

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Forestry Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
September 6, 2008

The regular meeting of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Forestry Parks and Recreation Committee was held on Saturday September 6, 2008 at the LeMay Forestry Center, Tomahawk, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Severson at 11:00 a.m. and was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. A tour of the center preceded the meeting.

Committee members present: Chairman Gary Severson, Secretary Dan Cobb, Bob Ellingson, David Ferris, Robert Haddick, Jeffery Klatt, Kevin Marquette, Keith Propson, Louis Rudolph, Tom Stuart, Richard Warosh, Dale Mayo.

Committee Members Excused: Dean Bowe, Robert Erdman, Noel Dolde.

Committee Members Not Excused: Robert Brunkow.

Guests Present: Kathy Nelson, Forest Tax Section Chief, DNR Forestry, Kari Lee-Zimmermann DNR Liaison, Rich Kirchmeyer Executive Committee

Mission Statement of Forestry Parks and Recreation Committee was developed and passed:

The mission of the Forestry Parks and Recreation Study Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to provide citizen input in the use and management of Wisconsin's forests, parks and trails on behalf of all those who utilize these resources. We accomplish this through monitoring the issues that affect the health, diversity and use of our forests, parks and trails. In doing this we want to: 1) promote diverse healthy forest communities; 2) support control of invasive species that threaten our forests; 3) promote environmentally sound sustainable harvest; and 4) encourage the compatible use of our public/private lands for the diverse interests of those who recreate in our state.

Motion by Ferris to accept, 2nd by Stewart motion passed by voice vote, no objections.

United States Forest Service Travel Management Rule:

Congress letter was distributed and discussed.

MFL Update: Kathy Nelson, Tax Section Chief, Bureau of Forest Management, WDNR Definition update concerning consideration and ownership were provided as revised for NR46

Stewardship Citizen Committee Advisory Update:

Chairman Severson provides a handout with committee members and information.

Lunch

Emerald Ash Borer Update:

Four counties are now quarantined (movement of wood is prohibited out of the county) in an attempt to minimize the spread of the borer.

Ice-Age Rule Update, Karri Lee-Zimmerman

Discussion: Concerns about unauthorized use of the trail.

Kathy Nelson, DNR Forestry

Mill Tax Rate is down due to decrease in assessed property value. Forestry budget short fall of 5 million dollars.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 71-08-08 Pertaining to leaving hunting stands up on state lands statewide during the duration of the hunting season. Brian Walter arrived after lunch to present the resolution.

Motion to ADVANCE by Dale Mayo, 2nd by Tom Stewart.

Discussion: Brings uniformity in stand removal deadlines with most counties and federal lands. Will reduce accidents by not removing and replacing stands daily. On the negative side, stands claim ownership of public land.

Motion passed by voice vote. Voting no; Cobb, Ferris and Haddick.

Resolution ADVANCED.

Resolution 72-03-08 Pertaining to ATV/UTV use to retrieve deer on state and county lands after hunting hours.

Motion to REJECT by Cobb, 2nd by Ferris.

Discussion: Counties and state forests undergo planning process as to environmental and user conflicts. Diversity of areas is good and provides user options. Citizens should get involved with planning process.

Motion passed by voice vote, no vocal objections.

Resolution REJECTED.

Resolution 52-08-08 Pertaining to leaving hunting stands up on state lands north of Highway 8 during the duration of the hunting season.

Motion to REJECT by Cobb, 2nd by Klatt.

Discussion: Rule change should be statewide, not just north of Highway 8.

Motion passed by voice vote, no vocal objections.

Resolution REJECTED.

Resolution 45-03-08 Pertaining to not changing MFL Lands.

Motion to REJECT by Klatt, 2nd by Ellingson.

Discussion: Resolution is not clear as to what is requested. The committee assumed that this resolution was in response to the spring hearing questionnaire that would have made all MFL land open but failed statewide in 2007 so this was not needed.

Motion passed by voice vote, no vocal objections.

Resolution REJECTED.

Member Matters:

NR 40 Invasive Species Rule package.

Comments about holding meeting before hunting season.

Motion to adjourn by Ferris, 2nd by Klatt. Motion carried by voice vote.

Submitted by:

Dan C. Cobb, Secretary