

**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 disabilities.
- To communicate with individuals and other organizations dedicated to similar purposes.
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**MEETING MINUTES
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021
VIA SKYPE**

Members Present via Skype: Cathryn Scott, Keith Pamperin, Jim Rutledge, Kirsten Engel, John Martinson, Calvin Richtig, John Mitchell, and Andrea Frisch

Members absent: Patricia Ardovino

Others Present via Skype: Barry Gilbeck, Nick Zouski, and Julie Amakobe

Guests Present via Skype: Senator Andre Jacque, Representative Jill Billings, Sean Kennedy - DNR Legislative Liaison, Christie Weber representing Sturgeon Bay Historical Society Foundation (SBHSF), Kelly Catarozoli of SBHSF, and Stephanie Birmingham (guest with public input)

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 10:33 am.

First, the Council reviewed the agenda.

John Mitchell made a motion to accept the agenda. Cathryn seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from December 18, 2020.

Keith made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The first topic to be discussed was the Potential Legislation Surrounding Accessible Hunting and Fishing. Sean Kennedy DNR Legislative Liaison said Representative Jill Billings approached him asking about any accessibility issues needing legislation. Two of the proposed bills were results of conversations with constituents in her area. Representative Billings discussed the three proposed bills with the DAC. The bills are as follows.

The first bill Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) 2398 regarding disability permit approvers will open up additional providers for these approvals. The legislation will now include Physical Therapists (PTs) and Occupational Therapists (OTs) as approvers of disability permits. Many persons with disabilities will visit a physical or occupational therapist more frequently and having these two new approvers will also save them money rather than going to a doctor (or chiropractor, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner) to get the permit application approved and signed. John Mitchell said he is fine with the proposed legislation, but he just sends the application to his doctor and he signs it. Not all circumstances are this simple. Cathryn indicated whatever makes it easier for the applicant to get this accomplished, the better. Calvin agreed with Cathryn. The process should remove as many barriers as possible. Jim Rutledge said the Board of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Wisconsin Chapter, states Veterans use PTs and OTs on a regular basis and they are up to date on accessibility issues; they are very familiar with the regulations, etc. The PVA is in full support of this proposed change. John Martinson also agrees totally. The PTs and OTs know everyone's limitations and are knowledgeable about the regulations.

Keith made a motion for the Council to support the LRB 2398. Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The second bill, LRB 2401 will allow DOT to give DNR access to the State ID Card System. This request came from a constituent who does not have a driver's license and his State ID cannot be accessed. This bill is asking DNR to have access to DOT's State ID Card System which will be the same as its current access to DOT's Driver's License System. Calvin gave the Council and others on the call the history of this problem which has been going on for a few years now. The issue was being pursued by the Council of the Blind. John Mitchell said DAC member Steve Johnson advocated for this. Keith said this is a good change. Jim said there shouldn't be an issue with this. Calvin indicated that the current problem is out of DNR's control since it is a DOT system. Representative Billings asked what the Council thinks of calling this bill Steve's Law since he was instrumental in pursuing a fix for the problem. The DAC responded with "Yes of course that would be great". Calvin gave Rep. Billings all the names of the supportive organizations of this change. Calvin will get her these organizations' contacts.

Calvin made a motion to support LRB 2401 and the bill shall include Steve Johnson in naming the bill. John and Kirsten both seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The third bill, LRB 2402 will allow hunting blinds used by Class A, B, C, D permittees to remain up overnight on state lands south of Hwy 64. Currently, hunting blinds for any hunter can stay up overnight on state lands located north of Hwy 64. Unfortunately, it does not allow for blinds to remain up overnight on state lands located below Hwy 64 for any hunter. Nick said there should be a provision for the disabled hunter to be able to keep his/her blinds up overnight on state lands below Hwy 64. He also suggested the disabled hunter have a sign indicating he/she is disabled in order to take care of vandalism, etc. By requiring the sign, this will also save verification time for the DNR wardens. John Mitchell indicated this is a good idea. To include the disabled hunter's DNR customer number would be another good addition. Calvin agreed.

Jim made a motion to support bill LRB 2402 which will allow disabled hunters having a Class A, B, C, or D permit to leave his/her hunting blind up overnight on state lands located south of Hwy, 64. John Mitchell seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Representative Billings asked the Council if it had any other accessibility issues to discuss. She let the Council know the DOT law is included in the Governor's Budget and is asking the Council to advocate for this in the Governor's Budget. Thank you, Representative Billings, for your advocacy for persons with disabilities!

The next agenda item was the Potawatomi Tower Update led by Ms. Christie Weber of the Sturgeon Bay Historical Society Foundation. Christie asked Kelly Catarozoli, SBHSF's Treasurer, to go through the packet that was sent out earlier to the Council. Kelly went over the tram (lift/elevator) proposal and was seeking the DAC's feedback. She said the Foundation was looking at ideas to make the Potawatomi Tower more accessible. One of these ideas is the use of a tram at the Tower site. These trams have been installed in all types of climates. Christie and Kelly wanted to get the Council's feedback on this option. They pointed out that a major cost for the Peninsula Tower (Eagle) was rebuilding the tower itself. The Foundation's engineering consultant said the Potawatomi Tower could be repaired at a minimal cost. At Peninsula an elevator was not feasible, due to the distance of bringing in electricity. This is not the case at Potawatomi. The Potawatomi Tower is in close proximity to an electrical outlet, so adding a lift is a feasible option.

Nick commented no one on the Council is opposed to a new structure, but the Council will not support a structure that isn't accessible. Nick said Missy from Parks has more insight on what the DNR will be doing. Christie wanted to know if the DAC is ok with the lift proposal. Calvin said to recap what Nick said, if this lift is ADA compliant, then it would be ok. He is wondering if it is ADA compliant. Calvin was wondering who would run it, or would people be on their own? Christie answered Calvin and indicated the company with the lift is ADA compliant. But Calvin answered the cart (mechanism) itself is compliant, but how about policy and procedures related to the mechanism? Kelly said this particular lift was installed in Maryland and that it needs to be accessible to everyone all day. It is like an elevator and has lock and safety features. It would not be necessary to have staff to run the lift. Christie pointed out this option is much less expensive than what was constructed at Eagle Tower. Nick reminded everyone the DAC is not a body to lay out policy. This solution looks fine, but he doesn't believe the Council can endorse a particular solution. The overall Tower project needs to go the State's Building Commission and Department of Administration for approvals etc.

At this point of the discussion Steffanie Birmingham, a resident of Sturgeon Bay in Door County, was allowed to speak under public input agenda item. Ms. Birmingham gave a brief bio, including her use of a wheelchair. She talked about her disability and her concerns regarding the Potawatomi Tower project. She wanted assurance if the Tower is repaired, it be accessible to her and other persons with disabilities. Ms. Birmingham said she believed the biggest driving force behind this project is **ableism**. She also pointed out when incorporating collaboration, it does not always work out positively when it comes to accessibility. Christie said she agrees with Stephanie, but believes this solution (lift) will accommodate her needs. Christie hopes for a win-win solution. She looks forward to working on this and to be an example for Wisconsin managing both historic preservation and accessibility. Stephanie encourages all to use caution when thinking about persons with all types of disabilities. Christie asked for feedback from the Council.

Next, Nick asked for Missy Vanlanduyt's input. Missy is a section chief in the Bureau of Parks. Missy said Parks had just received information from Representative Kitchens. DNR is looking at the outside consultant and the validity of its engineering. Missy commented on the electricity needed for the lift and the type of electrical power necessary to provide for the lift which currently does not exist in the Park. The current electrical power system does not fit correctly and she estimates at least a ½ million dollars or more will be needed to get this system updated. She said the Department will definitely be taking into consideration the new information from SBHSF. Calvin said there has been a lot of change since the last meeting including the Potawatomi Tower being added to the National Registry of Historic Places. Missy reiterated and said the Tower was added to the Historic Registry in Wisconsin and the National Registry. She indicated the Department must keep the historic integrity of the Tower. However, this determination does not negate the accessibility requirement. The Department still has same stance that if the Tower is repaired, it needs to be accessible. The Department was to demolish the Tower using approved mitigation procedures. Currently it is not moving forward with demolition of the Tower due to the update given by the SBSTF. The Tower is currently closed to the public and is still standing. The DNR is looking at all documentation. DNR met with the Department of Justice and it was determined that to fight federal law and to get exceptions to ADA requirements are not going to happen. First, it is not the right thing to do and second it would be a very difficult fight to try to defeat ADA.

Calvin is glad DNR says it is 100% behind accessibility. Nick restated the DAC advises DNR and doesn't choose the solution, but any particular solution must be fully accessible. Nick is worried about repairing the Tower and then not allowing people to use it until the accessibility component is completed. Kelly commented about negative backlash, but said it is about how we tell the story. She is a solution-based person. She said the Governor could allocate more Parks money and this money could be used for the Tower rather than to build a Welcome Center at Potawatomi. She said it is very important to have collaboration with accessibility and keeping historic features. Christie commented regarding the project's phasing. She indicated the Tower needs to get repairs done right away. The Tower needs stabilization right now, this can't be ignored. Stabilization is important for the Historical Society for this structure to remain unique.

Kirsten thanked Christie for looking at other options. Nick said as a concept, this lift would work. He said the Council can't get into specifics, because all capital development projects such as the Tower renovations, must go through engineering, etc. Kelly reiterated that the SBHSF is on the call to get the Council's input and the Foundation is really trying to meet accessibility. She gave thanks to Stephanie for her input and acknowledged her as a good accessibility advocate. This is very important. Nick noted the location of the Tower is in a remote location and an elevator could run out of electricity. He also reminded everyone when looking at solutions, there is also a need to look at maintenance of these solutions. DNR Parks have minimal number of personnel to work on maintenance. Christie said there are innovative maintenance solutions that can handle certain situations. Calvin said three concepts were provided for Eagle Tower and the DAC approved all three because they met ADA compliance. He asked, "What can we do at state facilities to make sure it is equal access for everyone?" Christie said she appreciates the time to talk to the Council and hopefully the issue of maintenance of the solution can be addressed. Nick said everyone is now on the same page.

The next item on the agenda was the Customer Service and Licensing Updates led by Barry.

- Legislative updates:
 - **SB 176 (also AB 161) - the disability rating at which veterans qualify for certain hunting and fishing authorizations and exemptions from state park and trail admission fees.** This bill establishes Wisconsin resident disabled veterans with a service-connected disability of 50% or greater or who is individually unemployable may purchase a conservation patron license for \$65 instead of the regular \$165 fee. This draft also decreases the required minimum disability rating from 70 percent to 50 percent to purchase a reduced fee (\$3) annual fishing license and receive the free Disabled Veteran State Park Admission/Trail Pass Card. In committee.

Barry explained the service-related disability provision of 50% for Veterans would apply when securing any or all DNR licenses.

- **SB 192 (also AB 165) - combining the archer and crossbow hunting licenses.** The bill eliminates the resident and nonresident crossbow licenses and provides that resident and nonresident archer licenses authorize hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow. The bill provides that, if DNR establishes an open season for hunting deer, elk, small game, wild turkey, or bear with a bow and arrow or crossbow but not with a firearm, DNR must allow the use of both bow and arrow and crossbow for hunting during the same open season. In committee.
- Two bills have passed both houses and are awaiting the Governor's signature. Governor scheduled to receive bills for signing on April 22, 2021 (could call for bills earlier). Bill would become effective day after signing.
 - **SB 45 - use of wood to contain bear bait or feed in logs or stumps.** Allows processed wood bottom to be affixed to a hollow log or stump using adhesive, nails, or screws for the purpose of containing bait or feed.
 - **SB 54 - shot shell restrictions and the hunting of fur-bearing animals.** Under current rules promulgated by DNR, no person while hunting may use, possess, or have under the person's control shot shells containing shot larger than T. Under the bill, DNR may not limit the use, possession, or control of shot shells on the basis of the size of the contained shot for the hunting of a fur-bearing animal during an open season established for that animal by the department or for the hunting of nuisance wildlife as provided under current law.

- New license year began on March 1
- New Conservation Card is available and has a picture of a grouse
- 2021 fishing regulations available online. Hard copies out soon.
 - Free fishing weekend will be June 5-6
- 2021 Spring Hearings April 12 @ 7pm. Online again this year.
- Spring Turkey Season will begin with Period A on April 21
 - Youth Hunt will be April 17-18

Next, the DAC discussed the Missing Disability Permits Information in the Hunting Regulations with the discussion led by John Mitchell and Barry. Barry sent his recommendations for the missing information over to the Bureau of Wildlife Management staff that work on the hunting regulations. The Hunting Regulations will now provide much more information regarding disabled hunters and clarifications such as antlerless qualifications, etc. Barry has confidence the new regulations will be clear.

Keith asked how a conservation patron license holder can get his/her state park sticker? Barry said the holder can go to any park and get the sticker or otherwise he/she can go online and request it. There is a specific method for requesting it. The conservation patron license holder can also show the patron license and this will suffice until he/she can get the sticker. Barry will check online for the method and get back to Keith. Later during the meeting Barry indicated a patron holder can print out his/her park sticker when he/she prints out the patron sticker.

In regard to the DNR Open the Outdoors Website, Nick had thought the DAC page was fixed because he sent the Web manager(s) the needed pictures in December. Julie recently had contacted a DNR IT staff person and at that time he alluded it was Nick's responsibility to keep the DAC webpage updated. However, Nick is not a web designer. Nick discussed this topic with his supervisor yesterday. Nick reached out to the IT person and tried to figure out what went wrong. Currently, a customer can access the DAC link (with Members' information and DAC meeting minutes) under the "Adaptive Equipment" page.

Next, Nick said he had reached out to Parks regarding mapping of the accessible features, but they haven't gotten back to him. They did confirm they will be adding a page for each park to discuss what its accessible features are at the particular park. Nick said he will remind Parks folks to put this information on the park maps. The DNR website is in a bit of disarray right now.

Kirsten asked what the survey response percentage was and Nick indicated it was a 100% response rate. Calvin asked if Nick could share the accessibility document (what they all responded to) with the Council. Nick indicated it is a huge PDF document (65 pages). Nick said he had reached out to his contacts, but they haven't gotten back to him. Each of the parks has marked which accessibility items they have at the park. It is a simple survey. Some of the parks staff may have added some items that weren't listed. Calvin asked if there were any concerns of validity of calling items accessible? Nick said the validity of entries would be made by park personnel. Nick said he will be coming up with a disclaimer for the validity of accessibility. This disclaimer is necessary due to the fact that a trail may be accessible to one person, but not to another. In addition, because of maintenance issues, a once accessible feature may no longer be accessible because the maintenance problems may not be fixed in a timely manner. Andrea commented on a DNR campsite she visited that was not accessible and should be corrected. Nick replied that he is looking at adding feedback to the DNR accessibility webpage. This feedback could include identifying problems. Cathryn suggested the parks could describe what they say is accessible, for example the park has a 5-foot wide trail with limestone screenings with an average slope of 2%. This would explain to the disabled customer what the park is calling accessible.

Calvin said this issue was identified from the Calumet County website. There were concerns how different people identify features as accessible that might be inaccessible to others. Nick said he provides accessibility training to Parks and other Bureaus and they are told to call Nick if they have questions. Nick said he will send a poster out to the Council that he has proposed adding to the webpage.

Next on the agenda was Fishing and Hunting with an Assistant. Nick had contacted Law Enforcement (LE) and Tyler Strelow will be representing LE on an as-needed basis. Tyler is happy to get back to a DAC meeting as it has been awhile. He gave a brief introduction including his title as a Lt. Warden Supervisor out of La Crosse. Tyler has eight field wardens on his team. He has been with the DNR since 2006. He participated in the revamping of the Disabled Permitting Process Team (Lean Six Sigma Team). He is the go-to person for customer service staff inquiring about a disabled permit and asking him to review it.

Tyler said he is open for questions. Kirsten Engel brought up the fishing assistant topic. Nick said in the past, wardens were trained to use discretion when encountering a disabled angler/hunter. He asked if this is still being taught at warden training. Andrea brought up training in the broad sense and asked if wardens were trained in disability etiquette or sensibility. "Yes", was the answer. Tyler informed the Council anyone can assist in angling such as taking the fish off of a hook. A warden should never give a citation for that. Kirsten said this happened to her in the past with her son. Tyler said that is interesting. He said she should have contacted the warden's supervisor. Actually, Tyler explained, it is reeling the fish in that might cause a warden to give a citation to an assistant without a license doing this task for a disabled angler. Kirsten let Tyler know her disabled son does not have the strength to reel in the fish.

Tyler said in order to allow for this, there will need to be a statutory change. Andrea said Kirsten's son would need a special set up costing around \$1,000 for him to be able to reel in a fish. Tyler said this is a fine line. John Mitchell said, but an assistant can kill a deer for a disabled hunter. Is this in statute or code? Tyler didn't know. Tyler asked if the Council could get some administrative code or statutory language written up to address this issue for a disabled person? Tyler says the wardens go through a lot of ADA training and other training. Barry said there is nothing currently in State Statutes regarding a fishing assistant. Barry did point out under SS. 29.193 (2) (d) an assistant accompanying a holder of Class A, B, C, or D permit may not kill the deer if wounded. Julie thought the assistant could kill the deer if wounded. This must have gotten changed in the last statutory update.

John Mitchell said there are resources provided by Adaptive Sportsman who will help pay for anglers' special equipment. The angler pays about \$250. Andrea said there seems to be lots of hoops for a severely disabled person to go fishing. Tyler said the assistant can get a license and there would not be any problem with him/her helping the disabled angler reel in the fish. The assistant could do everything for the disabled angler. Kirsten let Tyler know the disabled angler doesn't always have the same assistant. Nick said if there is a rule that needs changed then it would be on DNR to prove this is an unreasonable accommodation. Cathryn asked how about if the disabled person had a special permit that stayed with him or her, so this would take care of the problem if he or she changes assistants. Andrea said there could be different permits for different types of disabilities. A certain permit that has an assistant included can assist this person.

John Mitchell says there is a one-day fishing license that costs \$8. Nick stated this is not a monetary issue; some fishing assistants don't like to fish. He suggested Kirsten talk to Representative Billings. Tyler added how about putting something in the administrative code and the Council could use the Conservation Congress as a means of getting this accomplished.

John Martinson thanked Tyler for his input. What is the Council's next step? Cathryn asked what the Council should ask for when requesting an administrative code change. Nick said to add language to expand accommodation of an attendant to help reel in the fish. Kirsten asked what the next steps will be for the DAC. Julie said in the past the DAC would make a motion to pass a recommendation. Then Nick would take this recommendation to the appropriate Bureau (in this case Law Enforcement and Fisheries) for approval and the Bureaus would help with the wording for the change. Barry reminded the Council to include in the recommended change all disabled permit holders and to not limit it to only those qualified for a disabled fishing license.

Tyler suggested the DAC pass a resolution and then have an individual DAC member submit a request for this change, known as a "question", with the Conservation Congress. He said he could help with how the wording should be set up. Or the DAC could type up what it wants to see for the change and give to the policy folks in the Bureau of Fisheries and then they will give it to Law Enforcement. These are the two options. The Conservation Congress review and approval route is the quickest. The request will need to come from a citizen or the DAC. The request gets kicked to the appropriate Committee on the Conservation Congress and then it goes on-line with DNR representatives. Everyone can see the public input on the request (question) too. This route could be stronger. It was asked who should do the work on this? The designated person can go to the DNR website and then go under Conservation Congress and see what the format is to submit the request. Kirsten asked if she should write it up or will this come from the Council? Andrea asked what if public votes it down? It is the Department that comes up with code changes. Even if this request is voted down, the Department can write it up and every two years can introduce this request with the Conservation Congress. The external route is faster. Kirsten suggested the Council vote on this recommendation.

Cathryn made the motion the DAC support changes for expanding a fishing assistant's role to allow them to help bait, cast, reel, and remove the fish for persons with severe disabilities. Andrea seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Andrea and Cathryn will help Kirsten write up the request.

Nick thanked Tyler for his participation in the DAC meeting and his help with addressing the fishing assistant problem/issue.

The next agenda item was Campsites Reserved for Persons with Environmental Sensitivities Update discussed by Nick, Kirsten, and Cathryn. Nick reached out to the Capital Development Coordinator in the Bureau of Parks, but she was on vacation. This change in the process of reserving campsites for persons with environmental sensitivities is being considered. Cathryn did research on line and there wasn't really anything. We are ahead of the curve. Nick said the DNR would be the first state for having this type of campsites.

The next agenda item was the Reduced Fishing License E-mail which was received by John Mitchell. The e-mail was from a Class A permit holder who was complaining about having to show his social security disability income card every year in order to get his reduced fishing license. Barry indicated Customer Service does not keep the paperwork from year to year. In addition, unfortunately some anglers don't understand the difference between having a disability permit (A, B, C or D) and income based disability. The disabled fishing license is based on income. There are required steps this customer has to go through annually in order to get the reduced fishing license. The paperwork needs to be shown yearly. This is an annual requirement because a disabled angler's income may change from year to year. The Social Security Administration can send the applicant his or her paperwork every year. John Martinson asked if the Department can change the name of the reduced fishing license to something referring to income based? Barry answered, "No, this is in State Statutes." Cathryn asked if there is guidance explaining what is needed. Barry answered, "Yes, the information is on the website." John Mitchell is to follow up with a response to the person who sent the e-mail.

The next item on the agenda was the Accessibility Coordinator Updates led by Nick.

1)DNR Website Update. The website is in disarray right now. Nick has sent the pictures to the web designer. The web designer thought Nick was knowledgeable in web design and could update the Open the Outdoors webpage. Nick let him know that he is not a web designer and now we believe the Open the Outdoors, including the DAC link, will be up and running soon. Nick also reminded Regina Kammes, DNR's Equal Opportunity Program Specialist, the Open the Outdoors (Accessibility) icon needs to be moved to the top of the DNR's webpage. This is because in the current location at the bottom of the page, the card readers don't recognize the icon and it can be easily overlooked.

2)PDMD Update and All Terrain Chair at Dodgeville. Nick talked to the Property Manager and she was going to talk to the Park's Friends group. She hasn't gotten back to Nick yet. Nick did talk to Blue Mounds and they are also ready for an all-terrain chair. Access Ability Wisconsin will provide an all-terrain chair and trailer to the Park. The Park will provide security and a place to plug in the chair. If parks personnel are not available, there is always the Friends group who will be on call.

3)Eagle Tower Update. Nick sent the Eagle Tower plans via a PDF file to the Council. There will be viewing stations on the main deck of the Tower. There will be the six viewing stations with lower railings so persons in chairs or persons with smaller stature will be able to look out. From now on and for all DNR towers or bridges, Nick wants to get at least one of these viewing stations installed.

4)DAC Alternate Update. The potential alternate's name is Wendy and Nick reached out to her a few times and he hasn't heard back from her. Andrea let the Council know she has an applicant in mind, but she hasn't filled out the application yet. Nick said to let the applicant know her application won't need to go through the grading process. The Department is holding a spot for someone with a visual disability.

5)Blackhawk Lake Recreational Area Update. Nick talked to Jim and Nick has contacted the County, but they haven't gotten back to him yet. The County is a Title II entity and it will need to follow the ADA even if it doesn't receive any DNR grants. Currently the boat dock does not have slips open/reserved for persons with disabilities.

6) Nick had one additional item in his updates and this is regarding DNR Trails. As of right now, designated nature trails do not allow dogs (unless they are service dogs). These types of trails get the most federal funds and are the best kept (most accessible). However, disabled persons can't bring their dogs. Andrea wants to talk about this issue. She asked if Parks has a designated trails expert and the answer is "yes". Although Nick wasn't sure if the position is currently filled. Nick will follow up on this. This agenda item will be added to next DAC meeting agenda.

The last agenda item was the Members' Updates.

John Martinson - Nothing at this time.

Calvin - Nothing at this time.

John Mitchell - John asked the Council to review the Adaptive Sportsman website. This website has all of its upcoming events.

Jim - Two recreational therapists Erin and Francesca in Milwaukee gave Representative Billings information and were very excited when Jim told them that there is a draft bill that would allow recreational therapists to classify (sign off) A, B & C disabled permits, especially since they have been doing the classification for all levels of injuries for veterans who participate at the VA Veterans National Wheelchair Games. Jim also said he has 25 Facebook portals to give out that are just sitting there unused.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)-Wisconsin Chapter has 10 boats lined up for the Salmon-A-Rama out of Racine on July 13, 2021. The Chapter is planning on covering fees for 10 PVA veterans to attend; veterans would be responsible for fishing license and all required stamps. If you know of any veteran who has a spinal cord injury/disease or who has MS please let them know. Also, the Annual Trap Shoot at Brown County Sportsman's Club is still a go, June 19- 20, 2021. This event is open to anyone disabled or able bodied who enjoys trap shooting. The PVA-WI Chapter will again have a Respite Caregivers Retreat on July 29 - 30, 2021 at the Sheraton in Brookfield. This is a great program for caregivers. Jim's wife even agreed after attending the last session, even though she had her doubts in the beginning.

Kirsten - Nothing at this time.

Andrea - WisCorps (AmeriCorps) is starting its spring conservation crew work early this year; work will begin in April. Young adults 18-25 years of age will be hired to work on conservation projects throughout Wisconsin.

Keith - No updates at this time.

Cathryn - Nothing at this time.

Andrea made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Calvin seconded the motion and all were in favor.

John Martinson adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.