

He began work for the WI DNR in 1994 as Superintendent of Pattison and Amnicon Falls State Parks. During his time at these parks, he oversaw construction of a new office, shower building, and stone storage building at Pattison State Park, construction of five sets of modern pit toilets, redesign of the main parking lots, and installation of the Pattison septic system. He helped form the Friends of Pattison and Amnicon Falls State Parks. Kerry was very effective at maintaining and improving park facilities, and dedicated to improving visitor experiences at both Pattison and Amnicon Falls State Parks.

WHEREAS, Kerry Isensee 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 January 2013 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Kerry a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

**Natural Resources Board**

David Clausen, Chair

## **Retirement Resolution**

Terry Mace, Forest Product Specialist in Madison, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on December 28, 2012 after 32 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Terry's efforts over the last three decades have had profound impact on the state, the forest products industry, and forest landowners. One of Terry's greatest successes has been to help create and implement Wisconsin Act 208 - Wisconsin Local use Dimensional Lumber Grading. This act has since enabled over 250 people to use timber grown on their land to be used in the construction of a home.

DNR staff, partners, and businesses recognize Terry for his depth of knowledge and eagerness to provide advice and creative ideas to solve problems. A prime example of this was in 2007 when Terry helped promote new equipment that expanded red pine markets and as a result, a local sawmill invested in the equipment which produced approximately 75 jobs in the mill and woods.

Terry has helped companies grow and weather down turns in the economy by helping them expand their markets globally and develop new ones. Terry has travelled the world to advertise Wisconsin wood and value added products. Due to his efforts, most major mills have found markets and are exporting hardwood lumber.

WHEREAS, Terry Mace 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 January 2013 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Terry a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, Chair

## **Retirement Resolution**

Patrick McKee, Advance Fisheries Technician in Sturgeon Bay, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on December 1, 2012 after over 37 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Pat began his career as a Seasonal Ranger at Devil's Lake State Park. He transferred to Fisheries in Sturgeon Bay as a Natural Resource Assistant in 1975, and promoted to Natural Resources Technician in 1982. He later promoted to Advanced Fisheries Techniciau. Pat completed his Master's Degree from UW Green Bay stndying Nipigon brook trout iu Lake Michigan while working a fulltime job with the Department.

Pat's list of accomplishments and contributions over his career is long and diverse. During his early years on the fisheries team Pat worked on a variety of commercial fisheries management projects. He spent many hours aboard commercial fishing vessels monitoring catches and conducting surveys on various research vessels.

Starting in the early 1980's, Pat led Wisconsin's Lake Michigan lake trout restoration efforts. He logged many nautical miles on various research vessels in the roughest of weather. He author or coauthored many lake trout papers, plans, and reports which form the cornerstone of our present and future lake trout managent.

WHEREAS, Patrick McKee 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 January 2013 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Patrick a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, Chair

## **Retirement Resolution**

Gregory R. Pilarski, District Park Supervisor in the Southeast District, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on December 28, 2012 after 36 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Greg began his career in 1976 working for the Water Regulation and Zoning Program, Milwaukee. In 1981 as the SED Water Management Coordinator he assisted in the development of the Water Regulation Administrative Codes and was instrumental in rolling out the first Shoreland Wetland Zoning program.

In 1987 Greg served as the contact for the Milwaukee Water Cryptosporidium outbreak and helped develop the initial protocols for Milwaukee's public water supply. In 1996 he was appointed supervisor for the SE Fox Basin. He was Chairman of the Fox River Partnership and a representative to the Fox River Commission. In 2001 Greg became the Basin Supervisor for the Milwaukee/Sheboygan Land programs. He was a member of the Milwaukee - Sheboygan River Partnerships and served on the Outdoor Skills Guidance Team.

In 2002 Greg was appointed Regional Parks Supervisor and served there until his retirement. He supervised the development of Lakeshore State Park, the Hank Aaron State Trail, and the Harrington Beach campground. For 18 years he also coordinated the Dept's State Fair participation.

WHEREAS, Gregory R. Pilarski 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 January 2013 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Gregory R. a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, Chair

## **Retirement Resolution**

John Torke, Real Estate Specialist in Milwaukee, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on December 28, 2012 after 30 plus years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

John began his career with the Department in March 1982 as a real estate specialist working out of the Southeast Region - Headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His primary responsibilities included reviewing and certifying appraisals for grant purposes and Department land acquisition activities throughout the Southeast Region.

Over the course of his career, John has been instrumental in acquiring significant properties throughout the Southeast Region. The Hausmann Nature Center and the Young Prairie acquisitions in the Kettle Moraine State Forest are two prominent examples. John was also actively involved in the establishment of the 20,000 acre North Branch of the Milwaukee River and Farming Heritage Area in Sheboygan, Washington and Ozaukee Counties.

Throughout his career, John excelled at providing exceptional customer service both internally and to the general public. His enthusiastic approach to his job and co-workers, advocacy for fiscal conservatism, and his diligence in maintaining a high standard of service, reflects well on a career of outstanding achievement.

WHEREAS, John Torke 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 January 2013 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes John a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, Chair