



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Great Lakes Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS	08/27/2022	0900	Virtual
--------------------------	------------	------	---------

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Dale Maas at	0900
----------------------------	--------------	------

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Camron Vollbrecht, Scot Cameron, Tom Schwefel, Eugene Altwies, Bob Wincek, Michael Kelby, Eric Wojchik, Chuck Boley, Dale Maas, Steve Draginis, Don Anderson, Al Balliet, Tony Grabski, DNR - Ryan Propson, Rick Peters, Iyob Tsehaye, Kari Fenske
EXCUSED	Al Marotz, David Tupa
UNEXCUSED	Mike Janeczko, Steve Wickman, Bryce Luchterhand, Cody Lukes, Julie de la Terre
GUESTS	Charlie Henriksen - LMCFB, Tom Couston

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Dale: no changes, accommodating speakers
ACTION	Motion to approve by Bob Wincek, 2nd by Chuck Boley, motion advanced.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Motion to approve by Tom Schwefel, 2nd by Steve Klock
ACTION	Approved.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A.

1.	Perform Groundwater Study at the Brule Fish Hatchery - 160822	none
	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>Maas: review DNR comments per letter Maas: Dave Tupa supports resolution Motion to advance Dave Klock, 2nd by Tony Grabski Discussion Cameron: supports resolution. Resolution requests feasibility of groundwater. Schwefel: also in support, control environment better. Better results for investment. Grabski: supports resolution. Does anyone know the cost of a groundwater study? Will need to be done in advance of a hatchery upgrade. Concern about DNR comment about predators. Maas: open air hatchery, nothing to inhibit bird predators. Boley: supports resolution. Critical to stocking efforts in L. Superior. Need production in future, overdue for upgrades. Some nets observed over the ponds. Cameron: supports resolution, need understanding of feasibility. Need long term solution. Balliet: what is the prevalence of VHS? Fenske: divide waters into those that do and don't have VHS. Less aware of impact on daily or monthly basis. Propson: no input. Peters: still exists, not an epidemic. due to precautions taken - transport, live wells, etc. One example of a fish disease that could present itself. What else is out there that can transfer VHS. Iyob: Same as Kari (Fenske) Maas: concern about keeping the hatchery open. haven't heard of any talk about it. Pls send a notice out to the committee. Fenske: doesn't if any examples of transfer of VHS in open air.</p>	

	<p>Wincek: KM springs has not raised any fish. Wild Rose should be able to handle the quota. KM has not raised a single fish yet.</p> <p>Cameron: is it possible to get a copy of maintenance and do we know what the priorities? It should list the projects and how much they plan to spend.</p> <p>Maas: dept input?</p> <p>Fenske: not aware of project lists, will check on this. KM is a high priority.</p> <p>Maas: with budgets and in finance there is a list of budgeted items.</p> <p>Fenske: next budget cycle has started, will add to the list of questions.</p> <p>Maas: people that know the answers are not available for comment to the committee.</p> <p>Schwefel: start of feasibility and the way to advance it. Not aware of KM.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
ACTION	Fenske follow up on questions. Send letter to author.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Kari Fenske, Eugene Altwies	

2.	Allow bowfishing salmon during the fall spawning run - 270122	None
DISCUSSION	<p>Wincek: motion to reject, 2nd by Vollbrecht.</p> <p>Maas: read DNR input.</p> <p>Schwefel: went through this when snagging was allowed. Not the way to get more involved.</p> <p>Balliet: not a good idea. No C&R. Potential conflicts.</p> <p>Coulthurst: would be allowed to shoot on Strawberry Creek.</p> <p>Klock: try an experimental season.</p> <p>Couston:</p> <p>Maas: Motion to reject, passed unanimously.</p>	
ACTION	Send letter to author.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Eugene Altwies		

3.	DNR should fully implement the 1996 NRB order FM-42-96 - 411022	None
DISCUSSION	<p>Maas: read resolution.</p> <p>Schwefel motion to advance. Motion failed due to lack of second.</p> <p>Grabski: motion to reject, 2nd by Kelby.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Wincek: very confusing.</p> <p>Altwies: additional information. Letter dated Oct 16, 2020 from the DNR to Mr. Alt in copy to committee.</p> <p>Maas: only understand there is history. Have tried (as a committee) to work with the author on many issues. Did everyone read the letter from Todd Kalisch for the department's position? Becomes an issue to arbitrate. The problem as issues that State vote supported the question but required legislation. Extenuating circumstances. All of the committees recommendations are reviewed by the NRB. It's an opinion.</p> <p>Schwefel: confused by support, need clarification from DNR or legislature. 2nd time different answers need clarification, need more information to make an assessment.</p> <p>Cameron: can we get input from a commercial fisherman.</p> <p>Henriksen: not familiar with board order. Not sure where this is trying to go. Fish as a food source gives everyone access to the resource. State law requires viable commercial fishery. Can't support.</p> <p>Coulthurst: is this the same resolution we had last year? What was the outcome?</p> <p>Maas: Not the same. This year is about Lake Superior.</p> <p>Altwies: previous resolution about FM-42-96 in 2021 failed in voice vote.</p> <p>Maas: (Congress) COP help people, if same resolution is heard 3 years in a row, automatically goes on spring hearings.</p> <p>Klock: part of the issue might be the quota. Based on a percentage of the harvest. Goes up or down.</p> <p>Were the eleven commercial licenses bought out?</p> <p>Maas: input on this?</p> <p>Fenske: 10 licenses in L Superior, and that is a reduction from historic levels.</p> <p>Henriksen: that is correct, half of the licenses were bought (Lake Superior).</p> <p>Maas: quotas and allocation to the tribes, not a bargaining position. Done by lawyers and judges.</p> <p>Peters: Warden Supervisor for L. Superior. 1996 FM-42-96 had to do with the buyout. Keep viability of licensees</p>	

	<p>and balance with tribal commercial, commercial and sport fishery. Managing in three different ways: Sustainable and balanced population in L. Superior. State harvest and tribal harvest. Commercial harvest - state and tribal subject to negotiation. 1996 quota number based on fishery that isn't static. Quotas change. Reference page 2 of Kalish letter. Fishery has changed.</p> <p>Marotz: Is the fishery adversely affected by the allotment to the commercial fishermen?</p> <p>Fenske: do an assessment of lake trout for WI-2. Track population. Have regs in place to ensure population is not harmed.</p> <p>Wincek: every 3 years. question: formula for # of fish, to numbers of pounds of dressed fish. How does that equate to numbers of fish? There have been years when sport fishing quota has been reached. Have asked how does that lack of money affect them. Changing fishery, changes from year to year.</p> <p>Henricksen: Lake Superior - believe there is no planting of lake trout any more. Was not completely wiped out by lamprey. Quota controlled by gill net length, varies by time of year, and area. Complicated system.</p> <p>Cameron: DNR mentions lake trout - main income is whitefish. Is a robust natural hatchery. Does Fenske work with Fish and Wildlife Service? Concerned will be become put and take.</p> <p>Fenske: have been there for a year. Use data from F&WS. Have not talked to them. They have been involved in the lake committees in collaborative process.</p> <p>Klock: call the question</p> <p>Maas: Motion is to reject. Motion to reject passed unanimously on voice vote.</p>	
ACTION	Send letter to author.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Eugene Altwies		

4.	Unified one bag for steelhead on Wi. Great Lakes - 682422	Tom Couston
DISCUSSION	<p>Vollbrecht: motion to reject, 2nd Wincek.</p> <p>Couston: Brule has 7500 fish. They are wild. Erie, NY one in the tribes. Kewanee, Root numbers are declining. hard to get fish in the rivers. Journal Sentinel: 2nd most popular fish behind kings. Stream guys have a right to the fish as well. Fished the root in the 90's. Not the same time. Hard to catch 5 of anything. Not the same as it used to be. Fishing an empty river. Penalize guys in Michigan. Root had 1600 fish this spring. Fished on Seatuk. One fish says it won't make any difference.</p> <p>Wincek: DNR has changed landscape. Four different strains of rainbow, throughout the year. Have been shorted on quota. 500k in wild rose this year. One bag for all the Great Lakes. L Superior has slot. Not a lot of natural reproduction. No fish ladders here.</p> <p>Vollbrecht: opposition is combining Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. Doesn't like DNR comment about identifying fish.</p> <p>Grabski: equity between charters and stream anglers. Anglers that keep more fish, favorable to stream anglers. review DNR input. 1 fish limit to low. Maybe a compromise.</p> <p>Maas: encourage to collaborate with another resolution for next year. Appreciate passion and interest. Motion rejected unanimously.</p>	
ACTION	No letter, author present.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
n/a		n/a

B. [DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC]

Kari Fenske

DISCUSSION	<p>Lake Superior and Lake Michigan Updates</p> <p>Fenske: Great Lakes Specialist in Madison office.</p> <p>LM Commercial Rule Changes</p> <p>Bois Brule Sea Lamprey and fishway</p> <p>PFAS, PFOS, elevated levels found in Lake Superior rainbow smelt. Consumption advisory.</p> <p>Nebagamon Creek restoration project.</p> <p>St. Louis River walleye population estimate.</p> <p>Lake Michigan Fisheries Management meeting Tuesday Aug 30.</p> <p>Lake Michigan updates:</p> <p>Stocking levels from 1963 to 2022.</p> <p>Salmon and Trout Harvest and effort.</p> <p>Lake Whitefish latent mortality study - G. Bay</p> <p>GLRI projects</p> <p>Restoration of fish passage and Fish Creek.</p>
-------------------	--

	Lake Sturgeons spawning habitat. Sucker Brook and Silver Beach fish passage. Wincek: 6-9 MGD daily into the Root river. 32"-40" pipes to the Root River. Water must be returned to the lake. Oak Creek into the Root River. what does is do the river. Cameron: should be an EIS should provide the answers. Altwies: EIS information on DNR website. Motion by Wincek, draft letter to DNR Wincek: Paul Smith article in Journal Sentinel. Maas: can include KM hatchery in members matters and informational. Request further information from DNR and NRB. Motion passed unanimously	
ACTION	Draft letter to DNR	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Eugene Altwies		

C. Analysis of predator-prey balance in Lake Michigan Dr. Iyob Tsehaye

DISCUSSION	Lake wide assessment. Involves multiple agencies. Outline agenda: Background to Salmonine stocking management. Predator assessment. Estimation of predator consumption. Prey assessment. Predator-prey ratio.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

D. LE Update Ryan Propson

DISCUSSION	Peters: More anglers fishing with extra lines - increase in non-compliance. EFRHS - working through changes. Guide reporting - law went into effect earlier this year. Lack of compliance and started taking enforcement recently for lack of compliance. LE presence: exhausted boating funds, first time in 10 years. Created Ashland Marine Station. Last years recruit resigned and is vacant. Next hiring process interviews finishing up last week. May be filled through next hiring cycle. Lake Superior: A lot of outreach with sport trollers. Some compliance issues but not a lot. Staffing on Lake Superior - vacancy in Ashland. More wardens reporting sport activity on lake during Covid period. Issues: boats and experience not adequate for Lake Superior. Fishing within refuges, not checking boundaries. Tempered with fuel prices. Commercial harvest: Henriksen - net placement and depth to control by-catch. Use tagging for lake trout in commercial. Charlie H correct. Schwefel: walleyes, 16" but doesn't keep carcass. Not a legal filet. Peters: OK once back to residence or camp. Under size filets. Follow up email for discussion above about legal size limits and place of possession: From: Propson, Ryan M - DNR <Ryan.Propson@wisconsin.gov> Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 07:56 To: lakemichiganbob@gmail.com; dmmaas50@yahoo.com Subject: RE: Great Lakes Committee meeting August 27 Morning Dale and Bob,	
-------------------	--	--

	<p>Can you please distribute this correction to the group from Saturday’s meeting? I made an incorrect statement in regards to Tom Schwefel’s question on keeping skin/scales attached to fillets. Below is the specific statute explaining the requirement. What’s absent from statute is discussion on when this requirement ends. To Tom’s question, does the requirement end once at a campground? I inquired further internally and learned that since it’s not explained in statute, the DNR has taken a long-standing stance that the requirement remains in place until the fish reach a permanent residence. This position is because transportation of the fish doesn’t end until it’s at a permanent residence and a temporary stop at a campground is just that, temporary. There’s for sure going to be a point where a secondary residence starts to transition into a permanent residence (months long stay at a cabin), but nuances like that aren’t defined in statute. Situations such as long term stays or multiple permanent/semi-permanent residences would be addressed by a warden asking the appropriate questions and using discretion.</p> <p>I apologize for any confusion this caused.</p> <p>Ryan (Propson)</p> <p>29.407 Transportation of fish.</p> <p>(1) From inland waters.</p> <p>(a) No person may transport or cause to be transported, or deliver or receive or offer to deliver or receive for transportation, any game fish taken from inland waters unless the person complies with all applicable requirements under pars. (b) and (c).</p> <p>(b) All fish that are subject to a minimum size limit and are taken by hook and line may be transported with the head or tail, or both, removed and may be filleted before being transported, but only if the dressed or filleted fish continues to meet the minimum size limit. A dressed fish shall remain in one piece with the skin and scales intact. The skin and scales shall remain on a filleted fish.</p> <p>(c) A box, package or container of fish transported by common carrier shall contain fish of only one owner.</p> <p>(2) From outlying waters.</p> <p>29.407(2)(a)(a) No person may transport or cause to be transported, or deliver or receive or offer to deliver or receive for transportation, any game fish taken from outlying waters unless the person complies with all applicable requirements under pars. (b) and (d).</p> <p>(d) All fish which are subject to a minimum size limit and are taken by hook and line may be transported with the head or tail, or both, removed and may be filleted before being transported, but only if the dressed or filleted fish continues to meet the minimum size limit. A dressed fish shall remain in one piece with the skin and scales intact. The skin and scales shall remain on a filleted fish.</p> <p>(5) Exemptions.</p> <p>(a) This section does not apply to a person who has a valid taxidermist permit and who is transporting fish in connection with the person’s business.</p> <p>(b) This section does not apply to the transportation, delivery, receipt or shipping of farm-raised fish or fish produced in a municipal fish hatchery.</p>
ACTION	None.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	
DEADLINE	

E. Commercial Fishing Update

Charlie Hendricksen

DISCUSSION	<p>Difficult to be a commercial fishermen. Just gave update to the NRB. Lodged complaints - fish managers through last rule package. Trust with DNR has eroded. Have worked on whitefish rule for 7 years. Sport fishing task for on commercial fishing rules. Conducted poll representing sport fishery. Walleye for Tomorrow study - \$265MM impact on Green Bay and area. Nothing in study that commercial fishing has impacted sport fishing. Plenty of room for everyone.</p> <p>No information about whitefish latent mortality. Created late opposition. Sustainable zone 1 harvest 800,000 and</p>
-------------------	--

	300000 in zone 2. Never reach full quota. Fishing board met Jan 10th. Eggold: rule package on track at meeting. Biggest issue is quota number was reduced. All information is still on the table. Have advocated for EFRHS for a long time. Now is mandatory. Original intention was verifiable process to report harvest. Under rule report net and nights impossible to use on the lake under certain conditions. Working on latent mortality. Students from UWGB - sonar devise from UF&W. Sonar shows fish swimming away. One or two out of hundreds that are "sinkers". Electronic tagging - 30 under size fish - loop tags and back tags. Doing listening study for these fish in same area. Other fish with tags inserted surgically. Also have done some walleye. DNR does not monitor commercial fishing. Lake trout - have worked to restore lake trout population. Have asked for scope statement for harvest. Asked in NRB Dec 2017 and nothing has happened. Recommend in next meeting that there is a commercial harvest. Over 11,000,000 pounds of lake trout in Lake Michigan. Bay fishing is good, fish increase in size. Henriksen: chubs victim of plankton decline.	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

F. Lake Pollution Status Update

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	<p>Maas: balloon pollution. Altwies: agenda items brought to me by various boat captains on Lake Michigan. Fished a lot this summer and see balloons almost every trip. Maas: creative way to address this? Wincek: Mylar balloons are the problem. People don't realize that they sink once over cold water. Strings end up on props, etc. Make a point to pick them up. Ruining environment for others. Maas: informational. Need to get the word out. Schwefel: in FL fishing offshore. Sea turtles eat them. Need to make people aware. Maas: can we leverage FB? Altwies: can we leverage youth clinics? Maas: venues available. Can bring up at next executive meeting. Ballons and oil spill. Altwies: Eric Hataaja documented oil sheen from oil spill all the way to harbor and Lake Michigan. What is follow up? What did the DNR learn or is ready to report? Wincek: oil spill occurred several days before it was reported. DNR: getting eaten up by microbes on bottom. Blooms and garbage. Wisconsin has not endorsed mandatory boat wash procedures before and after launching. \$500 fines before and after launching. Wisconsin does not have a program. Why? Maas: can Kari send follow up information about the spill? Concerns about dredging Wincek: dredging is done hydraulically. Just like Sheboygan. Contaminants are sent to hazardous to disposal. Maas: can we get something more definitive on oil spill? Fenske: will look for more information. Googled balloon issue. Pew Charitable Trusts has information. Might be able to help spread information. Clean boat clean waters initiative outreach. Not at all launches. Try to spread word about cleaning. Maas: other items as that have been discussed is ATV travel in streams and water bodies. Klock: ran clean boats program in Sheboygan. Racine put in cleaning station. Elkhart lake will get one. Not mandatory. Wincek: use 205-210 hot water to kill organisms and plants.</p>	
ACTION	Fenske will reach out to more information about oil spill follow up, balloons, and clean boat initiative.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

G. Smallmouth Bass Tournaments

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	<p>Henriksen: UWGB and others concerned about latent mortality felt that sport fishing should be studied. Dr. Forsythe looking for funding for studies. Tournaments - they sponsor a tournament in Sturgeon Bay. System - boats have scale to computer, weigh fish, and release. Information is recorded. Concerned about affect in spawning populations, and release far from capture. Balliet: a lot of information about mortality in bass tournaments. Worked for Fish and Wildlife Service, would get age data on the bass. There were dead fish. Should be information available based on past studies. Fenske: Dr. Forsythe studying spawning mortality. Cameron: fee associated with tournaments. C&R tournaments are an option.</p>	
ACTION	None.	

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

H. Wanton waste of Lake Michigan Catch [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Altwies: legitimate concern about charters and fish not eaten. Wincek: freezers in port locations. Can donate fish. Send text to Hunger task force and fish gets distributed. Brew City tournament gave away over 1000 lbs at end of July.	
ACTION	None.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

I. Reduction of pike bag limit on Green Bay [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Altwies: Hataaja wants bag limits reduce from 5 to 2. Write a resolution. Maas: encourage write resolution.	
ACTION	None.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

J. Increased stocking of brown trout and steelhead [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Altwies: increased stocking of browns and rainbows. Near shore fishery for browns. Stocking levels have been reduced. Wincek: not stocking German browns. Now stocking Seeforellen which is an offshore fish. DNR: not big enough return for fish. Need legislature to introduce for browns or brook trout.	
ACTION	None.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

K. Future committee meetings [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Motion and 2nd Aug 26th, 2023	
ACTION	None.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Cameron - can we leverage GLRI money for the benefit of Lake Michigan Fenske - work with biologists to develop proposals, updates were GLRI (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative) Coulthurst: Mary Jo Gingirs - subcommittee - plastic pollution in Great Lakes. Issue across the nation. Boley: status of hatcheries - KM, Brule and Wild Rose. Look at ownership of hatcheries, cost, etc. Vollbrecht: offered help on steelhead resolution Grabski: coming up with ideas - on strategic planning committee. when people are absent multiple times needs to be dealt with. Maas: need to meet your obligations to the Congress.	
ACTION	None.	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	1:45pm
SUBMITTED BY	Eugene Altwies
DATE	08/27/2022