

OCTOBER 24, 2012

View the OCTOBER 2012 Agenda, information briefs (green sheets) on each item, and other meeting materials at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/about/nrb/agenda.html>

## NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

### MINUTES

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

**Carol Nielsen**, Private Lands Forestry Specialist, stated that the revisions proposed are aimed at implementing recommendations from the 2011 program review and providing opportunities for implementation of the Division of Forestry Strategic Direction. The main goal of the revisions is to streamline administration, provide for more efficient use of the dollars available and to provide greater flexibility over the administration of the program so we can continue to address changing landowner and forest resource needs. Revisions for the WFLGP include modifications to allow the department to annually set funding levels and priorities; allow two of the four application deadlines to be adjusted as needed; limit matching grants to not more than 75% of actual costs; extend grant period from 18 to 24 months; and allow for the use of nonprofit organization funding. The WMA-PFGP will provide grants to individuals or groups interested in controlling invasive plants on NIPF lands in Weed Management Areas. The proposed rules are modeled after the

WFLGP. The rules for the WMA-PFGP will include definitions related to eligible and ineligible applicants, eligible practices, and eligible and ineligible costs. The rules also will include grant and selection criteria; requirements for payment, reconsideration and enforcement; and provide for the use of other state, federal or nonprofit organization funds. Comments received through the public hearing and written comments were supportive of the changes for both grant programs and provided some recommendations that will be incorporated into the handbooks. She requested that the Board adopt Board Order FR-19-11.

Discussion followed on how much money is in this program and how much money is in the program for controlling invasive species on private lands.

**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

**Richard Steffes**, Real Estate Director, stated that this land base supports core hatchery operations and provides protection of groundwater resources necessary for the facility to function. State statute currently prohibits hunting and trapping on land located in state fish hatcheries. He requested the Board approve the redesignation of approximately 204 acres to Statewide Fish Habitat. This will allow the public to use the land for fishing, hunting, trapping, hiking, and cross country skiing. The remainder of the land will remain under the Statewide New Hatcheries designation.

**Public Appearances:**

1. **John Jonas**, Milwaukee, representing self. He spoke in opposition to the re-designation. He questioned why this land has to be open to hunting. He has a house on Trout Stream Road which he bought in 2009 for weekends and for his future retirement. He would have bought somewhere else if he knew this would happen. This parcel is a small area. His house is 76 feet from state land. His garage is 81 feet from the property line. People could be walking 100 yards from a shooting area. This is a small corridor which will be hard to maintain and to enforce. How many hunters will actually benefit from this? There is a young family 100 yards to the north. Everyone has seen news. A lady in Campbellsport was recently hit by an arrow. It only takes once.
2. **Diane Wiess**, Milwaukee, representing self. She spoke in opposition to the re-designation. She does not believe this is a wise choice. The way these properties are lined up is like a peaceful valley, with the hills rolling down. Where are they going to be shooting? In the last six months, she has only seen two baby deer, no mom. She is really fired up about this. It is not a wise choice. There is too much uncertainty as to where people will be treading. Will the hatchery staff have to enforce the area? At one time when she lived in Burlington, she was out on her deck with her daughter and heard gun shot. Her window was shot out. There was no evidence of who did it. She does not like feeling threatened. How will this area be policed and how will the public be kept in the right spot? She asked the Board to say no.
3. **Dave Schober**, Adell, representing self. He spoke in opposition to the re-designation. He stated that their properties would be devalued because the surrounding fish hatchery land will no longer be a refuge for animals. Property owners will experience increased noise and activity during hunting season. There will be less of a chance to view wildlife by the public who routinely travel Trout Spring Road for this purpose. The proposed 204 acres are not one contiguous piece of land. This would result in a posting nightmare and safety concerns with an increased potential for trespassing violations. This property is a fragile ecosystem that includes pileated woodpeckers and flying squirrels. There are plenty of public and private hunting lands in Sheboygan County. Why over-burden this land? **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on what the prime opportunity for hunting or fishing is on this land.

4. **Paul Oetlinger**, Town of Adell, representing self. He spoke in opposition to the re-designation. He questioned why 204 acres would be split into five parcels of varying size. This would make narrow shooting areas. There is already ample hunting land already in the county. Deer harvest in this area is relatively small. Why trade safety and the well-being of the public for so little? These are small areas. This does not make sense. Mr. Jonas is just feet from the line drawn on the map. Trespassing will be an issue. Who will patrol? Calling the sheriff will be useless. By the time he gets there, the trespassers will be gone. You will be inviting property damage and confrontation with trespassers.

The Board discussed with Mr. Oetlinger whether the neighboring property owners talked to the Town Board about this re-designation and whether the land owners utilize this area at all.

Discussion continued as to how the department got to this point and where their direction came from, what the footprint of the fish hatchery buildings are on the property, whether fisheries staff has safety concerns if hunting took place on the hatchery grounds, who would handle trespass conflicts, and the additional management responsibility concerns in re-designating this property.

**Secretary Stepp** stated this is part of a broader directive from the legislature. If there are opportunities to allow access, the department needs to take a good hard look at identifying these properties.

**Ms. Wiley** stated that we are all stakeholders and owners. Only approximately 15% of the population in Wisconsin are hunters. This is already protected land.

Discussion followed on the significant issue for the neighbors, the need for broader public involvement, that small parcels tend to create conflicts, and the need for more information.

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

Discussion followed as to whether the department had reached out to the town board, that the safety issue is paramount to the neighboring landowners, the need to take a bigger look at the bigger picture of these re-designations, concern about the discussion of hunting safety, the need to hear from all stakeholders, and that the hatchery staff person reflects the same safety concern as the neighbors.

**Mr. Hilgenberg** called the question.

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

**Secretary Stepp** stated the department is currently evaluating their holdings and looking at the broader picture statewide. These are big issues. Access is a clear directive from the legislature.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.B.3 Land Acquisition and Partial Donation of Value – Ice Age Trail – Columbia County  
[Denied at the August 8, 2012 Board meeting]

**Public Appearances:**

1. **Bill Welch**, Lodi, representing Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley & Friends of Gibraltar Rock

President. He stated that at their annual meeting, they approved a letter to the Board for a strong endorsement of this acquisition for the following main reasons: increased access to the Gibraltar Rock area, the ecological value of the leatherleaf bog warrants a State Natural Area designation.

The combined properties represent an ecological continuum from lowland bog to the top of the bluff. The third reason is for aesthetics. The property offers breathtaking views of the Gibraltar Rock bluff face. Development would spoil the expansive unblemished open land viewscape toward the south and west.

2. **Kevin Thusius**, Cross Plains, representing Ice Age Trail Alliance. The Ice Age Trail Alliance is a non-profit organization that provides the boots on the ground for the Trail. In 2011, more than 2,000 IAT volunteers contributed 65,000+ hours of their valuable personal time. Basically, the Ice Age Trail Alliance builds the Trail, keeps it open, provides guided hikes and makes sure the Trail is ready for enjoyment. Specifically, on state land, the Alliance has provided approximately 35,000 volunteer hours and 8,000 staff hours so far in 2012 - valued at over \$900,000 (\$637,000 volunteers, \$280,000 staff). Another important fact: 60% of Wisconsin residents live within 20 miles of the Ice Age Trail. The Ice Age Trail is a means of connecting wildlife and natural habitats, a simple way for people to recreate, exercise, and learn about the outdoors in a location close to home and at virtually no cost. Gibraltar Rock is a special area for a multitude of reasons including historical, geological and recreational. Historically it provided a lookout, a gathering place and a place of spiritual enlightenment. Geologically, this sandstone and dolomite feature had glacial ice stacked above its 200 foot vertical face and yet it was barely impacted by the great ice sheet. Recreationally, the area is open to walking, hunting, bird watching and other low-impact pursuits. For all these reasons, it is an ideal location for the Ice Age NST. The Smith parcel will enable a route for the Ice Age Trail to connect to points south and east. The acquisition will enable a route for the Trail down from atop the overlook to and along the leather-leaf bog and open a series of routing possibilities. The Ice Age Trail Alliance, its members and volunteers strongly supports the acquisition of the Smith parcel for the Ice Age NST because it will help enable an off-road segment of the Ice Age Trail and protect an important natural, historical and recreational resource.
3. **Dean Schwarz**, Town of West Point Chair. He stated the acquisition of this property is important to residents of West Point. They have a lot of pride in this community. Gibraltar Rock is their cathedral. The Town approved a resolution supporting this acquisition in July 2012. This is the best use for this property. This acquisition is very important to the economics of the surrounding towns. They are all starting to realize and to embrace the IAT on this piece of property.

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

**Secretary Stepp** thanked the Friends group for the thousands of hours of real work they have done.

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

#### **Public Appearances:**

1. **Kevin Thusius**, Cross Plains, representing Ice Age Trail Alliance. He stated that these properties will enable an off-road Ice age Trail segment from Rockledge Road to and past Hillview Road – approximately 1.5 miles. They are already working with two neighbors to the north to gain access to Tapawingo Road. More than a mile of stream bank and cedar, birch, maple forest along the East Twin River will be protected. They have the ability to permanently build and protect the Ice Age Trail on the Thompson property. The Thompsons (as sellers, neighbors and conservationists) are excited about sharing their land with the Trail. Ice Age Trail users are excited about a new segment. The public will be excited. And yes, the volunteers are extremely excited and ready to take-on construction and maintenance. He then shared a few comments from IAT users from across the state. The Ice Age Trail Alliance strongly supports the acquisition of the Thompson parcels for the Ice Age NST because it will

help enable an excellent off-road segment of the Ice Age Trail and protect important natural resources such as streambank habitat and water quality.

**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 [Moved from the September 26, 2012 meeting agenda]

**Mr. Cole MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley.**

**Public Appearances:**

1. **Michael Moore**, Brodhead, representing Town of Avon as Chair and **Representative Evan Wynn**, District 45, Whitewater (Handout)

**Mr. Moore** stated that their township does not have enough money to fix roads for what they get for payment in lieu of taxes (PILT). They have about eight miles of roads that border the DNR

ground which costs the town \$2,585 to maintain each mile (8 miles x \$2,585 = \$20,680). The town only gets \$8,000 from the state to keep the roads open. They have a real problem with that. He has to spend \$12,000 more than what they get for those roads. The other problem is, if someone goes out there to do target practice, the shooters do not care where the bullets go. Landowners have problems with bb's and such landing on roofs, etc.

Discussion followed as to whether the township has taken a position on this purchase, further review of PILT and its effect on towns, the effect of increased traffic to state lands, whether there are any available state road aids, and whether these purchases are adding problems to townships.

**Representative Wynn** did not speak in support or opposition to the acquisition. He stated he represents a very large geographical district which is comprised of 19 towns. He hears from every township. The legislature needs to take action in the next budget. On average, towns have 50 miles of road and the state gives them money each year for maintaining approximately one mile. Towns make up about 61% of all paved roads in the state. His concern is when the state purchases property, it does have an impact on the towns and communities, especially when talking about bridges and roads. This needs to be talked about in the 2013 budget. We are developing great interstates. The problem is, how do we get from the Interstate to state properties? He came before the Board today to present this issue so it can be further discussed.

Discussion followed on the negative impacts of state ownership in townships, whether the township has to plow DNR roads in the winter, and whether the DNR could get hit in the future for increased property taxes to account for road maintenance.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Public Appearances:**

1. **Michael Moore**, Brodhead, representing Town of Avon as Chair and **Representative Evan Wynn**, District 45, Whitewater.

Michael Moore stated that if you look at the top left of the map, his house is located above. He can see the four ponds from his house. The price of \$1,400 per acre is fine. He stated Mr. Matteson got \$4,000 per acre to put it into the wetland program. That is how the mechanics of this work. He said that most of the property down below has sandy soil. It is poor land. He passed around aerial photos of when there was severe flooding in 2007 in this area. He took the photographs from a DNR plane. Most of this property flooded. At \$1,400 per acre, the DNR will have more people trying to sell this land.

2. **Caleb Pourchot**, Madison, representing Natural Heritage Land Trust. He stated that they are excited about this latest acquisition adjacent to the Avon Bottoms State Wildlife Area. Avon Bottoms is quickly becoming one of the premiere conservation landscapes in southern Wisconsin and has been named an Important Bird Area by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative and one of the 100 Wetland Gems of Wisconsin, by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association. This particular property has two added benefits. The first is that it is covered by a Wetlands Reserve Program easement held by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which obligates the NRCS to fully restore and manage the property. The second is that the landowner has agreed to sell the property to us for 50% of its fair market value. These factors make the purchase of this property a very low-cost way to add significantly to the public recreational opportunities available at Avon Bottoms. He asked that the Board vote in favor of accepting this donation of land from Natural Heritage Land Trust.

Discussion followed on whether the DNR collectively paid for this for them to acquire it through the easement program and property management concerns.

**Mr. Cole MOVED approval and to acknowledge the donation, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski.**

Discussion followed as to whether the federal government is responsible for maintenance on this property.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Public Appearances:**

1. **Doug Fendry**, McFarland, Pheasants Forever as Regional Wildlife Biologist and State Representative. He stated Pheasants Forever is proud to be celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Not only does Pheasants Forever offer land donations, but they also offer to continue to provide management services to the DNR. They have conducted prescribed burns, mowing, planting food plots, as well as conducting an annual trash clean-up on all Rock County Wildlife Areas. The chapter is very capable of helping manage these properties. Last year, they conducted prescribed burns on 872 acres, planted 11 food plots totaling 23 acres, and planted 111 acres of nesting cover. They are proud of their partnerships with DNR with both the Farm Bill Biologist program and their public lands management program. He requested the Board accept these land donations. **(HANDOUT)**

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

Discussion followed on the status of re-establishing the pheasant population and the importance of cropland and grass cover, concerns that these properties are stand-alone projects with no DNR owned land contiguous to these properties, whether the DNR has a long-term management plan on identifying properties for contiguous ownership and management, master plan concerns, whether the planning process should be bumped up to 2013 on these parcels, and that scattered parcels may have an advantage for genetic diversity.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Bruins** led the Board and attendees on singing “Happy Birthday” to Executive Assistant Scott Gunderson.

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  
**Gail Good**, Air Management Monitoring Section Chief, spoke in place of Andrew Stewart,

Bureau of Air Management Deputy Director. She stated that the statement of scope being examined for approval today is made up of three components, each required to ensure consistency with federal regulations or statutory requirements. The first component pertains to language contained in chapters 405 and 408 related to large emission sources requiring a preconstruction permit. This proposed rule package seeks to amend the definition in the code to ensure consistency with federal regulations by formally recognizing all federally issued permits. This change will not impact any sources because the air permit program has been operating in this manner.

The second component of this statement of scope addresses Regulated New Source Review Air Contaminants, which are defined in chapter 405. In order to avoid two Federal Implementation Plan processes and the turning over of portions of our Wisconsin permit program to federal authority, this proposed rule package will address the incorporation of the specific precursor pollutants into the Wisconsin Administrative Code. This change will not affect sources because it is simply a clarification of an accepted and applied definition. The third component of this statement of scope addresses the indirect source program. This program was designed to control carbon monoxide emissions from indirect sources through permitting. Through passage of Wisconsin Act 121, the legislature repealed chapter 411 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, thereby ending the indirect source program in Wisconsin. The current ambient standards for carbon monoxide are being met in the state. This statement of scope and proposed rule package seeks to repeal portions of chapters 400 and 410 related to definitions and fees that reference the indirect source program. Repealing these portions of the Wisconsin Administrative Code will have no effect on sources because chapter 411 has already been repealed. She requested the Board approve the statement of scope for Board Order AM-21-12.

**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

**Andrea Diss-Torrance**, Invasive Insect Program Coordinator, reviewed the changes in firewood regulations on state lands going back to 2006. She discussed how much protection is afforded properties by limiting the distance from which firewood may be brought and how this affects EAB, oak wilt, beech bark disease and other invasives. She then highlighted the proposed changes: Reduce the distance firewood may originate from the campground or property it enters from 25 miles to 10 miles. Remove the prohibition on out of state firewood as this will no longer provide significant additional protection if the 10 mile limit is approved. She requested the Board approve the statement of scope for Board Order FR-20-12. **(PowerPoint)**

**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.

Discussion followed on how the DNR can distinguish the number of miles firewood has traveled to allow it into a state park and how campers scavenge wood to take as their own from other campers that are leaving.

**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 – 11:00 a.m.

4.A. Citizen Recognition

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

**Secretary Stepp** stated Penelope and Gary Shackelford have shown, through the donation of their time, talent and resources, a commitment to the protection of Wisconsin's endangered resources. In 2004, they donated a conservation easement to the people of Wisconsin on 376 acres of their property near Lake Koshkonong in Rock County. This land, containing wetlands, prairies, and oak savanna, is now designated by the DNR as the Fair Meadows State Natural Area. It protects several rare species of plants and animals, including the osprey, purple milkweed, Blanding's turtle, and cerulean warbler. Fair Meadows also harbors one of Wisconsin's largest populations of the rare and beautiful Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, a species listed as state and federally threatened. The orchid is thriving on their land thanks to Gary and Penny's work to protect and restore its habitat. For all their efforts in support of the State Natural Areas Program and the conservation of rare plants like the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, Penny and Gary Shackelford have been commended by Governor Scott Walker as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' September 2012 "Comeback Champs". We thank them for their dedication to preserving Wisconsin's natural heritage for future generations.

**Penelope Shackelford** stated that their mission on their property is to preserve and restore natural communities so that natural forces will maintain a greatest possible diversity of native plant and animal species. They came to this mission gradually since they first purchased the property in 1985. As they removed exotic and invasive aggressive species and reintroduced fire and small changes in hydrology, they were rewarded with species as mentioned by Secretary Stepp. Most recently, a pair of bald eagles set up a nest in a healthy cottonwood at the edge of the marsh. She then shared a quote from Aldo Leopold and then thanked DNR staff and others outside of the DNR that have helped them. Private landowners cannot do without these resources.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

4.A.2 Comeback Champs – Whooping Cranes

**Secretary Stepp** stated that Jane Duden and Journey North have covered the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) whooping cranes with creative lessons and daily migration updates for the Journey North website since 2001, treating children to a "front-row seat" for the reintroduction of the new eastern flock. As a thoughtful steward of the environment and long-time whooping crane enthusiast, she is committed to the mission and success of WCEP's reintroduction project and is delighted to bring their story into classrooms across the continent. For all their efforts in support of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, Jane Duden and Journey North have been commended by Governor Scott Walker as Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' October 2012 "Comeback Champs". We thank them for their dedication to helping bring back whooping cranes to eastern North America.

**Jane Duden** expressed the pride and enthusiasm and joy that she and Journey North have gotten for telling this wonderful story and involving citizen scientists. That has been their niche. Journey North is the leading and premier citizen science website for K-12. They have many adult followers too. They get so many reports of whooping cranes on their map data base every month during migration season that some turn out not to be whooping cranes. They are trying to educate the public. In the course of the years, she has met the most wonderful people through the partnerships, including staff at the DNR. She has published 1,000 migration reports daily for the fall migration and in the spring as well. The reports wore her out so she now does weekly summaries. She has written close to 300 lessons and 227 crane biographies to get children interested in the cranes as individuals of a species because each one does have a unique

personality. That has been a real hook on the devotion they are receiving from school kids who are growing up. They will be our future citizens and stewards of the environment. She is grateful to all for their vision and their support in helping them be a success.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

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

**Secretary Stepp** stated that this year, the Wings Across the Americas - Habitat Management and Partnership Award recognized DNR Real Estate Director **Dick Steffes**, Division of Forestry Conservation Easement Specialist, **Nicole Potvin** and Forest Legacy Program Specialist **Amy Singh** for their work on the Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project. Wings Across the Americas is a program of the U.S. Forest Service that works with a wide range of partners across landscapes in the United States and overseas to conserve birds, bats and butterflies as well as their habitats. The Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project offers food and shelter for both migrating and nesting birds, and is one of the few places the public can observe an active heron rookery. In addition to its great value for birds, the flowage supports a world-class fishery for musky and walleye. The Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project was possible due to Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program which is focused on maintaining large blocks of privately-owned working forest lands. The Forest Legacy easement keeps this significant forest area in productive forest use under private ownership. The long term forestry use will help support the timber industry and related jobs and also provides a very large area for permanent public access for hunting, fishing trapping, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and hiking. The land will remain in undeveloped condition and will be managed by the private landowner to maintain productive hardwood and pine forests. The Chippewa Flowage Forest Project linked over 18,000 acres of resource rich forest with nearly one million acres of protected forest lands on either side of the Chippewa Flowage, connecting the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Land, County Forests and state protected lands. This project was made possible through a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, DNR, the nonprofit Trust for Public Land and Plum Creek Timber Corporation. Through the hard work of Dick Steffes, Nicole Potvin and Amy Singh, as well as our partners, Wisconsin has conserved important bird habitat, is keeping this land sustainably producing forest products, and is ensuring this land will be open for public recreation for future generations. Well done!

**Dick Steffes** stated these things happen with a lot of work and with a lot of partners. It was enjoyable and rewarding for him as a practitioner to see two administrations involved in this, the administrations of Governor Doyle and Governor Walker. That was rewarding and shows the bi-partisan nature of these things. He then noted that Paul DeLong also was an award winner. There is a leadership quality that Paul brings in. He thanked Kurt Thiede, Land Administrator, for approving his out-of-state travel request to go to the event.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

##### 4.B. Citizen Participation

1. **Scott Taetsch**, Gleason, representing Friends of the NRA as Senior Field Representative, **Jeff Nass**, Pulaski, representing Wisconsin FORCE (Firearms Owners, Ranges, Clubs, and Educators) as Board of Director President, and **Paul** Baumann, Kenosha, representing Wisconsin FORCE as Director of Communications.

*Topic:* NRA grants for renovating the McMiller and Yellowstone shooting ranges.

**Secretary Stepp** stated that with an estimated 800,000 shooters in the state, Wisconsin DNR has a long history of promoting safe and accessible shooting opportunities including a commitment to provide ranges on public lands. The dozen or so public ranges are considered generally heavily used and several are in need of repair and/or maintenance work. This grant from the NRA will really help us fulfill our commitment to improve and increase public

awareness of and access to quality, safe shooting opportunities at public ranges. These funds will be matched with Pittman-Robertson (PR) grant monies and used to improve two very popular ranges on public land: Yellowstone in LaFayette County and McMiller in Waukesha County. These PR grant revenues are taxes paid by shooters and hunters on ammunition and equipment, so we are putting their money right back into providing more shooting opportunity. In order to help maintain our shooting sports culture and hunting heritage and the economic impact those activities have, we want to increase opportunities for shooting in a safe environment within a reasonable distance of shooters' homes and in a location intended for shooting.

**Scott Taetsch** presented a check in the amount of \$50,000 to the DNR. He stated this is a part that few people see in the press, the field operations division, everything from Boy Scouts of America to training. He has known and worked with Tim Lawhern for 15 - 20 years. He cannot say enough about putting up the new public ranges. He is the full-time NRA employee that lives in Wisconsin.

**Jeff Nass** thanked the DNR, starting with Secretary Stepp, Tim Lawhern, Scott Gunderson, and Keith Warnke. He knew about this program and got Scott in contact with the DNR. We kept things rolling. The NRA was formed in 1871 for civil rights, education and training. This is a huge step towards that as Secretary Stepp graciously pointed out, whether the ranges are used by hunters or for concealed carry permit holders. They cannot wait to expand on this.

2. **Richard Jones**, Lodi, representing self and surrounding property owners  
*Topic:* Present petition to NRB and department re Act 168  
He lives south of the Merrimac Ferry in a rural residential area by the Ice Age Trail. In December, the Board will be faced with making a decision under Act 168 on what properties are open and closed to hunting. He is an avid hunter but there comes a time and place for hunting. The property they are concerned with is the connecting link to the IAT. He and his neighbors wrote a very comprehensive letter that was distributed to the Board which spells out the concerns and questions they have. The three page letter in strong opposition includes a petition to close two parcels of land, 7 acres and 78 acres respectively to all hunting and trapping as a matter of public safety. He then reviewed and distributed a letter he received from Brian Parker regarding his experience of being approached by two hunters as he was out walking with his seven month old son. This is a very serious concern to the neighbors.  
**(Handouts)**

Discussion followed as to whether Mr. Jones would be concerned with bow hunting being allowed on this property.

**Mr. Jones** stated bow hunting was not their big issue. He was informed by Dan Schuller that it is an all or nothing thing, either close it or open it. You cannot pick or choose according to the legislation. Trapping is a big issue with children and pets playing outdoors. He appeared before the Senate committee and tried to give them some ideas. The comment they made after his presentation was that this bill needed a lot of work. Now they dumped a bucket of worms on the DNR to try to sort out. This is wrong. They could have taken the time to give the DNR more flexibility. If you read their letter, you will see that windows have been shot out, pets have been shot. They have had problems over the years. This property was eventually posted for no hunting which was a much needed improvement.

**Dan Schuller**, Park and Recreation Bureau Director, stated that Act 168 allows the DNR through department action to close designated use areas and areas up to 100 yards beyond that. It allows the Board to consider a portion or all lands on a state park property beyond that area. His understanding is that it is either open or closed. The Board can pick dates for opening or closing, but not particular types of activities.

3. **Cheryl Elkinton**, Madison, representing self.

*Topic:* Petition for rulemaking regarding oxygen levels

She thinks it should be known that if there are areas in our state where there are problem wolves, it is possibly because they are having an intelligence not all persons are aware of and are reacting to animals in captivity and the abuse associated with it. She asked the department to move problem animals. We must insist that all animals have a purpose and are necessary components to life. We need to insist that organic growing methods be done. We are sick as are the animals. Genetic engineering has to stop. Soil samples and medical records from the last ten years will prove this. She would like to try and get together with the DNR. She will be asking the DNR to assist her. We are sick and are lacking oxygen, we need to change. There is a shortage of oxygen due to too many cars on the road. She asked that people cut back on their vehicle use. **(Handout)**

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.

**Chair Clausen** will add this item to either the February or March 2013 agenda.

**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.

**Chair Clausen** stated he will work to get this added to a future meeting agenda.

**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

**Secretary Stepp**

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".

**John Koffel**, Al Swain, **Bill Van Haren**, and **Cheryl Koerwitz**, were in attendance from The Friends of Blue Mound State Park to accept the acknowledgement plaque for the donation.

**Bill Van Haren** stated that they are thrilled to have the opportunity to build this shelter in a beautiful park. Long ago the NRB decided to purchase this property. It was not always a park.

Now it is a wonderful resource for the whole area. Through the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and many years of saving money, they were able to do this project. Between the DNR and Department of Administration, the Stewardship Fund, and friends of The Friends, and participants in the fundraisers, we were able to put the money together for this project. Come enjoy the park in all seasons.

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

**Secretary Stepp** then shared some quick updates with the Board. A *forum* has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 13 with sporting groups to review the Fish & Wildlife dollars received; to explain to them how the process works; and show them where their dollars are being spent. She then stated that *deer season* is coming up. The focus of the 2012 season is going to be on the fun of it, the traditions, and human interest stories. The DNR wants to show that WI is a deer hunting destination and will push all those positive stories to illustrate why. The DNR has a brand new communication specialist: *Jenny Pelej*. She will bring some new and exciting energy and ideas into the wildlife program. She has a lot of experience from states out west. She will bring tremendous value to the agency. Traditions of deer hunting will be stressed, getting retired hunters back into the field, and the 4-f’s. The 4-f’s are going to be the themes of this year’s hunt which are fun, first timers, families, and females. The DNR will be heavily emphasizing social media. She then updated the Board on the *wolf harvest*, with 22 harvested this morning and were evenly split between trapping and with a firearm. The department is closely monitoring the zones and is updating the harvest report each morning. She then invited Kristy Rogers to the podium for an update on *Lean 2* (what it means and on Leadership Academy projects).

**Kristy Rogers**, Process Improvement Director, stated that the Department is moving forward with a second phase of the Lean Initiative. Each Bureau will be conducting a project with half of the projects starting in November (Fall projects) and the second half starting in January (Winter projects.) All of the projects will work toward the following agency-wide goals:

- Reduce DNR Staff workload.
- Reduce lead time (the time it takes to deliver your product to your customer).
- Improve customer satisfaction.
- Ensure staff and customer safety.

Early in 2013, we will begin monitoring and reporting on the results of the first Lean projects. There are approximately 30 projects that also are being conducted by Leadership Academy participants. The handout listing the Leadership Academy Projects are tentative. Several of the projects have not yet received final approval to proceed. **(Handout)**

**Secretary Stepp** stated that she is very proud of this effort. It is all about increasing our delivery of service to Wisconsinites and to the resource. That is our responsibility here. We are making sure that when we adding value to all of the processes in the systems we use at DNR so that our human resources can be best used. We have amazing leaders in this department who have been starving for the opportunity to shine and showcase their gifts and talents.

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]

**Meg Galloway**, Dam and Floodplain Section Chief, reviewed the water trails in the state. There are 17 rivers and 127 dams. She then summarized state regulations, the obligations of owners, warning signs and portages for dams, definition of portage, the dam boating safety inspection & order, and Federal Regulation of dam safety. She addressed the Kilbourn dam issues. For the future, the department will keep this issue as part of the state dam safety inspections, keep issue on the table as part of periodic check-ins with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff, and will continue to work on problem sites. **(PowerPoint)**

OCTOBER 24, 2012

**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.\*\*\*

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](mailto:laurie.ross@wisconsin.gov)

**NOTE: Each Natural Resources Board meeting is recorded. Tapes of each meeting are available for purchase by contacting the Board Liaison at 608-267-7420. Recordings will be posted on-line at: <http://dnrmedia.wi.gov/main/Catalog/pages/catalog.aspx?catalogId=5449d652-227e-46a8-b511-bfc430ca79ce>**

**The following resources are also available: Agenda Item Packets (green sheets), supporting documents, and public comment.**