

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
YCC Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2023 9:30 am

at the Sandhill State Wildlife Area, 1715 County Hwy-X, Babcock, Wisconsin.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. Organizational Matters

A. Call to order at 9:30 am by Chair Trent Tonn.

B. Roll call

Members present: Trent Tonn, Reed Kabelowsky, Kevin Smaby, Don Dukerschein, Jason Brazzale, Tara Rueth, Nicole Gates, Theresa Klawitter, Larry Damman, Mark Conradt, Jessica Tomaszewski, Kyle Zenz

Excused: Frank Pratt, Scott Lettman, Tashina Peplinski, Bobby McNeil, Mitch Baker

Resigned: Courtney Andrews

Unexcused: Joe Theys

Youth Delegates: Eric Munson, Eric Munson, Parker Repinski, Jack Nelson, Evan Casper, Andrew Reha, Payton Rueth, Seth Duell, Shawn McCann,

C. Agenda accepted as written motioned by Kevin, Nicole second – Approved.

D. Review committee mission statement

The mission statement of the Youth Conservation Congress Oversight Committee is as follows: To review and implement the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Strategic Plan 2017-2025 that was approved and adopted in 2017 make recommendations on the implementation of areas within the plan • review and discuss possible strategies for implementation support the WYCC Coordinator to oversee and manage the youth delegates and mentors organize and oversee outings and activities for the WYCC youth delegates and mentors to help them experience and understand the different roles and duties involved in both volunteer groups and DNR staff to continue the traditions of conservation in the State of Wisconsin gather information and recommendations to present to the District Leadership Council meetings

Approval of mission statement; Don moved, Reed second – Approved.

E. Public comments Citizens who wish to address the committee should contact the committee chair (Trent Tonn at 262-534-1962) prior to October 19, 2023. No public comment given or requested.

A. Discussion of YCC Coordinator Report:

Quick overview of all the many events and opportunities throughout the last year. Kyle reminded everyone that if there is a delay in communication it may be because she is ½ time YCC + she farms with her family.

B. Quick overview of the past summer's events

1. Summer Program in Calumet County (see report for logistics)

- Went very well with the exception of 1 storm in which participants sheltered in the bus.
- It was a jam-packed schedule – maybe too much.
- Feedback – very, very busy... would like a little down time. Summary from youth delegates. Like the bats and duck banding – lots of activities and lots of fun.
- Looking to apply for a grant for our summer program for next year

2. Waterfowl Expo (see report for logistics)

- Everyone that came was amazed.
- Hopefully grow and become better with more youth shooting next year.

C. DNR Gift Account

1. Discussion, creation, and wording, of rules/limitations as to how gift account money can be utilized -

- Need to work to adopt some common language & planning to have orgs invest in YCC.
- Contact for each conservation group + email through WCC/Kari?
- Thank you/letter of acknowledgement letter – Kyle
- Balance sheet presented
- Check has to be made out to DNR
- Kyle **cannot** solicit money.... We have to be doing this work.
- How much time? – 1.5 hours to accept/document a gift
- Need receipts for Friends reimbursement

2. Develop a system of reporting for donation requests from conservation organizations

- Shared google doc
- WCC list of conservation organization
- Google form
- Verbiage from the from acknowledgement letter
- FAQ

D. Discuss planning for future programs

1. December Mentored Deer Hunt - Mitch? Mentored Deer Hunt? Sauk County?

- Need to ask at Convention – for tag and interest for those who don't have access

2. January Ice Fishing Program – January 20 on Lake Onalaska

- Mississippi River – air boat issues on part of the river
- Camps – 30 or 40 mins away to far for a full weekend event

- Will be a day trip
- Tip-ups for bass and northern, jigging for perch, bluegill, and crappie
- Family event, all invited to attend

3. March Meeting – Do we consider UWSP again?

- Yes, Jessica will host on March 9
- Focus vs variety – Youth delegates say focus

4. 2024 Convention-ideas for learning topics and or field trips Agenda Amended: 10/4/23

- Appleton - 2024– (Oshkosh – 2025, Green Bay – 2026)
- Fox Valley Tech – Natural Resources 2-year program? Wildland fire?
- Heckrodt Nature Center
- Fishing – pontoons in Winneconne?
- Build a fishing rod?

5. 2024 June Career Day - brainstorm ideas and topics

- Fish - hatcheries –Wild Rose or Nevin
 - Snorkeling to see fish
 - St.Croix - Rod Company
 - Freshwater Collaborative – UW-Milwaukee
- Wildlife
 - Trapping
 - Tomahawk live trap
 - Research?

6. 2024 Summer Camp – consider making the change to the La Crosse area from Iron County

- Iron Co.
 - Roger’s property – Northland, Bear, Lake Superior
 - Lodging missing/hard to find
- Oneida/Vilas Co – Lake Tomahawk
 - Kemp Station – current reservation – know by the end of the month – \$3,000
 - Indian Mounds = primitive campground - \$600
 - Bear Hunt
 - Fishing
- LaCrosse Co.
 - Lodging – Perrot State Park
 - Goose Island – meh fishing
 - Genoa - Blackhawk Campground
 - Wyalusing State Park – hard to get in
 - Pathology lab – French Island – FWS

- For 2024 – Oneida/Vilas
- For 2025 – Wyalusing – check on reservation early

Tara motioned, Kevin second – Kemp Station/Indian Mounds for 2024 – motion passed

7. 2024 October Learn to Hunt -at Poynette Game Farm

- Oct 5 & 6 – only availability at Poynette
 - Similar to 2021
 - Cover lodging if we have the finances

E. Discuss recruitment goals and ideas in underrepresented areas and or counties in the state

- 2025 – summer in Wyalusing would be near District 9 & 5
- News coverage for summer program
- Breakfast at D9 & D5 - social at convention
- Convention show and tell of youth delegates
- Spring & Fall district meeting – talking points to make sure we are getting recruitment message across
- Parental/family push, WI Waterfowl Newsletter, Friends/word-of-mouth,
- 3-folds in archery program
- Special raffle at convention for mentors

F. Discuss a t-shirt order for new delegates and a potential holiday order

- Soon to offer T-shirts – online shop for YCC
- new delegates get shirts? 50 shirts = best price new delegates
- Rob was in favor.
- Green, Brown, earthy – determine color later
- Order sweatshirts and letter

Motion Kevin, second by Mark to purchase 50 from Friends group. Approved.

G. Discuss creation of an award for the YCC Delegate of the Year and the rubric to determine that delegate (amended 10/4/23)

- Create a rubric to determine the YCC Delegate of the Year
- Reviewed draft points in rubric
- Self-reported with evidence provided similar to 4H record book submitted at spring meeting for selection and award at Convention.
- March 1 – Feb 28 will be the calendar year for the award
- Reward expanding horizons
- Reward recruiting a new member
- Finish this rubric before the March meeting
- Discussed categorization and making sure delegates get points in each category to be eligible

III. Member Matters

- Seth - Good luck for Deer season
- Jacob – Looking forward to trying new things.
- Evan – Diver hunting next week
- Parker – Buck on camera. Looking forward to deer season
- Jack – working on a boat
- Eric – Ice fishing, excited for duck hunting
- Payton – Excited for deer season. Youth hunt success
- Zachary – Good luck to everyone
- Mark – Glad DNR is supporting us
- Kevin – encouraging to see so many yourth
- Nicole – Society
- Jason – Bravo to the leadership of the Committee
- Don – Rick Wayne – This organization meant the world to him. So many people at the funeral – big impact in the conservation world.
- Reed – So thankful for all the help at
- Jessica – Teaching, OHEC,
- Larry – Fishing contest entries are down. Muskie story – Bad luck with loosing rod. Very expensive muskie rod in the water.
- Theresa –So welcoming. Thank you for all the cooperation.
- Kyle – Thank you for a supportive committee
- Trent – Echo that. Thank you for all your work.

IV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Nicole, seconded by Theresa, Motion passed at 1:21.