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NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at Waste Management Materials Recovery Facility, W132N10487 Grant Drive, Germantown, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. for action on items 1-7. The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

William Bruins – present	Preston Cole – present
Christine Thomas – present	Jane Wiley – present
Terry Hilgenberg – present	David Clausen – present
Greg Kazmierski – present	

1.B. Approval of agenda for August 7-8, 2012

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg and to defer item 1.C. – Approval of minutes from June 27, 2012 to the September 26, 2012 agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

1.C. Approval of minutes from June 27, 2012 – Deferred to September 26, 2012 meeting agenda

Chair Clausen thanked Southeast Region for the educational and great tours on Tuesday, August 7. Southeast Regional Director Eric Nitschke and Program Assistant Sally Seeger did a great job. He also expressed gratitude to Waste Management MRF, the Menomonee Valley Partners, and Urban Ecology Center for a job well done on their tours and presentations.

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Action Items

3.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement

None

3.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife

3.B.1 Request adoption of Emergency Board Order WM-02-12(E), establishing the 2012 migratory game bird hunting seasons

Kent Van Horn, Migratory Bird Specialist, reviewed the 2012 status of ducks and geese, continental and Wisconsin. He then discussed the proposed duck seasons: 60 day season, North Zone, South Zone, and Mississippi River Zone. Next, he discussed the proposed seasons on Canada Geese: Exterior Zone, North, South, Mississippi River Subzone, and the Horicon Zone. He then highlighted public involvement and meeting summaries. He stated that all aspects of DNR season proposals were supported by 84 – 100% of individual comments and the WCC Migratory Committee. Hunters proposed a new North zone duck and Exterior goose season with a

split. Harvest data suggests few duck hunters still hunt in North zone in November. He reviewed duck harvest – North zone harvest data from 1999 – 2009. He reviewed input received on the North Zone split. He noted that relatively few duck hunters are impacted in November but some hunters asked for later hunting; 73% of the public input in favor, 51% split 11/5-9. He requested the Board adopt Emergency Board Order WM-02-12(E). **(PowerPoint)**

Discussion followed on whether the public had ample time to comment on the proposed North Zone split, on what day was the proposal for the split was made, whether there was a ground swell of support for the split, who/what groups supported it, comments received from Black Slough, how many people attended each hearing, the social issue of shooting local ducks that breed the following year, that the department was responding to what hunters had asked for, whether this split should be added to the spring hearings questionnaire for WCC for an instantaneous response, and whether the split should be left out of the recommendation.

Public Appearances:

1. **John Edelblute**, Hartford, representing the WI Conservation Congress Migratory Committee as vice-chair. He stated that the following season proposals were adopted by the WCC Migratory Committee at their meeting in Rothschild, WI on July 28, 2012: *Early September Canada Goose Season*: September 1-15, with a daily bag of 5 geese; *Youth Waterfowl Hunt*: September 15-16. Daily bag is the same as the regular seasons. Goose harvest permits to correspond to date of harvest, September 15 early, September 16 exterior or Horicon 1; *Duck Season*: 60 day season. Total daily bag 6 ducks. Aggregate species composing the six duck bag is the same as outlined in the DNR proposal for the 2012 season. Total daily bag of 15 coots. Mergansers daily bag of 5 birds of which only two may be hooded mergansers; *Duck Season Dates*: Northern Zone from September 22 – November 4 and from November 10 – November 25; Southern Zone from September 29 – October 7 and from October 13 – December 2; Mississippi Zone from September 22-30 and from October 13 – December 2. *Canada Geese Season Dates*: Exterior Zone: Daily bag 2. North from September 16 – November 4 and from November 10 – December 21; South from September 16 – October 7 and from October 13 – December 2; Mississippi River Subzone from September 22-30 and from October 13 – January 3. *Horicon Zone* H1 from September 16 – October 28 and H2 from October 29 – December 16. Daily bag of 2, with a total of 6 tags per hunter for the season. *Light geese, brant, and white-fronted geese*: The WCC adopted the same season dates and bag limits as proposed by the DNR. *Shooting hours*: Opening day 9 a.m. until sundown. Balance of the season is ½ hour before sunrise until sunset. He then thanked Kent Van Horn and James Christopoulos for their professionalism and all the long hours and travel time spent working on the waterfowl resource. They are a credit to their profession and to the Department. **(Handout)**

2. **Ralph Fritsch**, Townsend, representing the WI Wildlife Federation (WFF). He stated that the WFF supports the great majority of the proposed 2012 waterfowl regulations but has significant reservations about the split in the northern WI season. The WFF recommends:
1) Before the 2013 season, the DNR have on the Spring Hearing Questionnaire a question asking if there should be a northern WI split and, if so, the timing; and 2) WFF requests that the split, if adopted, be from November 17 – November 23 which are the opening days of gun deer season. This would extend the season for those that like field hunting and big water hunting while still preserving the early November dates favored by the river and shallow marsh hunters. This split would be a win-win for all types of northern WI waterfowl hunters. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on whether there are advantages to WFF's second proposal and whether duck hunting would be open under the Thanksgiving Day weekend, whether having extra dates later in the Northern Zone if this gives relief to hunters on the sea duck season, and notation to WCC that they voted in favor of the original proposal.

Mr. Cole MOVED approval, seconded by Dr. Thomas.

Discussion followed on whether the North Split is premature due to lack of public input.

Ms. Wiley MOVED to amend, seconded by Dr. Clausen to change the northern zone to run from September 22, 2012 – November 20, 2012, without the split.

Discussion followed on concerns on the split between the split and WCC's recommendation.

Chair Clausen called the question.

The amendment failed on a roll call vote of 3-4.

William Bruins – yes	Preston Cole – no
Christine Thomas – no	Jane Wiley – yes
Terry Hilgenberg – no	David Clausen – yes
Greg Kazmierski – no	

Discussion followed on obtaining feedback from hunters this season and adjusting for next year's season

Dr. Thomas stated that the department needs to forget about what the federal government is going to do for next year because the department will need to adjust in the end. She requested that discussions begin to take place immediately across the state about the idea of a split and when it would be so that everyone who wants to engage knows that the Board will consider this next year, regardless of what happens today. The season will be modified next year by how many season days and when the start date is. The discussion about the split is going to be on the table.

The original motion passed on a roll call vote of 4-3.

William Bruins – no	Preston Cole – yes
Christine Thomas – yes	Jane Wiley – no
Terry Hilgenberg – yes	David Clausen – no
Greg Kazmierski – yes	

3.B.2 Request adoption of Emergency Board Order WM-16-12(E) relating to coyote hunting during firearm deer seasons

Scott Loomans, Natural Resources Specialist, stated that there has been public consideration of the idea to again allow coyote hunting during firearm deer seasons in Wolf Management Zone 1. Most recently, a 2012 Conservation Congress statewide advisory question to allow coyote harvest during deer firearm season (# 440211) Ayes, 2501; Noes, 1048 and it won in 71 counties (no in Dane). Earlier this year we were petitioned to start rule making under a Ch. 227 Stats. process by the Wis. Wildlife Federation. As was pointed out at the last board meeting, legislative intent was to go ahead with the coyote season this year.

This rule is following the wolf rule by a month so they have had a little extra time to consult with the tribes. That happened last week. Not a lot of discussion except to clarify some of the issues related to buckshot. DNR has not lost authority to set the coyote season and can close the season in the future if needed. He requested the Board adopt Emergency Board Order WM-16-12(E).

Discussion followed on concerns this will result in mortality of additional wolves due to mistaken identify, etc., whether this will still go through the permanent rule process if enacted, and whether the DNR Secretary has authority to close the season if necessary.

Public Appearances:

1-**Ralph Fritsch**, Townsend, representing the WI Wildlife Federation (WWF) stated they submitted a rules petition requesting this change in December 2011 and the DNR granted the petition in January 2012. The coyote population in the state is very healthy and there is no other biological reason not to reopen coyote hunting in the North. Also, despite some statements made at the June Board meeting, there were no public safety reasons to continue the ban on coyote hunting in the north. WWF requests the Board support Board Order WM-16-12(E).

(Handout)

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.3 ~~Request authorization for public hearing for Board Order FH 01 12, regarding fishing tournaments rules in NR 20.40~~ **DELETED**

3.B.4 Land Acquisition - Paradise Valley Wildlife Area - Waukesha County

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.5 Land Acquisition - Ice Age Trail - Columbia County

Discussion followed on the price per acre, whether the DNR can obtain an easement instead of purchasing property, whether the proposed purchase would come from Stewardship funds or partially from IAT funds, that land prices in general are higher in that part of WI, whether a trail could be placed anywhere in the project boundary to connect the trail, whether local governments had been asked to participate in this purchase, whether the property is actively on the market, and whether the property would be open to all NBOA's,

Mr. Hilgenberg stated that he would abstain from the vote since he has known the landowners for a long time.

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Dr. Clausen.

The motion failed on a roll call vote of 2 - 4. Mr. Hilgenberg abstained.

William Bruins – no	Preston Cole – no
Christine Thomas – no	Jane Wiley – yes
Terry Hilgenberg – abstained	David Clausen – yes
Greg Kazmierski – no	

Discussion followed with Board Member interest in this property if there are willing partners, concern that no one showed up in support, that the acquisition price was the price that the owners paid six years ago and that DNR appraisals came in at the same price (if accurate, then this would be the market price), and whether there are any alternatives to extending the trail.

3.B.6 Land Acquisition - Pike Wild River - Marinette County

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.7 Land Easement Acquisition - Emmons Creek Fishery Area - Waupaca County

Mr. Cole MOVED approval and to acknowledge the donation, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.8 Land Exchange - Glacial Habitat Restoration Area - Winnebago County

Discussion followed on why the DNR acquired this landlocked parcel in the 1950's and whether there was access to the property.

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.9 Land Donation and Expansion of Project Boundary - Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area - Burnett County

AUGUST 8, 2012

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval and to acknowledge the donation, seconded by Mr. Cole. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.C. Scope Statements
None

Chair Clausen moved the meeting to agenda item 5.A. – Board Members Matters.

5. Board Members' Matters
5.A. Approval of 2013 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Bruins requested that the August 2013 meeting be set one week earlier due to scheduling conflicts with the WI State Fair.

Mr. Hilgenberg questioned whether the meeting dates could be moved to the middle of the month instead of the 4th week.

Discussion followed on the need for consistency in the meeting dates.

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski to table this item until the September 26, 2012 meeting and that the department bring back alternative meeting dates for the 2nd Wednesday and/or 3rd Wednesday of each month. The motion to table carried unanimously.

6. Special Committees' Reports
None
7. Department Secretary's Matters
7.A. Retirement Resolutions
7.A.1 Arvid B. Haugen **ADDED**

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg of the retirement resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7.B. Donations
7.B.1 A. Finkl & Sons Company will donate a total of \$588,133 for tree planting on Wisconsin State Forests from 2012 - 2022

Darrell Zastrow, Deputy Forestry Administrator, spoke in place of Paul DeLong, Forestry Administrator. He stated it was a distinct pleasure to recognize Jim Staples who is here as a representative of A. Finkl & Sons. The DNR has enjoyed a partnership with A. Finkl & Sons for a number of years now. A. Finkl & Sons is located on Chicago's north side. They are the world's leading supplier of forging die steels, plastic mold steels, die casting tool steels, and custom open-die forgings. They process over 100,000 tons of steel every year. In 1990 they began their partnership with the DNR. At that time, the DNR was looking forward to the next ten years, in the year 2000, to plant 1,000,000 trees. They did that and far exceeded that number. Today, A. Finkl & Sons have planted over 3.2 million trees in our state forests. They have contributed over \$225,000 to that endeavor (applause).

Today, they are looking to extend that partnership to 2022, with contributions totaling over \$588,000. He then asked Mr. Staples to come up and accept the Forestry plaque recognizing A. Finkl & Sons for their extraordinary contributions to support reforestation efforts and sustainable management in Wisconsin's state forests (applause).

Secretary Stepp stated to Mr. Staples that in addition to the presentation from the Department, the Board Chairman would also like to give you his commendation as well. Thank you for your

generosity to the state and on behalf of her kids, she thanks you even more.

Chair Clausen presented the Natural Resources Board Acknowledgement of Gift plaque to Mr. Staples. Your generosity will do a lot of good and will affect a lot of people. Thank you.

Jim Staples, Attorney, A. Finkl & Sons Company, accepted both plaques and stated that this is a mutual pleasure. He is the Director of Green House Gas programs at A. Finkl & Sons. On behalf of the Finkl Company, he thanked the Wisconsin DNR for recognition of their role in a highly satisfying relationship with the Board and staff. A. Finkl & Sons is a blacksmith. Their basic technology is over 6,000 years old, since many blacksmiths were in attendance at the building of the pyramids in 4,000 B.C. Today, most people think of them in terms of ye olde village blacksmith - a bearded fellow with his sleeves rolled up and hitting a red hot piece of iron sitting on an anvil with a hammer to make a horseshoe. That essentially describes the Finkl Company today except their anvils and hammers are bigger than the Chairman's desk. The blacksmith pushes buttons and the work pieces are up to 170 tons. Their tree planting program was the idea of Mr. Charles Fink, 3rd generation son of the founding family in 1990. They burn millions of BTU's of natural gas in their heat treating furnaces which in turn generates many tons of carbon dioxide which is now considered a greenhouse gas. As a result of their collaboration with the WI DNR, including good people such as Teague Prichard, they are about half way to their goal of being carbon neutral. However, that will not come about for a couple decades into the future. They look forward to a continuation of their great relationship of 22 years. They have such a positive attitude towards the WI DNR that they always take DNR phone calls first. Thank you (applause).

Mr. Hilgenberg noted that this is an opportunity for the DNR to use this as a kick-off for a public relations campaign with all other industries in the area. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase that partnership and how we can work with industry to do very good things.

Mr. Kazmierski noted that young forests actually consume more greenhouse gas than older forests. This could be tied into the young forest initiative in the northern part of the state.

Mr. Bruins countered by noting the age of the trees in Germantown and the Milwaukee Greater Metropolitan Area. When he flies in and flies out of the airport, it is incredible to the amount of tree foliage in this area. We would be remiss to not consider urban areas to plant these trees as well.

Mr. Cole noted that A. Finkl & Sons participate in a green tie ball annually on their property. He has gone several years and it is a star studded, high class, well done event to raise funds for urban forestry activities. He agrees that if we are able to use some of those dollars for urban and community forestry, it would have a real impact on the backyards of people who do not have big back yards that would be great.

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval and to acknowledge the donation, seconded by Dr. Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7.B.2 The Andrew F. Bell and Edith M. Bell Charitable Trust will donate \$38,991 to be split evenly between the Bureau's of Endangered Resources and Wildlife Management for continued support of endangered species priorities and for wetland habitat research

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval and to acknowledge the donation, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7.B.3 The Willow River OWLs will donate up to \$30,000 to pay the salary of the environmental educator and a seasonal assistant at Willow River State Park

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval and to acknowledge the donation, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Stepp then thanked Lynn Morgan and Waste Management for their hospitality. She was sorry she could not attend the tours yesterday but she heard glowing reports. It was really outstanding for Board Members to get to see some of the production sides of things that DNR is involved in and talking about recycling, what an important issue that is too. Thank you for coordinating all of this, putting it all together, and allowing us to use your space. She then gave a special shout-out to the SER team which the Chairman did earlier from the mighty Southeast – Sally, Melissa, and Margaret, and of course Eric had a part in it.

She then noted that one amongst us was having a milestone birthday – Board Member Preston Cole. She, the Board and the audience sang him a “Happy Birthday.”

She then updated the Board on wolves. The Department has received almost 8,000 permit applications as of today. The public has until the end of August to get their applications in. That is good news.

She then stated that Wisconsin was finally redesignated in this part of the state (southeast) as of July 31 as now being an attainment zone using the 1977-1978 standard. We have now been deemed in attainment which is a great recognition of the signs that air quality is improving in this part of the state. There were lower and more stringent standards put into effect for 2008 ozone and so we will have some challenges there with parts of Kenosha and parts of Sheboygan.

The DNR has done a lot on drought but it has not been on the front burner like it was weeks ago. The DNR has worked on emergency irrigation permits, trying to help farmers with silage storage, and also opening up public lands for haying to make sure that we are doing everything we can to try and help farmers to stay productive and to do that in a timely manner. She congratulated the team in the water division. They have been working hard to turn stuff around fast and to be responsive as we can to the customers. They have done outstanding work.

The Town of Jackson spill has certainly been a topic in this part of the state as well. The DNR has been working in conjunction with EPA, WI Emergency Management, U.S. DOT, and state and local health departments. The DNR does not regulate pipelines which is important for people to know. That is all done by U.S. DOT. DNR’s job is to be on the scene when there is a spill and to manage that in partnership with the other groups. Certainly their focus is on immediate response, trying to get as much public information out there to help people and, of course, to help guide the company who is really doing a lot of work to try to be educators, supportive, and are installing on-site monitoring wells, etc. Clean-up discussions are on-going.

Mr. Bruins thanked the department, on behalf of the agricultural community, for their efforts in stepping forward in the drought situation. He then thanked Governor Walker for the exposure he has given to the situation and for the steps he has taken.

Secretary Stepp stated that Governor Walker made sure we all worked in a cohesive manner. That is one of the most impressive things that she has found in this job is the agencies immediately come together. There are no turf wars going on. It is about “how do we all do what we do best” – how does that fit together to be a smooth, well-oiled machine. She is very impressed with her colleagues on the Cabinet.

Mr. Hilgenberg questioned whether the department anticipated the number of wolf applications being received, how that compares to the anticipated application numbers, and requested an update on tribal negotiations.

Kurt Thiede, Land Administrator, stated that they have gotten this question quite a bit. This was a unique situation. They have never had a permit application process either a) come up this quickly after the Board acted, or b) in a short period of time. From their perspective, they are

initially happy. It is anyone's guess. Dan Small had recently did a query on public input as far as what the numbers will be. At this pace, it is hard to tell. They are trying not to draw too many comparisons with other species. They will give the Board updates.

Mr. Hilgenberg asked whether the DNR was at liberty to talk about how negotiations were going with the tribes.

Secretary Stepp stated that the proposal that was adopted in July was answering the requests that they had in establishing their zero harvest zones around the reservation lands. She has not heard anything back on that. In this job, she takes no news as good news. They have lots of different consultation issues that we are working with them on right now in the next several weeks.

Ms. Wiley stated that relative to this, there was no wolf item on GLIFWC's agenda.

Mr. Thiede stated they had a productive interaction with Voigt Task Force last week. Representatives from the DNR included Scott Gunderson, himself, Mike Zeckmeister, Quinn Williams, and John Gozdziński. They had a good discussion. In this issue they are always trying to strive for consensus but it is not required by Voigt. They will hopefully hear from the tribes soon. Discussions on this topic are not going to end once we have a declaration. They will continue to engage the tribes.

Mr. Cole asked whether farmers working DNR lands will receive any drought assistance in terms of delayed payments and/or reduced payments.

Mr. Thiede stated initially we came up with around 11,000 acres that the DNR opened up for emergency haying and then opening up more grazing opportunities. They decided they needed to draw the line somewhere so existing contracts were honored but then any future emergency haying or grazing going forward would be first-come, first-served. He will talk to staff about it further.

7.C. Status Report on the Enterprise Agreement and other Department Operational Matters

Al Shea, Office of Business Support & Sustainability Director. He updated the Board on staffing, service delivery, operational efficiency, and customer service. On August 2011, the DNR had 558 vacancies. In the last year, the DNR has filled 132 positions. The DNR has been working hard on filling vacancies. This number could be much higher if we did not go through about six to nine months of transfers and promotions which leave vacancies behind. When Cathy Stepp took office, many programs were at 25% - 30% vacancy levels. This number is now down below 20% vacancy.

Service delivery. A new performance review system has been put in since last year. As part of that, the DNR put in five general metrics that everyone in the agency will be measured against. The DNR also instituted performance measures for all the divisions. Those performance measures will be reflected in individual performance objectives for staff. Metrics for key deliverables to DNR customers were instituted for turnaround of business practices.

They just completed their first round of lean projects, which you will hear shortly from Kristy Rogers. This will become part of our culture at DNR.

Operational efficiency. DNR was the first agency to get enterprise agency status. There are various aspects of the Enterprise Agreement in terms of delegation from DOA. One was on fleet management and one is capitol development. Fleet saved over \$5 million. The best part is the DNR has been able to obtain more vehicles, even with all of these cost saving measures, for staff so they can actually do their jobs. There is no state agency that has more facilities than DNR. Many of our facilities are very small. The DNR was able to obtain authorization to manage the contracts for new builds or repairs to facilities and saved over \$500,000 on the first round of delegations.

Customer Service. After her initial tours and meetings across the state, Cathy Stepp heard from staff and customers that DNR did not have their facilities open. The DNR increased hours open to the public at service centers by 40% over 2011. Julie Sauer and her staff did the lion share of pulling this off. The DNR call center, as of July 31, 2012, had answered approximately 200,000

calls which is an 11% increase from the previous year. We had almost 14,000 customer chats answered which reflects how society likes to communicate, and over 98% of calls, emails and chats were answered within one minute. The DNR also trained 290 registration agents in the last year.

Discussion followed on the impressive numbers of the call center and whether there is a plan going forward for additional staffing priorities.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- 8. Information Items
- 8.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement
- 8.A.1 DNR's Lean Government Initiative

Kristy Rogers, Process Improvement Director, gave a background of Lean Six Sigma which is a new version of process improvement and total quality management. There are two sets of tools. Lean helps you make profits more efficient, eliminating waste. Six Sigma is a set of tools that help you make profit more consistent. She stated that project goals of the initiative are to reduce DNR staff workload, reduce lead (delivery) time, improve customer satisfaction, simplify the process, and to ensure staff and customer safety. She then discussed what the DNR did over the past few months, results of some of the projects, and where the DNR is going from here.

(PowerPoint)

Discussion followed as to whether this initiative would degrade environmental protection, website address (<http://dnr.wi.gov/about/lean.html>), and how the DNR will measure delivery from before and after.

Mr. Cole requested the Board receive the results from the follow-up surveys.

Discussion continued on whether the DNR has run into resistance from staff and whether the DNR is also measuring implementation.

Secretary Stepp stated that to them, this is their number 1 priority on how to change the dynamics of government and the people, and how to focus more on servicing and serving the public who pay their salaries. How do we do that at the highest level of quality? It is exciting to watch how staff wants to become part of something because they start to see how they will be out from under the fluorescent lights and back out on the stream banks where they belong. That is where we will see environmental enhancement. We are doing a better job being responsive to the public that we serve and see environmental enhancement as a result. It is a win-win all the way. This is such an important focus of our administration that we assigned Kristy Rogers as the Process Improvement Director. She has leadership expertise, enthusiasm, and respect from staff. That goes a long way to make sure these projects are successful. She is very proud of Kristy and thankful for taking this on.

Matt Moroney, Deputy Secretary, added that Kristy talked to the Cabinet about what the DNR was doing as far as lean government and how we are leading the way. Many Cabinet officials have approached him saying that was the best presentation that they had seen. Kristy is bringing a formalization of what we have been doing in process improvement to the table. We will help other agencies get started as well. We are proud to be leading the way. He encouraged the Board to look at the website and look at the improvements made. We are trying to reduce the workload burden of staff and to help them do their jobs better. Kristy has been doing this on top of her Water and Groundwater Supervisor duties (applause).

Chair Clausen moved the meeting to 4.A. – Citizen Participation.

- 4. Citizen Participation

4.A. Citizen Participation
Public Appearances

1. **Matthew Howard**, Milwaukee, representing City of Milwaukee as Environmental Sustainability Director

Topic: Milwaukee Green Team's Public Input Process

He summarized the efforts of Mayor Tom Barrett's Green Team in working with the community to draft a strategic sustainability plan for Milwaukee. The Team will be working with city and also regional and statewide partners to ensure Milwaukee's sustainability strategies compliment the regional and state efforts. He also invited DNR and their stakeholders to follow this process and submit comments as relevant.

Mr. Cole stated that he would like to have Southeast Regional Director Eric Nitschke sit down with Matthew Howard and to make sure that the department's wishes run through Eric Nitschke. The department has a lot to say to the City of Milwaukee as to environmental sustainability.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

8.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife

- 8.B.1 Update on the report and review of deer management practices prepared by Wisconsin's deer trustee

Tom Hauge, Wildlife Management Bureau Director. He stated that fundamentally, the Deer Trustee Report was about process improvement. A lot of the heavy lifting has been done and the DNR is in the implementation part of it. The report put strong emphasis on strengthening the relationship between the department and the public. The first important thing was to call stakeholders together and hear from them their reactions to the report. On July 30 a group of approximately 30 people from diverse stakeholders gathered to meet including NRB Member Greg Kazmierski. Cathy Stepp, Kurt Thiede, and Scott Gunderson were in attendance representing the department. Kurt facilitated five hours of discussions and reactions from the group. The vast majority of the group was very positive about the report. They see it as a package and want the department to move forward. Another key tenant is that we want to have the stakeholders involved in all steps of the process and may look at forming separate workgroups.

In addition to the stakeholder group meeting inside the department, they will need to do some analysis in terms of the recommendations. Some are going to take rule or statutory changes. In some cases, there may be resources needed whether it is the acquisition of the data layers, land cover, or perhaps in terms of deer management assistance program with a statewide coordinator for that program. In some cases systems development will be required. One of the key recommendations was to move away from SAK as the key focal decision point and come up with additional metrics to help inform future decisions on whether a herd should be increased, decreased, or stabilized. He then stated that the department will try to pull together at least a preliminary estimate on what it might take to implement the report in the September budget request. **(Handout)**

Dr. Thomas stated that one of the areas she thinks the Deer Trustee had good ideas is in the area of landowner assistance. Rather than calling it deer management, landowners are interested in wildlife management in general. She understood that the department does not have the staff to do this and there may be statutory changes that may need to happen. The point of the Managed Forest Law (MFL) is to move the most fiber at the cheapest price consistently to the market. While many of the WDNR foresters are great about helping landowners with their wildlife management needs, the law makes the timber management the primary objective. The other things that happen, happen around the fringes of the MFL. Every piece of research that has ever been done on non-industrial private forest owners says that 75% of them own their land for wildlife value. The law makes them manage for one thing but what the landowner really wants to do is to manage for something else. It would be good if the department were able to figure out how to get those two things together and to provide assistance to landowners to meet their wildlife goals.

Secretary Stepp stated that the overreaching message from the report is to connect with citizens again, whether that is a landowner that wants Karner Blue or a hunter . It is about getting the wildlife biologists connected and dialed in to what it is that citizens want to see happening on their land. It is bridging that disconnect. There is a lot we can do internally with the staff positions we already have to make citizen interaction part of the position.

Discussion followed on whether the DNR has immediate plans to contact legislators to educate them on the process so the department does not have another experience like the wolf hunt.

Secretary Stepp stated that they received a tremendous amount of positive feedback from some of their more vocal critics in the legislature because they heard through word of mouth that they were pleased with the attention given to this from the Secretary's Office level and how we are trying to make the communication be more two-way between the department and the people we serve. This report gives the department a vehicle to maneuver through a lot of this and gives direction. Tom Hauge is right. We will have to Wisconsinize some things.

Discussion followed as to whether the department has been in touch with leadership on both sides of the aisle in terms of their influence on their fellow legislators, and on land management.

Mr. Hilgenberg strongly recommended that the department really embrace and emphasize providing assistance to landowners to meet their wildlife goals as part of the program.

Discussion continued on Managed Forest Law and habitat management, the renewed emphasis on the public/private approach, whether there will be a proposed major upgrade to the geospatial landcover data for WI, and buy-in from botanists to the hunting community and building those relationships.

Mr. Cole stated that, in his capacity, he works for an elected body that on occasion gives direction. It may be 180 degrees as to what the professional staff is saying and/or what the public is saying. It is their responsibility to create law. It is his responsibility to enact those laws. As a Board, we have to give them the same respect in the legislature if they feel that their constituency has spoken to them enough that they have to create a law. For him, it was easy to see that this was something with the wolf so important to them that they created a law and basically put change in action in place relative to wolf management. It is part of the landscape in the government body. He has accepted it and as a Citizen Board, although we may have issues with it, it is something we have to deal with now and in the future. This is a fact of reality in working in government. He stated this to his fellow Board Members as a person who works for an elected body.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

8.B.2 ~~Update on upcoming department matters~~ **DELETED (moved to 7.C.)**

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

AUGUST 8, 2012

The Natural Resources Board and Department of Natural Resources are committed to serving people with disabilities. If you need Board information in an alternative format, please contact:

Natural Resources Board Liaison: Laurie Ross at 608-267-7420 or laurie.ross@wisconsin.gov

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