

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution – Kevin Kessler

FOR: May 2008 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Matt Frank

SUMMARY:

Kevin Kessler retired April 30, 2008 after 37 years of state service.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Retirement Resolution for Kevin Kessler

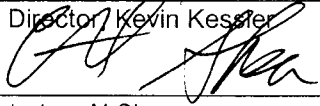
LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|----------|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:


 Bureau Director, Kevin Kessler

4/30/08
 Date


 Administrator, Al Shea

4/28/08
 Date

Secretary, Matthew J. Frank

Date

Retirement Resolution

Kevin Kessler retired from the Department of Natural Resources on April 30, 2008 after completing over 37 years of dedicated service to the State of Wisconsin.

Kevin began his DNR career in the Public Water Supply program and was promoted to DNR's first Safe Drinking Water Coordinator for the federal Safe Drinking Water Act in 1976. In 1980, Kevin moved from the public water system program with his promotion to Chief of the Private Water Supply program where he was responsible for statewide regulation of well drilling.

Kevin had a special attachment to Wisconsin's comprehensive groundwater law. He was assigned to the DNR Secretary's Office from 1981 until 1984 as the lead staff person working on that law until its passage in 1984. He had extensive experience working with the Legislature during that time. With the creation of the state's groundwater program, he served as DNR's first Groundwater Management Chief from 1983 until 1993. He was responsible for the establishment of the first groundwater standards and policy framework (NR 140) and coordination of the comprehensive groundwater program in all the related programs within DNR and other state agencies.

From October 31, 1988 to February 1989, Mr. Kessler served as Acting Chief of the Air Planning Section in the DNR's Bureau of Air Management while national recruitment for the position proceeded. The Air Planning Section at that time had responsibility for air toxics, State Implementation Plan development, and air modeling.

In 1993, Kevin was promoted to Deputy Director of the former Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste Management where he had responsibilities for the DNR's solid waste, hazardous waste, remediation, recycling, mining and waste tires programs. He was instrumental in establishing Wisconsin's non-metallic mining reclamation law. Following the DNR reorganization and the split of waste and remediation programs, he became Policy Section Chief for the Waste Management Bureau in 1997. He served in that capacity until 2001 when he accepted an assignment working as a policy advisor for the Air and Waste Division administrator. His assignments in that capacity included serving on several cross-program teams including leader of the open burning team, co-leader of the contaminated sediment team and a member of the management systems team.

From November, 2005 until his retirement on April 30, 2008, Kevin served as Director of the Bureau of Air Management where he had responsibility for statewide policy, permitting, monitoring and compliance related to Wisconsin's air pollution laws. During his tenure as Air Management Director, the Bureau implemented the air permit streamlining program and adopted numerous new regulations to dramatically reduce air pollution. Kevin advocated, personally demonstrated and instilled the concept that the environmental quality mission and expectations of the Department of Natural Resources had grown and evolved over his career. His conclusion was that the mission had evolved so that it includes not only "protecting public health and the environment," but now includes the more difficult mission of "protecting public health and the environment while promoting the economic vitality of the state."

Kevin and his wife Sherry have three grown children and live in the Lake Wisconsin area.

WHEREAS, Kevin Kessler has been a conscientious and dedicated employee throughout his career and has earned the friendship and gratitude of his fellow employees:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its May 2008 meeting at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Christine Thomas, CHAIR