

OCTOBER 24, 2012

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NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

BRIEF OF ACTION

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 in Room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. for action on items 1-7. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

William Bruins – present	Preston Cole – present
Christine Thomas – present via conference call	Terry Hilgenberg – arrived at 8:40 a.m.
Greg Kazmierski – present	Jane Wiley – present
David Clausen – present	

1.B. Approval of agenda for October 24, 2012

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried 6 - 0.

1.C. Approval of minutes from September 25-26, 2012

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Cole. The motion carried 6 - 0.

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Cole. The motion carried 6 - 0.

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 Board Order FR-19-11, proposed rules affecting NR 47 subch. VII and subch. XII related to rule revision and rule creation of the Private Forest Landowner Grant Programs

Mr. Cole MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried 6 - 0.

Mr. Hilgenberg arrived at the meeting.

3.B.2 Request Approval of the re-designation of a portion of Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery from Statewide New Hatcheries to Statewide Fish Habitat – Sheboygan County

Discussion followed on safety concerns and the need to hear from all stakeholders.

Mr. Bruins MOVED to table, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg.

Mr. Hilgenberg called the question.

Mr. Cole requested the department come back with protocols on working with neighboring residences and local jurisdictions.

The motion to table carried unanimously.

3.B.3 Land Acquisition and Partial Donation of Value – Ice Age Trail – Columbia County

**Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Dr. Clausen. The motion carried 6 – 0.
Mr. Hilgenberg abstained.**

3.B.4 Land and Easement Acquisition – Ice Age Trail – Manitowoc County

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

3.B.5 Land Acquisition and Project Boundary Modification – Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area – Rock County

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

3.B.6 Land Donation and Project Boundary Modification – Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area – Rock County

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

3.B.7 Land Donations – Statewide Wildlife Habitat – Rock County

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

Chair Clausen asked Mr. Bruins to lead the group on singing “Happy Birthday” to Scott Gunderson, DNR Executive Assistant.

3.C. Scope Statements

3.C.1 Request approval of the statement of scope for Board Order AM-21-12, proposed rules affecting chs. 405 and 408 and chs. 400 and 410 related to revision of major air emission source permitting requirements and the repeal of provisions that previously supported the indirect source program

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Cole. The motion carried unanimously.

3.C.2 Request approval of the statement of scope for Board Order FR-20-12, proposed rules affecting NR 40.45.045(a), related to decreasing the distance from which firewood may be brought onto state lands from 25 miles to 10 miles, deleting NR 45.045(2)(b), and any appropriate housekeeping

Mr. Cole questioned whether the department should have a moratorium on all firewood going into state parks.

Mr. Bruins suggested that the department should purchase firewood from local vendors to be sold at state parks and restrict all firewood coming in.

Mr. Cole stated the current model needs to change and piggybacked onto Mr. Bruins’ suggestion that the department should consider to only provide firewood at parks from local vendors.

Mr. Bruins added that if the local vendors could not keep up with demand, the department should obtain the difference from bigger vendors.

Chair Clausen stated that Forestry is now aware of the Board's feelings. This should be weighed in on at the public hearings.

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

4. Citizen Participation

4.A. Citizen Recognition

4.A.1 Comeback Champs – State Natural Area and Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

4.A.2 Comeback Champs – Whooping Cranes

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

4.A.3 Wings Across the Americas Habitat Management and Partnership Award – DNR staff Recognition

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

4.B. Citizen Participation

5. Board Members' Matters

Mr. Bruins stated he downloaded and reviewed the plan to reduce the phosphorus pollution in the Cedar River system. He is concerned that the goals of the plan will not be met. He would like the Board to have an opportunity to drill down and discuss this plan at either the February or March 2013 meeting, as an information item.

Mr. Hilgenberg stated that he has continuing concerns with the overall strategy of the Stewardship program. He asked that the department look at the overall concept of the Stewardship program in terms of what our ongoing costs are, not only acquisition but grants, including maintenance, improvements, debt costs, taxes, and what the long term ramifications of this program is on the overall DNR budget. His concern is we have great properties that we own. We have a responsibility to maintain those in outstanding condition. We will have a continued squeeze on our financial resources. It is very important that we maintain properties that we identify that we want to keep. He also is concerned about our ability to fund the great personnel that we have because of the pressure on the budget because of the continuing expansion of state lands. Our greatest resources are the properties that we own and the people that we have on our staff. We all know from a business perspective that when revenues start declining you have to start cutting. He prefers to not have to cut our great staff. He would actually rather prefer the department give bonuses to our great staff and keep us on the cutting edge on how we do our jobs as a department. He asked the Secretary to put together a program to take a very serious look at what our obligations are and what our opportunities are.

Chair Clausen stated these were points well made. He noted that we also have partners in this particular thing. The legislature in their wisdom had determined that it is a priority to continue to acquire properties. From one end, we have a legislative directive that this money is available. Anything that comes out will involve the legislature.

Dr. Thomas stated she had two items. 1) She attended the Wildlife Hunting Heritage Conservation Council meeting that she serves on, in Washington, D.C. last week. A topic of massive interest in state resource management agencies is the sequestration threat that is hanging

over all of us. It is her understanding after having attended that meeting that the Office of Management and Budget interpretation of the sequestration situation is that Pitman-Robertson is subject to sequestration. Her council is pushing for an exception to that but are being told that no exceptions will be made. They do not know how all of this is going to shake out. Clearly, if the Pitman-Robertson money that comes to the DNR is sequestered, that is going to create some horrendous issues in our budget. She requested the December 11 or 12, 2012 agenda include a report from the Secretary on what it means to the DNR if we go over the cliff in terms of our budget, meaning that the US Fish and Wildlife Service will withhold Pitman-Robertson money until the sequestration is over. She asked for an individual briefing on this if it cannot be added to the December agenda.

Dr. Clausen stated he will find time on the December agenda for the sequestration concern.

Dr. Thomas stated the Board talked about all kinds of Pitman-Robertson items today that might not be here. We need to understand what this might do if it comes into play. 2) The good news is that, for those of you who do not know it, Paul DeLong (DNR Forestry Administrator) was honored by the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point on Saturday night as one of the distinguished alumni of UW-SP. There was a really nice dinner and a great video about Paul and his contributions. She is very proud of Paul DeLong and how pleased she was that UW-SP chose to honor Paul. This speaks well of the department. It is an example of the great staff we have (applause).

Mr. Kazmierski stated that he has two things. 1) He summarized his trip to Michigan and the meeting with their Natural Resources Commission. They were very hospitable and are more than willing to work with us on joint ventures if we have something coming down the road. Bill Bruins and Jane Wiley from the NRB also were in attendance. It did sound like we had something coming up on the border. Maybe that would be a good time to reciprocate and get some of their people over here. 2) The CWD Management Plan has been kind of gutted due to statutory changes and things like that. He would like to see the plan come back for the Board to take a look at it. This does not have to be in the immediate future but possibly after the first of the year or so.

Ms. Wiley thanked staff and the Board for the upcoming listening sessions. She thanked the Board Members for willing to manipulate their time and willing to Chair a session. There will be two or three Board Members at each session. Each Board Member received paperwork today for background. You also will receive additional information prior to the first session. The sessions will be well attended. We will have many staff people in attendance as well, recording each session and obtaining information in terms of how we deal with each and every state park and trail under Act 168. Thank you.

6. Special Committees' Reports
None
7. Department Secretary's Matters
 - 7.A. Retirement Resolutions
 - 7.A.1 David R. Christenson
 - 7.A.2 Ronald S. Zalewski

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski of the retirement resolutions. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7.B. Donations
 - 7.B.1 The Friends of Blue Mound State Park will donate \$500,000 to be used to construct an all-season gathering center at Blue Mound State Park for public use

Secretary Stepp amended the donation request to include the naming of the gathering center as "The Friends Shelter".

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Mr. Cole MOVED approval, to name the gathering center “The Friends Shelter”, and to acknowledge the donation, seconded by Mr. Bruins. The motion carried unanimously.

- 8. Information Items
- 8.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement
- 8.A.1 Update on Wisconsin waterway inventory [Moved from the September 26, 2012 meeting agenda]

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- 8.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife
None

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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