

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

SUBJECT: The Rebecca Wallace Award

FOR: February 2022 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Preston Cole, Secretary; Dave Siebert, External Services Division Administrator; Dan Baumann, Secretary's Director, West Central Region

SUMMARY:

Secretary Preston Cole, Division Administrator Dave Siebert, and Secretary's Director Dan Baumann will present the award to the recipient at the February NRB meeting, and potentially take a photo with the recipient. (In person vs online meeting logistics will have to be sorted out.)

This is an annual award that began in 1998 following the death of Watershed Management employee, Rebecca Wallace, February 1997. Rebecca R. Wallace had been an environmental engineer with the Department of Natural Resources, since 1979. At the time of her death, she was Chief of the Runoff Management Section, in the Watershed Management Bureau. Becky was a persistent advocate for improvement and protection of Wisconsin's water resources. Her vision for the state's Nonpoint Program was clear and succinct: "Clean Water." Becky became a symbol of what goals could be achieved through not only hard work and dedication, but also with compassion and empathy for others. Becky and her husband, Lyle, died in an automobile accident on February 22, 1997, leaving three children, Spencer, Mitch, and Jeremy.

In February 1997, the Natural Resources Board passed a memorial resolution honoring Becky Wallace, establishing the Rebecca Wallace Memorial Award. Each year an award is given to an employee nominated for making the greatest contribution toward either the improvement of relationships with external partner agencies and organizations on environmental quality issues or mentoring of Department staff. In another tribute to Becky, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed 1997 Assembly Resolution 25, honoring both her career with the DNR and her strong commitment to her family.

Mr. James McEvoy, a retired DNR artist from Brooklyn, Wisconsin, created the accompanying pen and ink watercolor for the award. A print is given to each award recipient.

The recipient, Jim Fischer, Mississippi River Team Lead, was chosen by Rebecca Wallace Award Committee on 12/03/2021. Jim Fischer will have the opportunity to provide a speech.

Agenda Item Contact: Dan Helsel, Field Integration Leader, West Central Region (Committee Sponsor); Suzy Hasheider, Committee Coordinator

Note: We will provide the award recipient's information and talking points closer to NRB meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: Information only

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

- Background memo
Communication Plan
Brochure
Type name of attachment if applicable

Table with 3 columns: Approved by, Signature, Date. Rows include Jill Schoen, David Siebert, and Preston D. Cole, Secretary, with their respective signatures and dates.

cc: Board Liaison - AD/8

Handwritten initials WR

by Sarah Barry