

COUNTY #4 10 2010

Resolution requesting County reimbursement for out-of-pocket travel expenses for required Convention attendance by Bayfield County Conservation Congress Delegates

The Conservation Commission (now called Natural Resources Board) created the Conservation Congress in 1934 to provide Wisconsin citizens with local input on conservation issues and to serve in an advisory capacity to the NRB.

Each county is **required by law** to (1) provide 5 elected volunteer Delegates to the Congress and (2) hold an annual county conservation hearing each spring. The Delegates gather information from sportsmen and others in their locality to share with the full Wisconsin Conservation Congress which is 360 delegates from all 72 counties.

Delegates are **required** to attend the annual WCC Convention. This is a 'working' convention and Delegates are in meetings throughout the two-day caucus. The WCC operating structure offers State reimbursement for out-of-pocket travel expenses for some committee meetings but not to the annual convention. That was left up to the counties. Statewide, the average convention expenses are approximately \$307 per Delegate. Northern counties pay more because most conventions are held in the south.

Our Delegates volunteer many hours throughout the year as representatives of Bayfield County. They should not have to pay out of their own pockets to do so. Asking Delegates to pay to serve as volunteers may stop good future Delegates from being willing to serve.

Convention attendance is very important. Decisions are made affecting the use of Bayfield County's natural resources, hunting and fishing laws, tourism and the protection of our waters and woodlands. It is of utmost importance that Bayfield County be well represented at the convention. Other counties are. We don't want others making decisions for us.

In 2009, the county paid our Delegates' out-of-pocket expenses for attending the convention. This year (2010) the Delegates will have to pay most of their costs again. It is only reasonable that our Wisconsin Conservation Congress Delegates should not have to pay the expenses they incur for this required event.

Therefore, the attendees of the Bayfield County Spring Hearing do hereby resolve that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors should provide for reimbursement of all out-of-pocket travel expenses for our county volunteer Delegates to attend the required WCC Convention each year hereafter.

Submitted by:



Raleigh Fox, Private Citizen and former WCC Delegate

Address:

April 12, 2010