



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Great Lakes Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes
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ORDER OF BUSINESS	09/14/2023	6:30pm	Zoom on-line meeting
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Dale Maas at 6:30pm
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Bob Wincek, Dale Maas, Camron Vollbrecht, Phoebe Burchill, Oscar Mueller, Andrew Lester, Steve Suchomel, Bryce Luchterhand, Alan Balliett, Greg Coulthurst, Steve Klock, Don Anderson, Anthony Grabski, Phoebe Burchill, DNR - Robert Stroess, Rick Peters, Iyob Tsehaye, Kari Fenske
EXCUSED	Eugene Altwies, Ryan Propson, Rick Peters, Pete Papageorge
UNEXCUSED	Scot Cameron, Mike Janeczko, Jake Pittman, Chuck Boley, Trevor Hubbs, Cody Lukes, Julie de la Terre
GUESTS	Charles Henriksen, Steve (not identified)

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None.
ACTION	Motion by Wincek, 2nd by Coulthurst. Motion passed.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Reviewed mission statement.
ACTION	Motion to approve by Luchterhand, 2nd by Vollbrecht. Motion passed.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Citizen Resolutions

1.	410423 Repeal Commercial Fishing Law	None
DISCUSSION	Maas: committee members rec'd background information from DNR Aug 2, 2023. Requires legislation. Henriksen: legislature is not willing to provide more money. Maas: refer to email from Mr. Alt Wincek: motion to advance Klock: second Luchterhand: what would the impact be? Fenske: no commercial fish, no expense Maas: cost of law enforcement? Fenske: need breakdown Wincek: costs DNR \$350,000 to \$700,000 per year not including law enforcement. Needs to be vetted in the Legislature. Suchomel: what is the impact if its repealed? Stroess: there would be no commercial fishing harvest Henriksen: 1977 Act 418 limited entry to fishery. Allows department to manage quotas. Fenske: benefits commercial and sport fishermen Fenske: most fisheries are in good shape Vollbrecht: support commercial fishery as long as its sustainable. Henriksen: fishery has consolidated. Stroess: laws have changed over time. Record keeping keeps track of methods and catch amounts. Wincek: motion to call question Klock: second Lee-Zimmerman: 2nd not required. Motion failed on voice vote.	

	Wincek: motion to reject Coulthurst: second Motion passed on voice vote.
ACTION	Send letter to author.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Dale Maas	10/1/2023

2.	410523 DNR should implement NRB order FM-42-96	None
DISCUSSION	Maas: referred to DNR background information. Klock: motion to advance Suchomel: second Lucheterhand: quotas have been set since 1996 Wincek: when lake trout are stocked, comes from federal tax fund Fenske: this is for Lake Superior. They may be a small amount of stocking, need to confirm. Henriksen: NRB meeting agenda item for lake trout rule. Motion failed to advance on voice vote. Wincek: motion to reject Vollbrecht: second Motion to reject passed on voice vote.	
ACTION	Send letter to author	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Dale Maas	10/1/2023	

3.	680323 Hook and Line Modification to Enhance Motor Troll Michigan and Superior	Robert Wincek
DISCUSSION	Maas: does not require legislation Wincek: want to make easier to understand. Two lines per rod, i.e. for downriggers. Grabski: motion to advance Klock: second Vollbrecht: concern about pressure on walleye population and overall fishery. Lester: why make it more complicated? Burchill: does this affect the bag limit? Wincek: no Wincek: goal is to align with surrounding states Coulthurst: when you are close to limit do you need to pull rods Stroess: No Phoebe: what is the impact if more anglers reach bag limit? Fenske: lake trout closes on Superior when quota is reached. Regulation change would need to be monitored. Motion passed on voice vote. Author present, no letter needed.	
ACTION	Forward resolution to Kari-Lee Zimmerman for review.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Eugene Altwies	10/1/2023	

B. Lake Superior and Lake Michigan Update

Kari Fenske

DISCUSSION	Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Updates LS and LM charter reporting rule complete LS and LM NR Re-org housekeeping rule in progress LS cisco and lake trout quotas in progress LM commercial trawling in progress LM whitefish and TAC and quota in progress LS lake trout recreational harvest allotment LS cisco commercial harvest trending down Bois Brule sea lamprey barrier and fishway
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	Lake Superior Nebagamon Creek restoration project Cambell's creek culvert replacement Cisco data analysis Lake Michigan Stocking for 2024-2026 Harvest effort 1969-2022 Restoration of fish passage Fish Creek Sucker Brook Creek fish passage Green Bay Walleye tag study, reward for returned tags Muskellunge stocking to continue Lake Michigan Green Bay Whitefish Whitefish quota harvest limits 2024 calculated harvest limits Harvest by zone 2020-2023 Lake Michigan lake trout commercial harvest update 4 meetings in 2023 Decision on scope statement pending Henricksen: tagging walleyes for mortality study Undersize whitefish are released Proposed experimental study to get info about size and location caught	
ACTION	Information only, no action taken	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
None		None

C. Updated Assessment of LM predator-prey balance

Dr. Iyob Tsehaye

DISCUSSION	Lake Michigan Salmonine Management Predator prey ratio analysis Predator and prey models published Statistical catch at age model structure Salmonine model data sources/inputs Prey model data sources/inputs PPR and salmonine management: chinook salmon Standard wieght of 35' chinook salmon PPR modeling team: Rick Clark, Dave Warner, Jory Jonas, Matt Kornis, Nick Legler, Iyob Tsehaye Tsehaye: alewife levels at historically low levels	
ACTION	Information only, no action taken	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
None		None

D. Law Enforcement update

Robert Stroess

DISCUSSION	Ryan Propson is supervisor, Proecess filling in 10 positions dedicated to great lakes enforcement Wardens working with department for guide non-reporting Sale of roe issue Federal grants for investigation trade of AIS importation (Great Lakes) Funds one warden position per year i.e. bait, transport of rough fish. Significant concern over introduction of AIS 200 convictions over last three years Press releases and podcasts about issues Significant issues with importation of red swamp crayfish (as food)	
ACTION	Information only, no action taken	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
None		None

E. Commercial Fishing Update

Charlie Henriksen

DISCUSSION	First time modeling is being used for management	
ACTION	Information only, no action taken	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
None		None

F. Future committee meeting

Dale Maas

DISCUSSION	Wincek: proposed August 24, 2024 in-person for next meeting, get on WCC calendar Motion by Wincek, 2nd by Bryce Luchterhand. Burchill: would like on-line option Motion passed on voice vote	
ACTION	Put date on WCC 2024 calendar	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Kari-Lee Zimmerman		n/a

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Luchterhand: meeting notice is emailed and on (WCC) calender. Supports having meetings at designation locations Coulthurst: agree with moving meeting locations. Keep Zoom as an option for a quorum Wincek: Brag Eggold announced hiring of Miranda Westphal. Al Blizel retired. Klock: Tim Campbell from Sea Grant initiated AIS work. Current person is Amy Cullough. Grabski: supports in-person meeting, internet issues for participating Donohue: not on committee. Has fished commercially and sport. Motion to adjourn Coulthurst, 2nd by Klock. Motion carried
ACTION	None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	9:35pm
SUBMITTED BY	Eugene Altwies
DATE	12/03/2023