

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Fur Harvesters' Study Committee Meeting Mead Wildlife Area Saturday, August 21, 2010

1. Organizational Matters

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Scott Zimmerman

Members Present

Scott Zimmerman, Chairman

Dave Hraychuck, Secretary

David Louis, Patrick Van Kauwenberg, Thomas Avis, Marcus Bresee, Richard Ammon, Troy Klessinger, Jody Bigalke, Dan Carrell, Will Minette, Daniel Cichantek, Walter Cox, Myron Leis, Richard Clark, Mike Nicholson, Donald Bongle, Aloze Priolick, Jr, Larry Vanderhoff, Scott McAuley

Excused

Bruce Albrecht, James Binder, James Winkler

Absent

Gary Reidy

Review Mission Statement

Stands as written

Chairman Zimmerman informed members that all votes will be role call votes.

Public Comments

Ralph Fritsch, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, presented petitions to delist wolves. Program/petition hopes to get 10,000 plus signatures to present to Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar by January 11, 2011 in Washington D.C. Petitions given to all members for distribution.

John Olson, Wisconsin DNR, stated that the Heads of Natural Resources in 14 Midwestern states and 3 Canadian Provinces unanimously approved delisting of the wolf.

Guest Speakers

Robert Willging, USDA Wildlife Service

Beaver Management and APHIS presentation on beaver damage and control programs. What constitutes beaver problems?

In 2009, 700 beaver were removed from trout streams, 309 beaver were removed due to roadway damage, and 46 beaver were removed from wild rice lakes.

Dave McFarland, Bobcat Research

Dave McFarland could not be present due to a scheduling conflict. John Olson (DNR) presented the research project with handouts and discussion. The objectives of the study are:

1. Produce a population estimate for bobcats south of Hwy 64
2. Develop models of bobcat habitat in the agricultural transition areas of Southern Wisconsin.
3. Develop methods for tracking expansion of bobcat range.

Final report of this project is due June 30, 2013.

2. Department Items

John Olson, Furbearer Ecologist, WI DNR

Handouts on bobcat, fisher, otter harvest and permits were presented to the committee. They were all very complete and informative.

Obtaining a bobcat permit is continuing to take a longer time to get as cat hunting and trapping continue to rise in popularity.

Fisher populations in the north are shrinking. The cause of this is believed to be primarily due to disease.

Otter populations are decreasing, and this seems to be in direct correlation to the lower beaver populations.

John Welke, Conservation Warden, WI DNR

Presented 2009 trapping season incidents. Twelve incidents were reported and of the 12 incidents, 2 dogs and 2 cats were killed in 160 size and 220 size body grip traps. There does seem to be a decrease in roadside trapping throughout the state. This appears to be the result of trapper education.

Citizen Resolutions

510210 Cable Restraints on Private Lands

Resolution was read by Chairman Scott Zimmerman. Resolution author Rich Kirchmeyer was present. Discussion and modifications were made with a motion to pass on to the Executive Council that cable restraints could be used on private land year around for coyote and fox doing damage on private property.

Motion was made and passed by vote to remove bobcat from the original resolution.

Resolution passed.

050210 Shorten Fall Beaver Trapping Season

Resolution was read by Chairman Zimmerman. Resolution author Jack Hill was present. A motion was made and seconded to table the resolution and for the author to rewrite the areas that specifically need to be shortened.

Motion was brought forward to bring it back to the table to request shortening the season by one month in Deer Management Units 39, 40, 50, 44, 41, 45, 43, 49A, 49B, 51A, 51B, 63B, and 64.

Resolution was passed to be forwarded to the Executive Board for consideration. The committee felt that the new beaver management plan may address some of these concerns but felt it was important to make a clear statement of the concern over the declining beaver populations.

Resolution passed.

700210 Allow Trappers to Bait and Lure Prior to the Opening of the Season

Resolution was read by Chairman Zimmerman. Author Larry Vanderhoef was present. Author had concerns that opportunity was not equal with dog hunters being able to bait before season and trappers cannot bait before season.

After further discussion with DNR, law enforcement, and study committee members, it was determined that the resolution was not necessary.

Resolution failed.

3. Member & Misc. Matters

Plans were discussed for the 2011 meeting with a motion that passed to hold the meeting in the same general time frame and the location to again be Mead Wildlife Area. Time, date, and location will be sent to members of the committee

John Olson, DNR, presented a cougar update, along with a cougar protocol and a cougar sighting map.

Motion offered and passed to adjourn at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hraychuck, Secretary
Fur Harvest Committee
August 21, 2010