

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Retirement resolutions

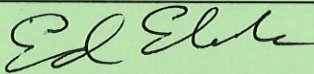
FOR: April 2018 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Meyer

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

Employee	Years of Service
1. Mike Foy (Wildlife)	30
2. Tom Isaac (Wildlife)	27
3. Neal R. Kutchery (Water)	40
4. Dave A. Oginski (Law Enforcement)	20
5. Jeffrey L. Weatherly (Forestry)	12
6. John Welke (Law Enforcement)	31

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adopt the retirement resolutions for April 2018.

Approved by	Signature	Date
Daniel L. Meyer, Secretary		3-22-18



Retirement Resolution

Mike Foy, Wildlife Biologist in Fitchburg, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on November 22, 2017 after 30.5 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Mike Foy began his career in 1987 as a Natural Resources Specialist working out of the Green Bay office. In 1992, Mike transferred to a Wildlife Biologist position in Madison where he stayed until moving to the Fitchburg office in 2000. Mike would remain at Fitchburg until his retirement in 2017.

Mike has worked as a Private Lands Wildlife Biologist and Public Land Biologist during his career and is known for his incredible devotion and passion for the land. Mike has been involved with several significant land acquisitions during his career and many of those deals would not have been possible without Mike's friendly demeanor and hard work.

WHEREAS, Mike Foy 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 2018 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Mike a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Tom Isaac, Wildlife Biologist in Hartford, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on January 5, 2018 after 27 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Over Tom's career, he had a profound impact on the wildlife of the state through several habitat projects and land acquisitions he has been apart of in southern Wisconsin. Tom Isaac began his career in 1990 as a Natural Resources Specialist working out of Hartford. In 1992, Tom was hired as a Wildlife Biologist working out of the same office in Hartford. Tom would remain in his position in Hartford until his retirement in 2018.

Tom is known for being an extremely caring employee and would never hesitate to help another person through a tough situation. Tom always placed a high priority on customer service and was always willing to go the extra mile to answer a question.

WHEREAS, Tom Isaac 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 2018 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Tom a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Neal R. Kutchery, Water Supply Specialist in Peshtigo, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on January 6, 2017 after over 40 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Neal began his career with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a fisheries intern in the summer of 1976. After a year in the Game Management program, Neal joined the Water Resources program as a Area Water Management Specialist in January of 1978.

For 14 years Neal worked diligently to help protect northern Wisconsin's wetlands, surface waters, and shorelands. Neal exhibited great pride and passion as a steward of these important natural resources. In 1992 Neal joined the Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, working as a Water Supply Specialist, with duties directly related to the protection of drinking water. Over the next 25 years Neal served as a trusted resource for small business and private well owners in Northeast Wisconsin.

Neal's common sense approach to complex challenges and his fairness to all earned him the respect of those he regulated, protected, and his peers alike. His commitment to effective natural resource management, protection of public health, and providing outstanding customer service is the lasting legacy of his career.

WHEREAS, Neal R. Kutchery 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 2018 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Neal a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair

Retirement Resolution

David A. Oginski, Conservation Warden Supervisor in Ashland, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on March 23, 2018 after 20 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Dave served as the warden supervisor for the Ashland Law Enforcement Team from 2008 until his retirement. He previously served as the warden supervisor for the Park Falls Team from 2001 until 2008. Prior to his promotion to the Park Falls Team supervisor position, he was stationed as a field warden in Bayfield from 1998 to 2001, much of that time spent working on Lake Superior.

Dave considered it an honor to serve the people of Wisconsin and took great pride in protecting and promoting the state's natural resources. To proudly wear the badge as a Wisconsin Conservation Warden was a dream fulfilled. The opportunity to work side by side with some of the nation's most talented resource professionals is a memory that will be forever cherished. But there was no more humbling role than watching over one of earth's greatest treasures; Lake Superior in all its majesty. As for so many others, it captures your soul and you're forever bound by its endless beauty. Dave simply considers himself blessed to have played a part in protecting this truly magnificent resource.

Career fulfillment.

WHEREAS, David A. Oginski 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 2018 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes David a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Jeffrey L. Weatherly, Area Forestry Leader in Milwaukee, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on March 24, 2018 after 12 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

During his years with the DNR, Jeff developed and delivered a quality, customer focused training to the employees of Southeast Region, and supervised dedicated professional staff implementing sustainable forestry on public and private lands, including urban forests. Jeff further served in a variety of roles that had statewide impact including, but not limited to, serving on the Forestry Leadership, Operations Teams and as acting DNR Director of Continuous Improvement for two months. In 2015, Jeff led an ad hoc team to plan for and implement process improvements in the Managed Forest Law Transfer process.

Jeff's superiors believe he brought a unique perspective and sincere concern and caring for his staff and colleagues. Jeff demonstrated consistent flexibility in his willingness to adapt to the changing directions given by the Division during his tenure. He shared the experiences and lessons learned during his interesting career, spanning from the Pacific Northwest to Wisconsin, from the wilderness to the city, and from the private sector to government employment.

WHEREAS, Jeffrey L. Weatherly 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 2018 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Jeffrey a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair

Retirement Resolution

John Welke, Investigative Warden in Poynette, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on April 2, 2018 after 31 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Investigative Warden John Welke is a proud member of the WDNR Bureau of Law Enforcement Team and Investigative Team. In addition to his current role John has served as a park ranger, a special deputy warden, conservation warden, and administrative warden. John has excelled in showing great leadership and work ethic. John took it upon himself to coach, mentor and guide new investigators on the team and has assisted the field with several significant investigations. John is an expert in his craft, and has a wealth of knowledge and experience investigating cases, particularly those involving wild ginseng and furbearers.

Most recently, John took the lead on a complex captive wild animal case involving several legal challenges. John's efforts were instrumental in protecting Wisconsin's landscapes from the threat of harmful wild animals. John is recognized throughout the country as a leader, an innovator and a realist. John's dedication to the resources and the people who enjoy them will be greatly missed.

WHEREAS, John Welke 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 2018 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

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair