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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2003-04

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Forestry...

## COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

## INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (July 2013)

## Assembly

## Record of Committee Proceedings

### Committee on Forestry

#### Assembly Bill 492

Relating to: designating Willow flowage project lands as state forest lands.

By Representatives Friske, Gard, Gronemus, Ainsworth, Seratti, M. Williams, J. Wood, Petrowski, Gunderson, Hines, Bies, Ott, LeMahieu, Albers, Hahn, Owens, Townsend and Krawczyk; cosponsored by Senators Zien, Kedzie and Breske.

September 08, 2003 Referred to Committee on Forestry.

October 14, 2003 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: 6 None.  
Absent: (0) None.

January 6, 2004 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: 6 None.  
Absent: (0) None.

#### Appearances For

- Representative Donald Friske (author).

#### Appearances Against

- Robert Mather, DNR Division of Forestry.

#### Appearances for Information Only

- None.

#### Registrations For

- Rep. Garey Bies, 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District.
- Gunner Bergerson, Wisconsin Timber Producers Association, Lake States Lumber.
- Colette Matthews, Wisconsin County Forests Association.
- Gene Francisco, Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association

#### Registrations Against

- None.

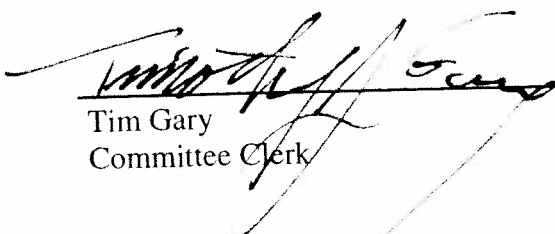
February 17, 2004 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (6) Representatives Friske, Ainsworth, Seratti, M.  
Williams, Hubler and Boyle.  
Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Representative Seratti, seconded by Representative  
Hubler that **Assembly Bill 492** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (6) Representatives Friske, Ainsworth, Seratti,  
M. Williams, Hubler and Boyle.  
Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 6, Noes 0



Tim Gary  
Committee Clerk

## Vote Record Committee on Forestry

Date: 2-17-04

Moved by: Seratti

Seconded by: Hubler

AB 492

SB \_\_\_\_\_

Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_

AJR \_\_\_\_\_

SJR \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment \_\_\_\_\_

AR \_\_\_\_\_

SR \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

Be recommended for:

- Passage
- Introduction
- Adoption
- Rejection
- Confirmation
- Tabling
- Concurrence
- Nonconcurrence
- Indefinite Postponement

Committee Member

- Representative Donald Friske, Chair**
- Representative John Ainsworth**
- Representative Lorraine Seratti**
- Representative Mary Williams**
- Representative Mary Hubler**
- Representative Frank Boyle**

<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
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<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	_____

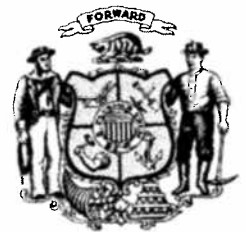
Totals:

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**Testimony Before the  
Assembly Forestry  
Committee  
January 6, 2004**

**In Regards to AB 492**

Good morning, Chairman Representative Friske and other committee members. I am Bob Mather, Director of the Bureau of Forest Management, Division of Forestry, in the Department of Natural Resources. I want to thank you for this opportunity to come before you today in regards to AB 492.

The Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Areas was acquired by the Department in two large purchases. The first purchase of 8,720 acres was comprised of the islands, shorelands and forested land, and was acquired from Four States Timber Venture in 1997. The second purchase of 7,425 acres was part of the "Great Addition" acquisition from the Packaging Corporation of America in 1999 and was forested land. With two additional small purchases, the Department currently owns 16,545 acres.

For Department owned properties, Master Plans are developed with extensive public input that describe the orientation, management and use of the land and water. The Willow Flowage master plan reflects strong public interest in both the property and the management capabilities of the land and water.

The Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area Master Plan has two distinct management areas. One is the core flowage area, which is managed to protect the natural scenic beauty of the undeveloped flowage, protect the lower Tomahawk River and to provide for water-based recreation and primitive camping. This area is about 3,245 acres.

The other is the vast backland area of woodlands and bogs, which provides important wildlife habitat and timber products, and contributes to the flowage's remote undeveloped environment. This area is about 13,300 acres.

The property was formally designated via the Master Plan as a recreation property under s.23.091, Statutes. This designation was selected because it best provides the Department with the authority to protect the scenic resources of the area, actively manage timber and wildlife habitat, and provide for recreational activities described in the plan. Management of this flowage parallels that of the previously acquired Chippewa and Turtle-Flambeau Flowages. All three flowages were acquired into state ownership because of their large unique nature and their highly recognized values for recreation and resource management opportunities.

The Department was successful in the FY 01-03 budget when a position for a property manager was approved via the Forestry Account. Following internal discussions, the decision was made to classify the property manager position as a forester. This designation reflected the anticipated forest management responsibilities of the position as well as the position's funding source.

Although supervision of the other two Flowage managers is in the Lands Division via the Northern Region Land Services Team leader, supervision of the Willow Manager was assigned to the Superintendent of the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest (NHAL).

The Department has discussed the merit of having the Willow Flowage be administered as part of the NHAL State Forest. By state statute, the NHAL is actually two adjacent state forests the Northern Highland in Vilas Co. and the American Legion in Oneida Co. Both forests are under the same administration. If the Willow Flowage became a state forest unto itself it could be managed under the NHAL administration.

The potential advantages of having the Willow under State Forest Management have been described as: the Forestry Account is currently a stable funding source, the Willow is close to the NHAL, the Flowage manager and his supervisor are already budgeted by Forestry, and the NHAL can provide additional staff and equipment for management.

In light of these benefits, the Department has moved the administration of the Willow Flowage to the Division of Forestry starting in July 2003. Supervision of the Flowage manager will continue to be performed by the Superintendent of the Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest. The operating funds for the property are coming jointly from Forestry and Lands.

The Department is opposed to this bill because we have already moved the administration of this Flowage to the Division of Forestry. The proposed designation to a state forest will not result in any efficiency for the Department's management of the Willow.

The property's name the Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area and the property's recreation area designation accurately reflect the variety of public uses and resource management intentions laid out in the publicly debated Master Plan. Continuous sound forest management is critical to the success of the Willow project. Timber harvest and regeneration efforts are outlined in the plan to enhance aesthetics along the flowage shorelines and to maintain wildlife habitats in the backlands. The planned management for the Willow will sustain the important resources the acquisition was meant to protect and will provide a number of unique Northwoods recreation opportunities. No change property designation is needed in order for this to happen.

Again, I want you for this opportunity to appear before you to discuss this important piece of legislation. I am willing to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.