

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

SUBJECT: Retirement resolutions

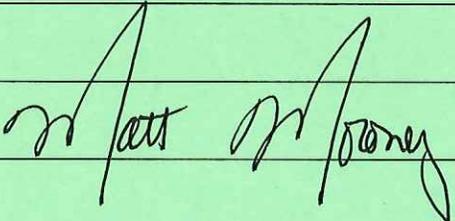
FOR: SEPTEMBER 2012 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Stepp

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

Employee	Years of Service
1. Daniel E. Cardinal III	37
2. Deb Johnson	26
3. Mark Kubler	34
4. Billie J. Vanklooster	21
5. Thomas W. Wrasse	30

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adopt the retirement resolution(s) for September 2012.

Approved by	Signature	Date
, Bureau Director N/A		
, Administrator N/A		
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		9/10/12

cc: Board Liaison - AD/8

Retirement Resolution

Daniel E. Cardinal III, Aircraft Pilot in Rhinelander, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on September 7, 2012 after 37 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Daniel E. Cardinal III was initially hired as a limited-term (LTE) Special Conservation Warden in June 1975 and was stationed in Hayward. In 1998 he started as an LTE Natural Resource Officer (NRO) on the Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest in Woodruff. Dan became a LTE Aircraft Pilot in 2000 and moved into the full-time (FTE) Aircraft Pilot position in Rhinelander in 2006. During this time as a DNR pilot, Dan continued to also serve as a NRO on the NHAL State Forest and as a Deputy Conservation warden for the state .

Dan is consistently recognised for his professionalism and the integrity that he brought to his work every day; his positive attitude and willingness to help was continually prevalent throughout his career; his co-workers have noted his calm demeanor in stressful situations; Dan's skills in relationship development and nurturing were critical in his success as a law enforcement officer and in the aviation program; his total dedication to the natural resources is commendable; and his communications skills often, in difficult situations, are unequaled.

WHEREAS, Daniel E. Cardinal III has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its September 2012 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Daniel E. a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Deborah Drayna Johnson retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on September 4, 2012, after serving in the Bureau of Legal Services and the citizens of Wisconsin for over 26 years. Deb began her service for the state of Wisconsin at the end of November, 1983 with the Department of Health and Services (DHS) doing probation and parole revocation hearings, and when her fellow attorneys found out that she had been a prosecutor for 3 years with the Sheboygan County District Attorney's Office, they were duly impressed.

From DHS, Deb was hired by Jim Kurtz at the Bureau of Legal Services in 1987 as the new "Water Supply" attorney for the Department. She worked on Safe Drinking Water Act compliance and "lots and lots" of well-drilling issues. Since that time, Deb has covered the gamut on a host of Department issues, including intellectual property, septage haulers, remediation and redevelopment, hazardous waste, Clean Air Act, Great Lakes Legacy Act cleanups, sediment cleanups under Superfund and of course, captive wildlife.

In addition to her significant legal achievements and direction that she provided to the Department and the citizens of the State, Deb met her husband, Ken Johnson, as a direct result of her good work here at Natural Resources. Deb will be deeply missed by her colleagues, and the citizens of the state owe her a debt of gratitude.

WHEREAS, the dedication and commitment of Deborah D. Johnson has earned her the respect of the public, her co-workers, supervisors and associates throughout the Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its September 2012 meeting at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Deborah a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Mark Kubler, Area Forestry Leader in Baldwin, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on July 12, 2012 after more than 34 years years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Mark began his career in 1978 as a Natural Resources Assistant at the Cornell Ranger Station, worked as a Park Ranger at Willow River State Park and then distinguished himself as an effective supervisor as Superintendent of Willow River State Park, Parks and Recreation Work Unit Supervisor for the St. Croix Work Unit, Sub Team leader at Baldwin, and finally as the Area Forestry Leader.

Mark's excellent and bold leadership was recognized in 1994 when he was presented the Bureau of Parks and Recreation Distinguished Service Award for outstanding achievement. Mark effectively led the highly controversial effort to remove the Willow Falls dam and restore the former stream that coursed through the park more than 100 years ago.

When Mark became Area Forestry Leader in Baldwin in 2002, he dedicated his efforts to leading the forest management program including the complex managed forest law (MFL) program. In 2009, this dedicated effort resulted in Mark receiving the prestigious Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources Pride Award for work developing an MFL plan template

WHEREAS, Mark Kubler has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its September 2012 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Mark a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Billie VanKlooster, Customer Service Representative-Senior in Green Bay, retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on September 3 after 21 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Billie began her career with the DNR in October of 1991 as a Purchasing Agent 1 in the Lake Michigan District. She was then reallocated to Purchasing Agent Objective in June 1994 and continued in that capacity until June of 2004. Between 2004 and 2006, Billie served as a Revenue Agent in the Department of Revenue before returning to DNR in mid-2006 as a Customer Service Representative-Senior in the Northeast Region, where she remained until her retirement in September of 2012. Her responsibilities included license sales, vehicle registration, customer service and financial duties. During her time in this position, Billie has provided outstanding service to thousands of customers from all over the state and beyond.

Billie has always shown a high degree of professionalism and maintained a high standard in her work. Billie has consistently been an exceptional resource for customers of the Department and her peers. Billie leaves the Department with a proven record of distinguished performance and exemplary service.

WHEREAS, Billie VanKlooster has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its September 2012 meeting recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Billie a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, Chair

Retirement Resolution

Thomas (Tom) W. Wrasse, Conservation Warden Supervisor, retired from the Department of Natural Resources on June 1, 2012 with over 30 years of service to the citizens and natural resources of the State of Wisconsin. Tom started his career with the department in 1981 as a LTE Natural Resources Officer at Kinnickinnic State Park. In 1984 Tom achieved the ultimate goal as he was permanently hired as a Wisconsin Conservation Warden. During his Field Training assignments Tom was stationed at Green Lake, Elkhorn and Florence prior to his first permanent assignment at Madison in August of 1984. In 1988 Tom promoted to the position of Conservation Warden Supervisor located at Dodgeville. In 1991 the opportunity to transfer to the water rich northwoods permitted Tom to settle in at the Woodruff warden supervisor position where he remained until retirement.

Tom's passion for protecting the outdoors began as a child growing up in Oshkosh on the shores of Lake Winnebago. Tom spent countless hours recreating in the Fox River Valley where he fished, trapped, hunted, canoed, boated and skied. It was the gratification the great outdoors gave him that led Tom to a career in ensuring others had that same opportunity into the future.

During his tenure as warden supervisor Tom participated in a variety of department committees as well as several working groups that partnered with outside entities. Tom was involved with Trophy Deer Management, the Conservation Congress Turkey and Outdoor Heritage committees, Information Technology, Mentoring Team, Aspiring Supervisor, Baiting and Feeding, Work Planning and Wild Rice. Tom also served as an instructor for firearms, the recruit warden academy, remotely operated vehicles, supervisory workshops and was a background investigator.

Tom was instrumental in developing and writing several state statutes and administrative codes that enabled better public support and understanding while at the same time provided for smoother enforcement. In addition, Tom assisted on writing several department policies that helped shape the warden service toward achieving future goals and objectives.

In 1994 Tom received the prestigious Shikar Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award for his cooperative efforts of working with the snowmobile communities and the highly contentious enforcement efforts pertaining to intoxicated operation. In 2004 Tom was recognized by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress with the Wildlife Officer of the year award.

Tom is a 2008 graduate of the department Leadership Academy. Tom's project while at the academy entailed developing and coordinating the departments Water Guard program. Today that program stands as one of the premier weapons battling aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, Thomas W. Wrasse has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its September 2012 meeting in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Thomas W. Wrasse a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR