

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution-Duane Lahti

FOR: AUGUST 2009 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Matt Frank

SUMMARY:

Duane Lahti will retire after 29+ years of service to the citizens of the state of Wisconsin.


RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Retirement Resolution for Duane Lahti

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

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

- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached

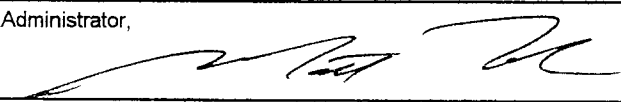
APPROVED:



 Regional Director,

6/3/09

 Date

 Administrator,


 Secretary, Matt Frank

 Date
6-22-09

 Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8
Susan Krantz-NOR Spooner

Retirement Resolution

Duane Lahti retired from the Department of Natural Resource in January 2009, having served the citizens of Wisconsin by enhancing and preserving the natural resources of the Lake Superior Basin for nearly thirty years. Duane began his career as a limited term employee working on a fishery habitat crew in Brule. In November of 1980 Duane was hired as the Brule Area Water Regulation and Zoning Specialist, a position where he spent much of his career. In August of 2001 Duane was promoted to the Lake Superior Basin Water Leader position in the Superior Service Center.

Duane is a tireless advocate for Lake Superior and the natural resources of the watershed on which its citizens rely. While serving in the role as a regulator he has demonstrated a common sense approach which is necessary to earn the respect and confidence of the people he worked with. Duane Lahti is also very proud of his Finnish heritage and has promoted the cultural significance of the Finns in the settlement of northern Wisconsin through his historical restoration efforts. Throughout his years of service he has been an advocate for the Public Trust Doctrine and was the main witness in two State Supreme Court cases that were heard and decided in favor of the citizens of the State of Wisconsin. These and many other efforts contributed to and strengthened the body of case law affirming that the waters of the state belong to and must be held in trust for all the citizens of the state. His efforts also led to the removal of five dams from our navigable waters, including the Orienta Dam on the Iron River, which resulted in the reconnection of natural stream systems.

Upon promotion to the Water Basin Leader position Duane was an important leader in developing working partnerships with a diverse group of stakeholders to protect and restore Lake Superior and the watershed. He encouraged a Public Advisory Team in their efforts to develop a special designation and a zero discharge standard for nine bio-accumulative toxic pollutants, giving additional protection to nine tributaries that flow into Lake Superior. He has been a strong supporter of environmental cleanup projects in the basin providing leadership in efforts to remove contaminated sediments from Newton Creek and Hog Island Inlet, the St. Louis River, and Chequamegon Bay, along with other remediation projects.

Duane was an exceptional leader within the Department, both in his regulatory role and as a manager and supervisor. Many employees have looked up to Duane and sought out his opinion on a wide variety of important issues. His mentoring accomplishments have a legacy that will have a lasting impact on current and future employees as they take the reigns of the programs and issues he promoted over his career.

WHEREAS, Duane Lahti 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 August 2009 meeting at Hayward, 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