

**DNR'S DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
COUNCIL PURPOSE/MISSION**

To advise the Department of Natural Resources on matters pertaining to the accessibility of all department programs and services by persons with disabilities.

- To draft recommendations to the Department for legislation, administrative rules, or department policy.
- To identify and evaluate needs of persons with disabilities and to communicate them to the Department.
- To help to increase public awareness and sensitivity to the needs of persons with
- To communicate with individuals and other organizations dedicated to similar purposes.

**MEETING MINUTES
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
FRIDAY JUNE 16, 2023
High Cliff State Park - Sherwood**

Members Present: John Martinson, Keith Pamperin, Calvin Richtig -attended in person. John Mitchell and Shannon Columb joined virtually on MS Teams.

Members Absent: Andrea Frisch and Kirsten Engel

Others Present: Nick Zouski, Shannon Holt, Deanna Sell

Guest presenters: None

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

Introductions: None

Next the Council reviewed the agenda.

Calvin made a motion to approve the agenda. Keith Pamperin seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The Council next reviewed the meeting minutes from March 17th, 2023.

Council requested minutes to be scaled down and the issue was tabled until next meeting.

Customer Service and Licensing- Barry

2023 License Sales

- Elk drawing was completed, and winners have been notified.
- Plans underway for implementation of new license sales equipment.
- Spanish and English fishing regulations on our web page

Bonus Antlerless Sales

- Will go on sale in August. Waiting for approval of permit levels by the Natural Resources Board, meeting scheduled for June 28, 2023
- Check the website for dates and permit levels.

Recreational Vehicle Registrations

- Two rounds of Snowmobile renewal emails have been sent and post cards and post cards will be sent soon.
- Boat registrations continue to come in at a rapid pace.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress – Spring Hearings

- Results are posted online
- Some rules advancing to the Natural Resources Board

Law Enforcement

- Matt Wehn has joined DNR as the new Law Enforcement Policy Officer. He will be fully in his role in September or October 2023.

Gun Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities

- Season Dates: Oct. 7-15, 2023
- Sponsor sign-up is now open through Aug. 1, 2023
 - o Sponsor Application: <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/disabledhunt/>
- The hunter sign-up period for 2023 will open in August 2023. Sponsor contact information will be made available on the DNR Website for interested hunters to call and reserve locations directly with the landowner. Please contact Ally Magnin, Assistant Deer and Elk Specialist, via email at ally.magnin@wisconsin.gov or by phone at (608)354-3492 with questions.

Legislative update:

- Fiscal estimates for the following bills submitted to Management & Budget:
 - [23 SB 68](#) – Resident lifetime fishing license, lifetime fishing trust fund
 - Companion bill is 23 AB 72
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/proposals/ab72.pdf>
 - This bill creates a resident lifetime fishing license and provides for the establishment of a lifetime fishing trust fund.
 - No additional updates/action
 - [23 SB 44/AB 71](#) – Disability rating for veterans to qualify for license authorizations, admissions fee exemptions
 - This bill establishes a 50 percent disability rating for disabled veterans to qualify for certain hunting, fishing, and trapping approvals issued by the Department of Natural Resources and for exemptions from certain admission fees. Under current law, the qualifying disability rating is either 50 or 70 percent depending on the approval or exemption.

- Reduced fee conservation patron license (from \$165 to \$65) or reduced fee annual fishing license (from \$20 to \$3)
 - Becomes effective March 1, 2024
 - No additional updates/action
 - [LRB-0907/1](#) relating to: a fishing license for a child with a disability)
 - [04/21/23: Co-sponsorship memo](#) being circulated at this time (with deadline for responses by 05/05/23)
 - Similar to bills from 2019-20 and 2021-22 legislative sessions
 - No further updates/action
 - [23 SB 310](#) relating to: access to Department of Transportation records to establish residency for approvals issued by the Department of Natural Resources
 - Companion bill is 23 AB 306
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/proposals/ab306>
 - DOT identification card can be used to establish residency for approvals issued by DNR and DOT will grant DNR access to DOT ID card records for residency verification purposes
 - Same as the current process to establish residency with Wisconsin driver's license
 - 06/06/23 – fiscal estimate received
 - Similar to bills from 2021-22 legislative sessions ([21 SB 422](#) and [21 AB 421](#))
- These bills are not law yet.

Discussion ensued regarding opportunity to comment on the bills aimed reducing fees for certain groups, such as veterans. It was unknown when and if the bill(s) would get to that point. The best thing to do proactively would be to contact your representative. The DNR has hired a new legislative liaison, Calvin Boldebuck, and will be a guest speaker at an upcoming DAC meeting.

Adaptive Equipment Purchase- Nick and Deanna

- Deanna and Nick put together an issue brief and secured approximately \$40,000.00 to purchase adaptive equipment. They are purchasing 5 Beach Wheelchairs, 6 Adaptive Kayaks – Tandem style, and a GRIT Freedom Chair. Working on Liability forms and user instructions. Trying GRIT chair at Point Beach State Forest but may travel around the state.
- Nick is researching and planning to purchase some high-collar self-correcting life preservers.
- Tentative Equipment Locations:
 - Copper Falls SP -Adaptive Kayak at Balloon Lake (they have an accessible fishing pier)
 - Devil's Lake SP– Beach Wheelchair -Already have an Adaptive Kayak and a beach access mat, very popular location.
 - KMSF-NU- Pike Lake- Beach Wheelchair
 - KMSF-SU- Ottawa Lake- Adaptive Kayak & Beach Wheelchair
 - Lake Kegonsa State Park- Adaptive Kayak
 - Lake Wissota State Park – Adaptive Kayak

- Mirror Lake State Park- Adaptive Kayak
- Newport State Park -Beach Wheelchair
- Point Beach State Forest- Beach Wheelchair & first location for GRIT chair.
- Yellowstone Lake – Adaptive Kayak – Friends Group are putting in universal kayak launch.
- Merrick State Park - New universal kayak launch. There have been issues with water levels being too high/ low. Friends Group there is helping to extend the dock.
- KMSFNU- Working on shoreline to install universal kayak launch.

Nick and Deanna are working with Office of Communications (OC) and Parks to create videos and press release.

Outdoor WC Peninsula SP-Nick

- An organization donated an Action Trackchair to Peninsula State Park. DNR is working out logistics such as user instructions, administration of use, and liability waiver form. There will be a press release. Hoping to be in use in July.
- DNR is planning to equip Action Trackchair with a walkie-talkie to call for assistance/emergencies. Nick and Deanna are also working with parks to develop plans for when battery dies on trail how to trailer or tow chair back to be charged.
- Discussion of battery life, lead acid vs. lithium. Keith recommended <https://batteryhubstore.com/> in Kaukauna, WI.

State Fair- Nick

- August 3-13, 2023 - Partnering with Parks to have more of a presence at State Fair. Planning to display adaptive equipment and provide literature.
- Re-Branding Open the Outdoors to Outdoors for All. New logo and looking for promotional materials/ swag (tick remover, zipper pull, cellphone holder with lanyard clip). Looking for interactive giveaways (wheel to spin).
- Parks has a newly formed Universal Access Team. Nick and Deanna will be working closely with them as the ‘boots on the ground’ to identify opportunities to enhance accessibility in different regions of the state.

LUNCH BREAK 11:37- 12:15

Recruitment- Nick

- Seeking approval from Secretary’s office to release to the public. DAC is short two members and one alternate. We are seeking diversity in geographic location (northern WI) as well as diversity in disabilities, ethnicity, and outdoor interests.
- Discussion of deadline to apply. We wish to create a new pool of applicants. Suggested deadlines September 1st, December 1st, March 1st, and June 1st.
- Press release in two weeks 6/30/23.
- Send to Occupational Therapists & UW Kinesiology.
- Nick will send to DAC members to share with organizations.

Accessibility Coordinator Updates- Nick

- **Promotional Materials- Rebranding to Outdoors for All**
Phone holder that John Martinson has, ordered by Mary Mitchell (John's sister).
- **OWGG – held at KMSF -Ottawa Lake May 13th.**
Demonstration of track chair (Access Ability WI) and Terrain Hopper (UCP). Terrain hopper is more expensive, but longer life and easier to maintain. Terrain Hopper is also easier to transfer and has an optional swivel seat.
 - Met Luke5Adventures volunteer group. [Home | Luke5Adventures.org](#)
 - Adaptive kayak was available, but no one used it. In future, plan for someone to do demonstration.
 - Birding – volunteer from Upham Woods UW Extension at Accessible cabin.
 - GLASA- Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association had a scheduling conflict with Archery demonstration. Large org. Headquarter in Illinois but could reach out to find Wisconsin residents.

SCORP – Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – Partnering with the Master Planning Section to represent Accessibility. Future recreational needs, plan revised every 5 years.

Outdoor WC Recommendations- Nick

- Need uniformity when outside (Friends') groups are buying Outdoor Wheelchairs.
- Need to be referred to as Outdoor Wheelchair (not Track Chair- that's the brand)
- Nick is looking at the narrow 30" base Trackchair for DNR use to be able to navigate into building doors and if it needs to be loaded into a van. Discussion ensued debating the merits of a narrow vs regular width chair.
- Discussion of Trackchair being 'overkill' for state park use. Alternative discussed were: [Magic Mobility Extreme X8 4x4 All-Terrain Power Wheelchair | Sunrise Medical](#) and [TraxxForce Power Chair \(powersoccershop.com\)](#) and [The Rig – Not A Wheelchair](#)
- DNR standard choice must be joystick driven or have the option to be joystick driven.
- To be allowed on state trails it must be a single-occupant mobility device; must be purpose-built mobility device.

Accessible Features/ Website- Nick

- Always a work in progress. Updating the "Find a park" page, adding more searchable features. Updating as DNR is rebranding to Outdoors for All.
- Working to get an Accessibility topic for each park/property to let users know what accessible features are available and suggest trails that are universally accessible with better descriptions. NPS does something similar. Hopefully WI DNR will be able to do a more complete trail mapping project in the next few years, or hire WisCorps.
- Calvin suggested looking at Calumet Cares: Accessible Adventures [Maps/Guides | Calumet County Tourism, WI \(travelcalumet.com\)](#) OR [DisabilityGuideRev2014 \(travelcalumet.com\)](#)

Gift Fund- Deanna

- Deanna and Nick did an Issue Brief and were approved to start a Fund for Accessibility efforts, such as equipment and construction of accessible features. This will allow donations to be earmarked for use instead of going into a general fund for the property.
- Donations can be made by check or by credit card on the website -To come.

Members' Updates -All

- **John Martinson** – Adaptive Sportsman picnic august 26th at Schultz's gun club. Fishing event July 8th at Kelly Lake. Working with VA hospital to do monthly fishing trips.
<https://adaptivesportsmen.org/>
- **John Mitchell** – None
- **Calvin Richtig** - None
- **Shannon Columb** - None
- **Keith Pamperin** – Challenge the Outdoors: Annual Banquet & election of officers July 21st, Chasing Rainbows trout fishing outing - Saturday, lots of fall events coming. CTO recently received a large donation and is building a clubhouse.

Adjourn:

Keith moved to adjourn the meeting. Calvin seconded. All present in favor.

Chair Martinson adjourned the meeting at 2:13 pm.