

**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 DECEMBER 16, 2022
South Central Regional Headquarters - Fitchburg**

Members Present: Keith Pamperin, John Martinson, Kristen Engel, John Mitchell, Calvin Richtig, Shannon Columb (All members joined virtually on MS Teams).

Members Absent: Andrea Frisch.

Others Present: Nick Zouski, Shannon Holt, Deanna Sell, Ellen Tatro.

Guest presenters: Jeff Pritzl (online) and Ally Magnin

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 10:13 am.

Introductions: None

Next the Council reviewed the agenda.

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

The Council next reviewed the meeting minutes from September 22nd, 2022.

Kirsten made a motion to approve the minutes from September 22nd, 2022. Keith seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

There was no update from Customer Service and Licensing.

Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities **AKA Disabled Deer Hunt: Jeff Pritzl and Ally Magnin**

- Recent media articles brought light to the subject but did not prompt or bring forth change.
- Wildlife Management is taking some internal action to update Administrative Codes to make it easier for participants to sign up, such as deadline dates.
- Is a name change of the hunt appropriate to change the term from disabled to accessible? Although commonly referred to as ‘Disabled Deer Hunt’, the official name is “Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities”. Some discussion ensued. One suggestion was ‘Disabled Early Access Rifle Hunt’: acronym D.E.A.R. Hunt. After more discussion it was determined that a name change was not necessary at this time because the current formal name is appropriate.
- Next Steps are sending out survey’s- Ally Magnin
 - Two groups are being surveyed: Group A) Current Sponsors (about 80 people) and Group B) Disability Permit Holders (about 6000 people). Details of survey are still being worked out, such as mail vs. electronic/email.
 - Both groups will be surveyed to gain opinions of proposed changes to the hunt to match with four-day youth hunt (in support of or against)
 - Using opportunity to also gather information about hunt participants. In particular for sponsors, what is their motivation to continue being a sponsor? Developing question phrasing and response style – check all that apply.
 - Disability permit holders would be asked questions regarding awareness of the program, likely hood to participate, and what are some of the barriers they have to participation? Would changes make them more likely to participate?
 - One of the main questions/ issues is to see where public support is for keeping a nine-day hunt or reduction to four-day hunt to open access to more lands and correspond with the Youth Hunt. Sponsor survey question would be to choose one of three options:
 - Keep the current 9-day period with limited land
 - Open up access to more lands but reduce days to 4-days, like Youth Hunt
 - Hybrid of the first two options.
 - Additionally, this user group has not been surveyed in recent history and the department would like input as to how to better serve this community.
 - Brainstorming of survey questions by group.
 - Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has also had discussion on this issue, but it is still in committee and waiting for an official resolution.

Outreach and Events: Nick Zouski

- What events are there that the DNR should be attending to promote awareness and community presence? Would DAC members be available to staff booth?
 - Canoecopia (March 10-12th) suggested by Kirsten
 - Conferences for Assisted Living suggested by Kirsten
 - Sports & Hunting/ Fishing Expos
 - Independent Living Days suggested by Calvin (February 8th) at Concourse Hotel.
 - Driftless Outdoor Show suggested by Shannon C. (MAY? March 10-11th 2023)
 - National Federation for the Blind State Convention (DATE?)
 - State Fair (August 3-13)
- Nick and Deanna are working with the Office of Communications (OC) to get branding, signage and materials, such as brochures and swag (free stuff) for booth.

Social Media Photos: Shannon Columb

- Following up on item from March 2022 meeting regarding photo descriptions and alternative text.
- From March 18, 2022, Meeting minutes: “Andrea made a motion the DNR provide accurate closed captions and image descriptions on all TikTok and YouTube videos and image/video descriptions for all photos in post captions on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Tik Tok. Shannon seconded the motion, and all were in favor.”
- Shannon C. has been seeing a lot of social media posts where the photos and posts on Instagram have descriptions, but not Alternative text, and the Facebook post do not have descriptions or Alt text.
- Deanna has had communication with Office of Communication (OC) and they are entering Alt text on FB and Deanna has seen it when doing spot checking. They are not able to do Alt text with scheduled posts.
- Two recent (December) examples are the Ice Fishing post and Pheasant Hunting post.
- OC believes that they are including descriptions and Alt text, so this may be a platform/ technology issue and will need to be looked into further.
- Deanna and Nick have a planned meeting with OC coming up and will discuss with issue with them.

Break for Lunch 11:40pm – 12:15pm

Recruitment: Nick Zouski

- How do we want to recruit for vacant positions? Do we want to target organizations or geographic organizations?
- Need to recruit 3 people. Two board members and one alternate.
- Discussion of ideas of organizations to include in recruitment:
 - ADRC
 - Independent Living Facilities
 - Adaptive Sportsman
 - North American Squirrel Association (NASA)
 - Challenge the Outdoors
 - Fishing has no Boundaries
 - Apostle Islands Friends Group – Kirsten
 - Courage Center? – Kirsten
 - Wilderness Inquiry? – Kirsten
 - *Facebook/ Social Media post
 - *Press Release

Accessibility Coordinator Updates: Nick Zouski

- **All Terrain Chair:** A group (Connect M1) would like to donate a chair and the DNR is working out the details. The first chair will likely be at Peninsula SP. Action Track Chair is what we believe the type of chair being donated. DNR is figuring out logistics and party responsible for chair. DNR is looking to partner with friends' group to help facilitate use and maintenance of chair, as providing staff for this service has been a challenge.
- **Steve's Law:** Former member, Steve Johnson, who is visually impaired, was working with WI Council of the Blind and legislature to get DOT to change regulations on sharing information with other State Agencies so that persons without a WI Driver's license can use Go Wild system. Will be proposed during next legislative session.
- **Jackson Marsh Hunting Blind:** Is open for use. John Mitchell knows some people who used it and said that it is well constructed and roomy for two wheelchairs but needs more gravel at the end of the ramp. Nick is going to put in a request for a transition plate.
- **Website:** Looking for new photos- ongoing request. DNR needs permission from everyone in the picture to use photo. Looking at adding a tile on Open the Outdoors webpage to contact Nick. Adding updated links to accessible equipment, such as snow skis or kick sleds and winter/seasonal equipment. Meeting with OC on Monday.
- **Follow-up Items:**
 - Timeframe for mapping of accessible opportunities – parks has a map on their website. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lands>
 - Hunting Blinds are not inventoried as a building, so the structure does not show up in system (BIS). Nick has a list of blinds, but not all are accessible. Nick is trying to gather more information about condition and accessibility. The current recommendation is to call the property and inquire about use.
 - Trail Maps are not kept up to date with trail conditions and the link to accessibility trails is dead-end. Needs more clarification to be more user friendly -

*Note on website to call park for specific trail current conditions and accessibility.

Event Opportunities: Nick Zouski Looking to gain public exposure to adaptive sporting equipment. DNR is looking for partners. Ideas from discussion.

- Ice Fishing Event – Fishing has no Boundaries? Event on Kelly Lake? Parks is interested in partnering with a group for an event.
- Shooting Event – Challenge the Outdoors? McMiller Open House Shoot – 1st Saturday in October (7th in 2023). [Open House | McMiller \(mcmillersportscenter.com\)](#) Monthly shoot in summer at **J&H Game Farm? - More information needed from Keith**
- Trail Hikes or Park Events – there is no centralized list. Each park has events on webpage.
- Special Olympics event at Cascade & Rib Mountain (Granite Peak concessioner event) Info **to come from Calvin.**
- Sled Hockey Tournament – Calvin is putting together for youth and would partner with DNR. Possible locations: Hartman Creek, Potawatomi, Peninsula, or High Cliff. Nick & Deanna will look into what parks could host this type of event.
- Sit-ski – Madison group: SCI works with UW Kinesiology. Madison recreation department have sit-ski equipment for rent. DNR has four or five locations to rent sit-ski, with Latham Peak being the most frequently used.
- The DNR wants to improve visibility to available equipment such as sit-ski and adaptive kayaks to make sure people know that they are available and are not just for those with severe disabilities.

Group Communications: Shannon Holt

- Please be sure to include everyone in group communications such as meeting topics, articles & publications regarding the DAC, outreach opportunities and events.
 - Individual items such as lunch order or expenses only need to respond to facilitator (Shannon H).
- Concerns about lag-time in sending out and approving minutes because many times events have already past. Meeting facilitator should send updates to programs. Look for old motion that was made around the time with the Mission Statement.

Glasses/ Hearing/ Sensory: Nick Zouski

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team reached out because there are glasses for people to use who are color blind and after adjustment seeing some color is possible. DNR was sent some samples to test. Department staff (DNR) would like to purchase some and make them available for check-out use at Visitor or nature Centers in some parks. We are looking at different opportunities for different types of disabilities.

- Also, there are headphone units available for sound amplification. Lastly, there is a possibility to get sensory bags available for autistic children with noise cancelling headphones and different items in the bag for them to touch and feel. Equipment would be sanitized and cleaned between uses. Approximate cost would be \$90 for sensory bags, under \$100 for hearing amplifiers, and \$250 for color enhancing glasses.

2023 Meeting Dates:

- **Friday, March 17th at Schmeckle Reserve in Stevens Point**
- **Friday, June 16th at TBD (High Cliff SP or Point Beach SF)**
- **Thursday, September 7th – Friday, September 8th at Northern Highland American Legion State Forest (NHALSF) near Boulder Junction**
- **Friday, December 15th at Fitchburg/ Call-in**

Members' Updates

- John Martinson – Adaptive Sportsmen to have their Disabled Pheasant Hunt event in September (third Saturday) at the Feather Ridge Game Farm near Marshall. John is the contact person to sign up. <https://adaptivesportsmen.org/>
- John Mitchell – Updates to follow in January for Adaptive Sportsman events.
- Kirsten Engel – has been working with Apostle Islands friends' group and they are putting in an accessible ramp at Myers Beach & Kayak launch.
- Calvin Richtig - None
- Shannon Columb - None
- Keith Pamperin – Challenge the Outdoors Holiday party in January and a Green Bay Gamblers game. Working on first week in April sporting clay shoot
- Andrea Frisch -None

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

Chair Martinson adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm.