

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2023 Spring District Meeting Agenda



1. **Organizational Matters** ~ (see schedule for start time)
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
2. **Informational Items & Program Updates**
  - A. DNR Staff Updates (regional or statewide issues of interest)
  - B. DNR Fish & Wildlife Spring Hearing Questions—DNR Staff
  - C. Review Conservation Congress Advisory Questions—WCC District Councilors
3. **Conservation Congress and DNR Spring Hearings**
  - A. Spring Hearings will be held online in 2023 beginning at noon on April 10 and will remain open for 72 hours. No in-person meetings to specifically discuss Spring Hearing questions will be held.
    - Resolutions submitted online through March 1<sup>st</sup> are being reviewed, revised when necessary, and approved by the WCC Resolution Review Committee for the April 10 Spring Hearings.
4. **WCC and DNR Open Houses**
  - A. Please review the training session video from Feb 23 so delegates understand their role and expectations at these open houses
  - B. Delegate Seats—this will be the first time elections have been held for WCC seats in 3 years. Please review the delegate roster and who is up for election. Let Kari Lee-Zimmermann know if there are any issues.
    - Delegate profiles will be available online in the form of a survey. Delegates have until **Friday, April 14, 2023**, to complete their delegate profile online. If a delegate does not have email, a hardcopy will be sent in the mail to be completed and sent back. Newly elected delegates with email will receive the informational email a few days after Kari Lee-Zimmermann is notified of their election.
  - C. Local Spring Hearing and Open House Communications  
There will be a number of press release going out with relation to the Spring Hearings and Open Houses. Kari Lee-Zimmermann will send them electronically to those delegates with email. Please spend some time in your county to help get the word out about both of these opportunities.
5. **Other Congress Business**
  - A. Committee Appointments
    - The District Leadership Councilors will discuss with their districts the advisory committee selection process and will work with their district delegates to identify the appropriate members to sit on the various advisory committees.
  - B. 2023 Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunters' Expo – Saturday, August 26, 2023 (Contact Reed Kabelowsky, 920-242-3144)
    - Sunnyview Expo Grounds – Oskosh. YCC hosting Youth Zone activities.
    - Volunteers needed: 24 YCC/WCC volunteers last year, 20% of total volunteers. Contact

Jessica Tomaszewski, Trent Tonn, Tashina Peplinski, Mary Ellen O'Brien, Lowell Wright, Kevin Smaby, Harold Drake, Frank Pratt, Keith Propson, Nicole Gates, Bobby McNeill for information

- Great opportunity to meet hunting public: 4000 attendees last year, 400+ through the youth zone, great opportunity to have discussions about WCC and work alongside (mentor) youth delegates
- Fundraising opportunities: opportunity for a 5+ gun raffle, opportunity to meet with vendors for future fundraising/partners?
- Bring WCC delegates together (physically and ideologically), energize WCC body, get feedback from the public

C. Youth Conservation Congress (*standing item on agenda*)

- Be sure to engage any YCC delegates in attendance at your district meetings, ask them about any YCC activities or experiences they may want to share, and continue to encourage delegates to reach out to schools and youth in their areas to promote the Youth Conservation Congress program. Delegates on the YCC Oversight Committee may have additional information to share about the status of this youth engagement opportunity. This is an opportunity to educate new delegates (and remind long-time delegates) about this program.

D. Outreach & Public Relations Efforts - Delegate Resources/ Educational Material (*standing item on agenda*) Continue efforts to educate the public about the WCC and their opportunity to participate in CDACs and Spring Hearings.

- Delegates have a number of resources available to them under “local delegate resources” from the WCC homepage (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/Delegates>). Please review the guidance, trainings, and templates available to you.
- There is a 1½ minute promotional video available for delegates to use when giving talks about the Congress or encouraging others to get involved. It can be found on the WCC homepage (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc>).
- There is also a WCC brochure that can be printed off the web ([https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/WCC\\_Brochure19\\_20.pdf](https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/WCC_Brochure19_20.pdf)) or ordered from Kari Lee-Zimmermann for use when providing informational material about the WCC to citizens.
- Delegates can now get blank business cards that you can fill in with your contact information when you're speaking to others about the WCC. Supplies of these can be ordered from Kari Lee-Zimmermann or you can also get the template to create and order on your own.

E. Awards

- Nominations are being sought for organizations, clubs (either local or statewide), and educators who have made a significant contribution to conservation in the past year. Please get the word out to local organizations and individual who may have nominations. The nomination form can be found on the WCC website under “Annual WCC Awards.” Nominations are due **March 31, 2023**.
- The Executive Committee would like your help in nominating a fellow WCC delegate for the Dave A. Ladd Heavy Lifter Award. Each year the Congress recognizes one of its own for their extraordinary efforts, both within the Congress and in other areas that enhance our communities. Please provide a brief summary of your nominee and their civic accomplishments to one of the Executive Committee members or the DNR Liaison. There is no formal nomination form for this award, but any suggestions are welcome by **March 31, 2023**.
- The Executive Committee would like your help in nominating outstanding DNR staff

for the annual awards. In the past, awards were given to individuals in the specific fields of wildlife, fisheries, and law enforcement; however, as was done the past two years, the WCC will taking nominations for any deserving DNR staff, regardless of the bureau or division for which they may work. The nomination form can be found on the WCC website under “Annual WCC Awards.” Nominations are due **March 31, 2023**.

E. WCC Learn-to-Bear-Hunt Tag

- The WCC is holding the essay contest for the Learn-to-Hunt bear tag. Essays are due **April 26<sup>th</sup>** and can be found online.

F. 2023 Annual Convention

- The WCC annual convention will be at the Best Western Waterfront Hotel in Oshkosh **May 11-13**.
- Delegates should consider collecting items for WCC raffle and making sure that we have identified all your county/district’s delegates that have passed since May 2022 for memorial resolutions.

**6. Member Matters**

**7. Adjourn**