



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Deer & Elk Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes
 Form 8300-026 (R 11/17) Page 1 of 4

ORDER OF BUSINESS	12/16/2023	9:33 am	Mead Wildlife Refuge
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Larry Bonde at	9:33 am
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Robert Lombard, Rick Olson, Ken Risley, Charlie Brown, Scott Gunderson, James Morning, Eric Wojchik, Mike Riggle, Dale Ebert, Kieran Kramer, Kevin Smaby, Lars Loberg, Al Moratz, Robert Nicksic, Stan Brownell, Marlin Laidlaw, Larry Gohlke, Doug Seidl, Wright Allen, Mike Burkart, Larry Bonde, David Breunig, Bradley Hasheider, Jeff Pritzl, Christina Kizewski, Dan Storm, Brad Hutnik, Kari Lee Zimmerman
EXCUSED	Tom Johnson, Noah Wishau, Andy Geiger, Anthony Grabski
UNEXCUSED	Thomas Ryden, Duane Beyer, Doug Seidl, Dylan Belisle DNR
GUESTS	Scott Bestul

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	Approved by Gary Kawalki, 2nd by Kevin Smaby

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Read by Bonde
ACTION	Approved by Charlie Brown, 2nd by Kevin Smaby

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A.

1.	110123 Give the option of an archery tag or gun tag with purchase of Sports license (may require legislation)	Mike Poehnelt
	DISCUSSION	Should choose x bow or vertical. It would be, it is now except for patrons license. May get more Pittman Robertson money because it would show 3 licinse bought instead of 1. Change last sentenct to may from which,
	ACTION	Motion to pass by Wojchik, 2nd by Smaby, motion passed.
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2.	130423 Ending extended deer seasons	Kaleb Ward
	DISCUSSION	Snowmobile clubs want this because it can cause landowners not letting trails through their land if a season is open. Most of the state it is a non factor. especially in the South. It is the landowners decision. The extended seasons keeps another tool in the toolbox for the CDACs to use. If they cut if off on Dec1, it effects muzzle loader and 4 day antlerless also.
	ACTION	Motion to Reject by Marlin Laidlaw, 2nd by Nicksic, Motion passed as rejecting
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

3.	420123 Expanded Opportunity for deer hunters with disabilities	Barbara Jacobson
DISCUSSION	This would allow the hunters to hunt other properties and not just certain ones. Already opens same time on some years. Hadicapped hunt has been going on for 30 years, If compressed to one 4 day hunt would take a week off disabled possibly. May help deer movement on a small scale. Statement is clear when the season would be open. Good move, better for handicapped. Change 2nd paragraph to youth hunt.	
ACTION	Motion to pass by Gunderson, 2nd by Brown, Motion carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. 160123 Bonus Antlerless deer harvest authorization process is discriminatory L. Arby Humphrey

DISCUSSION	Last state convention it was approved to become a draw already and was moved on.	
ACTION	motion to Reject by Liebert, 2nd by Gunderson, Motion passed to Reject	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. 690123 Antlerless only youth hunt every other year Kenneth Mosey

DISCUSSION	Youth hunt harvest is insignificant for a total harvest. Lots of hunters do not like youth hunt. Youth can have youth hunt for many years, From as young as 6 years old to 17 years old. Every other year is another excuse. Nubbin bucks do not make up a lot of the harvest and this is what they are trying to save possibly	
ACTION	Motion to Reject by Brown, 2nd by Laidlaw, Motion passed to Reject	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

D. 690223 Group bagging of antlerless deer in farmland zones (requires legislation) Scott Bestul

DISCUSSION	Each county or the whole State? One county on and off would be hard to do and track, either all or nothing. Law enforcement is not here to weigh in how they feel if this law would be abused. Ag areas get a lot of free tags already and can purchase more in most cases. Would be another tool to add to the CDAC tool box. Archery is normally solitary hunting. Where it may come into play is if one of the hunters hunted with a buddy in a different county that he did not have a tag for. Win win, go state wide. Would help with kids with split parents that live in different counties. There would be no change on how tags are issued, would just allow group bagging. Would benefit when doing deer drives for archery, Make farmland tags that are good in any farmland unit. Could be abused by someone shooting a deer without buddy along. If they are doing it now, they will do it later. Make bucks and does. Was well written, call the question	
ACTION	Motion to approve by Smaby, 2nd by Marotz. Motion passed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

E. 690623 Seignor hunt to run concurrent with youth hunt Kenneth Mosey

DISCUSSION	Thought this is not for youth, it is for the seniors. X bows are allowed already for the seniors. Adding another group to the youth hunt is dumb. There is a lot of seniors that hunt and would be a lot of hunters out that season. agree with this as it gives seniors hunting time when it is not so cold out. Average hunter age is 60, so there would be a tremendous amount of hunters out. Advance and see what the public thinks. Is like early T zone hunt so I support it.	
ACTION	Motion to adance by Wojchik, 2nd byMorotz, motion was split so did a roll call yes or no. yes=8, no= 12. Motion failed. 2nd motion to reject by Marlin, 2nd by Nicksic. Motion to reject passed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

F. [DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC]

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION		
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

G. Department Information items and Updates

Jeff Pritzl, Christina K., Dan StormHaily Frat

DISCUSSION	<p>CWD- samples similar to 2022, results came back average 8.5 days. Added 3 counties this year, Trempalo, Polk, Jackson. Deer dumpsters have financial limitations, that will change depending on the amounts of grants given. Was asked why they do not test all captive live deer with the live test? May be coming but it takes 4 years to get approved by USDA.</p> <p>Ag damage- Permit end date is Dec. 31. No change in enrollment criteria. Around 600 participants each year. To find out information on this you should talk to your county land conservation, they have data.</p> <p>DMAP- Build relationships between landowner and DNR. Help landowner achieve their goals and collecat data in r4eturn. Did 110 site visits this last year with over 44,000 acres. Goal this year is to do 200 visits . 505,301 acres enrolled, 3% increase over last year. 3,334 members which is an 11% increase over last year.</p> <p>Average buck kill this year if you average the last 5 years.</p> <p>DMU- This is coming up for review so the department will be working on it.</p> <p>Hunter dynamics- loosing approx 10,000 hunters a year.</p> <p>Elk- over 5,000 elk in State. Central herd is approx. 60 bulls, 34 calves born. There is 3 sub groups in Central zone. Central mortalities wer 18 in 2023= 10 car, 2 predation,1 disease, 2uk. estimated 75 cows. Calves have a 80 to 90% survival rate in Central. Lost 4 collard calves. 1 elk started by Wausau and moved through Wis. into Ill. where it got hit by a semi and killed. Was tagged and from Black River Falls herd. Spring collard 33 =4 calves, 11 bulls, and 18 cows. of that 4 calves, 2 bulls, and 9 cows were moved to the 3rd sub group. It is in the plans to modify fencing and 1 way gates on I94 between Milston and Warrens, later between Black River Fallls and Milston. These areas is where most of the car kills are. Elk zone is 24 miles from a CWD zone boundry.</p> <p>Northern herd-355 animals. 52 are collard lately, 18 calves, 7 bulls, and 27 cows. 30 deaths this year, most were collard ones. = 6 legally hunted, 2 uk, 2 vehicle, 16 wolves, 1 bear, 2 health issues, 1 other. 2023 hunt had 4 winners. shot 4 rag horns. Tribe took 4 rag horns and 2 bulls, and have 2 tags to fill yet with season going into Jan. Central zone is being considered for a hunt season soon. now approx. 47 bulls with a 15% increase each year.</p>	
ACTION	none	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

H. [DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC]

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION		
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

I. [DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC]

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION		
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Wolves, Who is the DNR listening to?</p> <p>Thanks for the Conservation Congress and all you do. We are the only organization of this kind in the nation. Good conversations today and good speakers.</p> <p>Elk herd doing better in the central herd than the northern herd meeting is way better in person and not zoom. Hope zoom is eliminated.</p> <p>CDAC is working</p> <p>People are not registering deer with the way the law is now. Getting more rapid</p> <p>Wolves do kill fawns. But so do bears, and the bear population is high and contributes to the predation in the north.</p>
ACTION	none

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	310pm
SUBMITTED BY	Bradley Hasheider
DATE	12/17/2023