



**Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Public Hearing**

**&
Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting**



Monday, April 14, 2014

7:00 PM

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Everyone will be given an opportunity to comment on the questions, but you will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes for each question that you wish to discuss. If comments become repetitive the hearing officer may limit comments to issues not previously presented. No argument or rebuttal will be allowed on DNR questions. Written comments on all DNR proposed rule changes will be accepted until April 14, 2014.

**The results of the 2014 Spring Hearings will be available online beginning
Wednesday, April 16, 2014.**

**The results can be found at
dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”**



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WCC Delegate Elections

Delegate election takes place at 7:00 p.m. prior to the start of the DNR portion of the Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting/Hearing.

If you are a resident of the county in which you are attending the meeting, and are at least 18 years of age you may vote for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates. A photo ID is required in order to receive ballots to vote for delegates. If you meet these criteria, you will receive:

- 2-Year Term ballot
- 2-Year Term run-off ballot

- 3-Year Term ballot
- 3-Year Term run-off ballot

2-YEAR
ELECTION BALLOT
2-YEAR
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

I vote for the above named individual to serve a two-year term on the WCC.

3-YEAR
ELECTION BALLOT
3-YEAR
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

I vote for the above named individual to serve a three-year term on the WCC.

Each April, there is one 2-year term and one 3-year term available on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), unless other vacancies occur. County residents in attendance at the annual county meeting have the opportunity to nominate a peer.

The nominee has the opportunity to say a few words (up to 3 minutes) on how he or she could best represent their county, and serve as a conduit for local citizen input concerning all natural resource issues at a local and statewide level.

As a county delegate you agree to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

Citizens in attendance at the county congress meetings have the opportunity to vote on nominees. In order for the nominee to be elected they must receive a majority of the votes (at least 50% + 1) of eligible voters in attendance.

Delegate Eligibility

- Any citizen of the county who is able to represent the citizens of Wisconsin, and be a local avenue for citizen input and exchange of ideas concerning all natural resource issues through the WCC on a local and statewide level is eligible to be nominated and to run for election that evening.
- A delegate must be a Wisconsin resident.
- An elected delegate must be an adult (at least 18 years of age), and a resident of the county they wish to represent. **NOTE:** To give the widest geographic representation, it is recommended that not more than three members of the county delegation be from the same town, city or village.
- Must be willing to volunteer their time and efforts by:
 - Attending 2 district meetings per year (*one in March and one in August*); assisting with the annual spring hearings in April; attending the annual convention in May and one or more advisory committee meetings in the fall of the year.
 - Working with local citizens and organizations on natural resource issues on a local basis, and participating in outreach and outdoor initiatives of local and statewide significance.
- To guard against possible conflict of interest or bias, no full or part-time employee(s) of the Department of Natural Resources or member of the Natural Resources Board shall be members of the WCC.

NOTE: The Conservation Congress is an equal opportunity organization, and welcomes participation from all individuals regardless of race, age, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, arrest, conviction, veteran status or political affiliation.

Statewide Electronic Balloting

To ensure that you are able to provide your input on the proposals presented, make sure you:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are registered | <input type="checkbox"/> Received a blue ballot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Received this questionnaire | <input type="checkbox"/> Have a pencil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Received a white ballot | |

Please read the instructions below before voting.

After you have registered, staff will provide you with a **white ballot** – the white ballot is for all the Department of Natural Resources Proposed Wildlife & Fisheries rule change and advisory questions and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress advisory questions that are printed in this questionnaire.

You will also be given a **blue ballot** – the blue ballot is for all citizen introduced resolutions which are presented at the end of the Conservation Congress county meeting.

In order for ballots to be read correctly by the voting machine:

- Use a PENCIL on ballots - **not pen**
- DO NOT erase (If you make a mistake, please turn in your original ballot and request a new ballot)
- DO NOT circle answers
- DO NOT make notes or stray marks anywhere on the ballot
- If you DO NOT follow these directions your ballot may not be readable and therefore may not be counted.

Please see the following examples of the use of the WHITE BALLOT and BLUE BALLOTS.

Sample WHITE BALLOT:
The white ballot is for proposed questions contained within the questionnaire.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS**

To vote on a question, complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "YES" if in favor of the question or complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "NO" if opposed to the question.

IMPORTANT: USE A #2 PENCIL OR THE MARKING PEN PROVIDED. DO NOT USE BALL POINT PEN.

<p>Question 1:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p> <p>Question 2:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p> <p>Question 3:</p> <p>YES </p>	<p>Question 18:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p> <p>Question 19:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p> <p>Question 20:</p> <p>YES </p>	<p>Question 35:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p> <p>Question 36:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p> <p>Question 37:</p> <p>YES </p>
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Question 1: Do you support changing the date of the ruffed grouse season?

1. YES _____ No _____

If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **YES** as indicated above. If you are **NOT** in favor of the proposed question please mark **NO**.

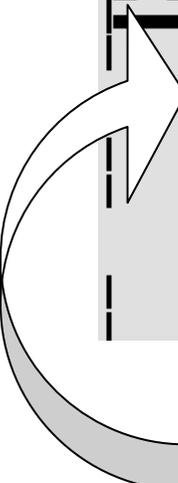
Sample BLUE BALLOT:
 The blue ballot is for citizen introduced resolutions that are introduced on the floor this evening and are posted for your consideration.

**CONSERVATION CONGRESS
 SPRING HEARING RESOLUTIONS**

To vote on a question, complete the arrow ← to the RIGHT of "YES" if in favor of the question or complete the arrow ← to the RIGHT of "NO" if opposed to the question.

IMPORTANT: USE A #2 PENCIL OR THE MARKING PEN PROVIDED. DO NOT USE BALL POINT PEN.

Resolution 1: YES ← <input type="checkbox"/> ← NO ← <input type="checkbox"/> ←	Resolution 18: YES ← <input type="checkbox"/> ← NO ← <input type="checkbox"/> ←	Resolution 35: YES ← <input type="checkbox"/> ← NO ← <input type="checkbox"/> ←
Resolution 2: YES ← <input type="checkbox"/> ← NO ← <input type="checkbox"/> ←	Resolution 19: YES ← <input type="checkbox"/> ← NO ← <input type="checkbox"/> ←	Resolution 36: YES ← <input type="checkbox"/> ← NO ← <input type="checkbox"/> ←
Resolution 3: YES ← <input type="checkbox"/> ← NO ← <input type="checkbox"/> ←	Resolution 20: YES ← <input type="checkbox"/> ← NO ← <input type="checkbox"/> ←	Resolution 37: YES ← <input type="checkbox"/> ← NO ← <input type="checkbox"/> ←



Resolution 1: BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Your County on Month, Date, Year, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by introducing rule changes allowing a spring dinosaur hunting season?
 1. YES _____ No _____

If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **YES** as indicated above. If you are **NOT** in favor of the proposed question please mark **NO**.

Results of Citizen Resolutions introduced at the 2014 Spring Hearings will be posted on the WCC website (dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”) on June 2, 2014, or you can find out the results of the resolutions by contacting your Conservation Congress County Chair after May 11, 2014.

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2014, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will hold its election of county delegates in each county. Upon completion of the delegate elections, the joint Spring Department of Natural Resources Rule and Informational Hearing and Conservation Congress Meeting will convene to take comments on the department's proposed rule change related to motor trolling.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department of Natural Resources will take public input on Board Order FH-34-13 which allows fishing by the method of trolling on all inland waters with one hook, bait, or lure and – depending on location – up to three hooks, baits, or lures. Trolling means trailing a lure or bait from a boat propelled by a means other than drifting or rowing.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that local Wildlife Management staff from the Department of Natural Resources will provide information about the status of the deer herd and changes to the 2014 deer season/rules.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department of Natural Resources and the Conservation Congress will take public input on advisory questions relating to fishing on the inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin as well as advisory questions relating to hunting, trapping, and the management of department lands.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the public hearings/meetings will be held on Monday, April 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Adams	Adams County Courthouse County Board Room, 400 Main Street, Friendship, WI 53934
Ashland	Ashland County Court House 3rd Floor Court Room, 201 Main Street West, Ashland, WI 54806
Barron	Barron County Government Center Auditorium, 335 E Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI 54812
Bayfield	Drummond Civic Center, 52540 Front Avenue, Drummond, WI 54832
Brown	NWTC Corporate Conference Center Room CC210, 2740 W Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54307
Buffalo	Alma High School Gymnasium, S1618 State Road 35, Alma, WI 54610
Burnett	Burnett County Government Center Room 165, 7410 County Road K, Siren, WI 54872
Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse Room B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School, 750 Tropicana Boulevard, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Clark	Greenwood High School Cafetorium, 306 W Central Avenue, Greenwood, WI 54437
Columbia	Poynette Village Hall, 106 S Main Street, Poynette, WI 53955
Crawford	Prairie du Chien High School, 800 E Crawford Street, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Dane	Middleton High School Performing Arts Center, 2100 Bristol Street, Middleton, WI 53562
Dodge	Horicon Marsh International Education Center Lower Auditorium, N7725 STH 28, Horicon, WI 53032
Door	Sturgeon Bay High School Commons, 1230 Michigan Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Douglas	Solon Springs High School, 8993 E Baldwin Avenue, Solon Springs, WI 54873
Dunn	Dunn County Fish and Game Club, 1600 Pine Avenue, Menomonie, WI 54751
Eau Claire	CVTC Business Education Center Casper Room 103, 620 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701
Florence	Florence Natural Resources Center, 5631 Forestry Drive, Florence, WI 54121
Fond du Lac	Theisen Middle School, 525 E Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Forest	Crandon High School, 9750 US Highway 8 West, Crandon, WI 54520
Grant	Lancaster High School Auditorium, 806 E Elm Street, Lancaster, WI 53813
Green	Monroe Middle School, 1510 13th Street, Monroe, WI 53566
Green Lake	Green Lake High School Small Gymnasium, 612 Mill Street, Green Lake, WI 54941
Iowa	Dodgeville High School Gymnasium, 912 Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533
Iron	Mercer Community Center, 2648 W Margaret Street, Mercer, WI 54547
Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School LGI Room, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fair Park Activity Center, 503 N Jackson Avenue, Jefferson, WI 53549
Juneau	Olson Middle School Auditorium, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53958
Kenosha	Bristol School District #1 Gymnasium, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol, WI 53104
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School Little Theater, 911 3rd Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
La Crosse	Onalaska High School Performing Arts Center, 700 Hilltopper Place, Onalaska, WI 54650
Lafayette	Darlington Elementary School Large Group Room, 11630 Center Hill Road, Darlington, WI 53530
Langlade	Antigo High School Volm Theater, 1900 10th Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409
Lincoln	Merrill High School Auditorium, 1201 N Sales Street, Merrill, WI 54452
Manitowoc	UW-Manitowoc Theatre, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

Marathon	D.C. Everest Middle School Auditorium, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Weston, WI 54476
Marinette	Wausaukee High School Auditorium, N11941 Highway 141, Wausaukee, WI 54177
Marquette	Montello High School Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello, WI 53949
Menominee	Menominee County Courthouse, W3269 Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI 54135
Milwaukee	Nathan Hale High School Auditorium, 11601 W Lincoln Avenue, West Allis, WI 53227
Monroe	Meadowview School Cafetorium, 1225 N Water Street, Sparta, WI 54656
Oconto	Suring High School Cafeteria, 411 E Algoma Street, Suring, WI 54174
Oneida	James William Middle School, 915 Acacia Lane, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Outagamie	Riverview Middle School Auditorium, 101 Oak Street, Kaukauna, WI 54130
Ozaukee	Webster Middle School Commons, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg, WI 53012
Pepin	Pepin County Government Center County Board Room, 740 7th Avenue West, Durand, WI 54736
Pierce	Ellsworth High School Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011
Polk	Unity High School Auditorium, 1908 State Hwy 46, Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Portage	Ben Franklin Junior High School Auditorium, 2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481
Price	Price County Courthouse Boardroom, 126 Cherry Street, Phillips, WI 54555
Racine	Union Grove High School, 3433 S Colony Avenue, Union Grove, WI 53182
Richland	Richland County Courthouse, 181 W Seminary Street, Richland Center, WI 53581
Rock	Milton High School Auditorium, 114 W High Street, Milton, WI 53563
Rusk	Ladysmith High School Auditorium, 1700 Edgewood Avenue East, Ladysmith, WI 54848
Saint Croix	St. Croix Central High School Commons, 1751 Broadway Street, Hammond, WI 54015
Sauk	UW-Baraboo Campus, Lecture Hall A-4, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo, WI 53913
Sawyer	Winter High School Auditorium, 6585 Grove Street, Winter, WI 54896
Shawano	Shawano Middle School Room LGI, 1050 S Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166
Sheboygan	Plymouth High School Auditorium, 125 Highland Avenue, Plymouth, WI 53073
Taylor	Taylor County Multipurpose Meeting Room, Hwy 64/Hwy 13, Medford, WI 54451
Trempealeau	Whitehall City Center Gymnasium, 18620 Hobson Street, Whitehall, WI 54773
Vernon	Viroqua High School Commons, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua, WI 54665
Vilas	St. Germain Elementary School Gymnasium, 8234 Hwy 70 West, St. Germain, WI 54558
Walworth	Delavan-Darien High School LGR Room 124/125, 150 Cummings Street, Delavan, WI 53115
Washburn	Spooner High School Auditorium, 801 County Highway A, Spooner, WI 54801
Washington	Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Hwy PV, West Bend, WI 53095
Waukesha	Waukesha Co. Tech. College, Richard Anderson Center, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072
Waupaca	Waupaca High School Performing Arts Center, E2325 King Road, Waupaca, WI 54981
Waushara	Waushara County Court House Board Room 265, 209 S Saint Marie Street, Wautoma, WI 54982
Winnebago	Webster Stanley Middle School Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Wood	Pittsville School District Admin. Building Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Pittsville, WI 54466

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of information material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call Kari Lee-Zimmermann at (608) 266-0580 with specific information on your request by April 1, 2014.

Written comments on the department fisheries proposed rule change or advisory questions may be submitted via U.S. mail to Ms. Kate Strom-Hiorns, Bureau of Fisheries Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Written comments on the department wildlife advisory questions may be submitted via U.S. mail to Mr. Scott Loomans, Bureau of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Written comments shall be postmarked not later than April 14, 2014. Written comments whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail will be summarized for the Natural Resources Board, however, they will not be tallied along with the responses received at the county hearings.

The official public hearing notice, proposed rule, and supporting documents may be viewed and downloaded from the Administrative Rules System website which can be accessed through the link <https://health.wisconsin.gov/admrules/public/Home>. If you do not have Internet access, a printed copy of the proposed rule and supporting documents, including the fiscal estimate, may be obtained free of charge by contacting Tim Simonson, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries Management 101 S. Webster St, Madison, WI, 53703, or by calling 608-266-5222.

1) eliminate confusion about where trolling is legal; 2) allow anglers to trail a sucker or other minnow while under power anywhere in the State; 3) eliminate the need for disabled anglers to apply for trolling permits; and 4) provide additional fishing opportunities for anglers who may have more difficulty fishing by other methods.

-
1. Do you favor this compromise trolling proposal, which would allow trolling with 1 “line” (i.e., hook, bait, or lure) per angler in the 17 counties listed above (except the 31 waters already open to trolling) and would allow trolling with 3 “lines” per angler in the other 55 counties? 1. YES____ NO____
-

Deer Herd Status Update & New Rules for 2014

Due to concerns expressed by the hunting public regarding various deer management issues and hunting regulations, in 2011 the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration contracted with Dr. James Kroll (Deer Trustee) to conduct an independent review of Wisconsin’s deer management program and practices. This evaluation resulted in a public input process that was ultimately summarized into the Deer Trustee Report (DTR). Completed during June 2012, it included 62 recommendations covering several broad categories related to white-tailed deer management in Wisconsin. Following the release of the DTR report, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was charged with implementing the recommendations and established a public involvement process which consisted of four volunteer public Action Teams. Over several months, each team developed specific proposals for enacting the recommendations that related to deer hunting regulations and seasons, herd health, science and research, and deer management assistance programs to name a few. The final rule proposals developed from the Action Team recommendations were approved by the Natural Resources Board in January of 2014, resulting in several changes that are being introduced to the hunting regulations starting this fall.

Wildlife Management staff will provide information and answer questions from the public regarding the implementation of the new deer hunting rules and how they will affect hunting opportunities in 2014 and beyond. In addition, they will present current herd information for the county and provide opportunity for public comment regarding 2014 antlerless deer quotas.



DEPARTMENT FISHERIES ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 2-3. Catch and release fishing seasons

In June 2013, Governor Walker vetoed a section of the 2013-15 state budget bill that would have established a catch-and-release only season for bass fishing in areas of the state where there is not a continuous open season for bass fishing. To gather additional public input, the department wants your opinion on replacing existing closed fishing seasons with catch and release seasons for all or most game fish species.

Catch and release season benefits:

- Anglers have additional opportunities to fish year-round, increasing interest in fisheries and expanding tourism and economic development statewide
- It defers harvest of fish until the open season, maintaining good numbers of fish to a time period when they are less vulnerable and more anglers have an opportunity to participate
- Anglers gain expertise in a particular fishery or fishing technique, and may develop an interest in "limiting their kill" instead of "killing their limit"
- Focus on use of bag and length limits to manage fish populations rather than seasons

Catch and release season concerns:

- Potential delayed mortality as a result of stress on the fish or wounding by the hook
- Targeting of vulnerable fish during spawning times when the seasons have typically been closed, although it would be illegal to harvest the fish

Catch and release seasons could replace closed seasons as has been done with the successful current catch and release seasons for trout and bass. Existing year-round open or closed seasons would remain in place. They would need to further evaluate for which species catch and release seasons would apply, as well as discuss with Minnesota, Iowa, and Michigan DNRs whether this would affect border waters and Great Lakes waters.

-
2. Would you support creating catch and release seasons for game fish that would replace closed fishing seasons if there are no significant biological impacts? 2. YES____ NO____
-

During catch and release fishing, fish may be more likely to swallow the hook when using live bait. Using artificial lures has been shown to increase the chances of survival when releasing fish. Live bait can be a good fishing tool also, but anglers practicing catch and release fishing should be prepared to use hooks and methods to maximize the likelihood of the hook being lodged in the jaw and thus minimizing damage from gut hooking. "Artificial lure" means a spoon, spinner, jig, plug or other fish bait made of hair, feathers, cork, wood, rubber, metal, plastic or other synthetic materials, or combinations of these materials.

-
3. If the department created catch and release seasons for game fish that replaced most closed fishing seasons, would you support requiring only the use of artificial lures during catch and release seasons? 3. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 4. Sturgeon catch and release on Minnesota boundary waters

Anglers can currently fish for lake sturgeon with hook and line during open harvest seasons on select WI-MN boundary waters. The State of Minnesota is enacting a regulation opening all waters to catch and release sturgeon fishing year round, except closed seasons would be in place to protect fish during spawning periods and harvest seasons would remain on existing waters. (Closed seasons would vary depending on location, but would either be March 2 to June 15 or April 15 to June 15.) A regulation change in Wisconsin would be necessary to keep regulations consistent on our border waters with Minnesota.

-
4. Would you support a regulation making it legal to catch and release lake sturgeon with hook and line on Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters year round, with closed seasons during spawning periods and keeping existing harvest seasons? 4. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 5. Season opener and Mother’s Day weekend

In 2011, the Governor’s office and some tourism interests asked the department to explore the possibility of moving the general fishing season opening day to a different weekend in years when the first Saturday in May occurs on Mother’s Day weekend, which occurs about once every seven years. The advisory question results at the 2011 spring hearings were 2,958 in favor and 1,569 opposed to changing the opening day of the general fishing season from the first Saturday in May to Saturday April 30 in years when the first Saturday in May falls on Mother’s Day weekend.

Rather than changing the general fishing season opening weekend once every seven years, the department may propose a consistent opening weekend that always avoids Mother’s Day weekend. The department would like input on whether the general fishing season opening weekend should be moved from the first Saturday in May to the Saturday closest to May 1. This would result in the general fishing season opener occurring on either the last Saturday in April or the first Saturday in May every year. The department does not believe this change will result in any adverse impacts on gamefish populations.

-
5. To avoid the general fishing season opening day from occurring on Mother’s Day weekend, would you favor changing the opening day of the general fishing season from the first Saturday in May to the Saturday closest to May 1? 5. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 6. Temporary length limit exemptions for catch-hold-release bass tournaments

Protected slot limit regulations are length ranges, or slots, that prohibit anglers from keeping fish within a designated size range while allowing fish under and over the slot to be harvested. Protected slot limits tend to be used on waters with an overabundance of bass where increased harvest on small fish can help improve growth rates and increase the size of fish. For example, the department currently uses a protected slot for bass where bass from 14 inches to 18 inches may not be harvested and only one over 18 inches is allowed.

These types of regulations tend to restrict catch-hold-release fishing tournaments because tournament participants are limited to only transporting fish outside the slot limits, even though fish transported will not be harvested. As a result, fisheries biologists often do not consider proposing protected slot type regulations for waters they manage. The department is considering offering exemptions from length limits during permitted catch-hold-release bass tournaments where bass protected slot limits are in effect. This would allow tournament participants to temporarily possess bass of sizes within the protected length limits during the tournament.

Under state law, a length limit exemption could only be allowed for bass fishing tournaments that obtain a permit from the DNR. In addition, exemptions would not apply to non-tournament recreational anglers. However, these exemptions would enable biologists to use the optimal bass regulation for managing a waterbody without restricting tournament activity, thus meeting both DNR and tournament goals. If temporary length limit exemptions were allowed for fishing tournament participants, the following permit criteria would apply:

- Exemptions would only be offered on waters with no minimum length limit and a protected slot
- Fish within the protected slot could **not** be harvested or transported away from the water
- Any bass dying unintentionally within the protected slot must be donated to a food pantry under the tournament organizer’s required written plan for disposition of dead fish
- The fisheries biologist who reviews a tournament permit application maintains the authority to approve or deny the exemption if unintentional mortality associated with the tournament (from an individual event or cumulatively) would substantially contribute to total annual bass mortality

6. To enable fisheries biologists to more broadly use protected slot limit regulations for bass, would you favor allowing permitted catch-hold-release bass tournament participants temporary exemptions from protected slot length limit regulations if the tournament does not harvest any fish and donates any incidental dead fish to a local food pantry? 6. YES___ NO___

QUESTION 7. Increase the size of the trophy bass regulation from 18” to 20”

The department is currently reviewing regulations used to manage bass populations in Wisconsin and how they are applied. Currently, the department manages bass populations for trophy opportunities by using an 18-inch minimum length limit. Anglers and biologists have suggested that anglers’ expectations of the size of a trophy bass have increased over time and that some bass fisheries are not meeting these expectations with an 18-inch minimum length. The department is considering changing the trophy regulation option from 18 inches to 20 inches in an effort to further protect large bass in certain lakes. There are currently 80 lakes that have an 18-inch minimum length limit and this proposal would increase the minimum length limit in those lakes to 20 inches.

7. Would you favor increasing the minimum length limit associated with the department’s trophy bass regulation option from 18 inches to 20 inches? 7. YES___ NO___

QUESTION 8-10. Preferred regulatory option for improving fish size structure

Fisheries managers use length limits in various ways to focus angler harvest on different sizes of fish in the population. If a fish population is overabundant, the growth of the fish may be stunted. In these situations, if the lake has the habitat capable of supporting good growth, fisheries managers will often utilize regulations that promote harvest of small fish but protect larger fish. The goal is generally to increase the overall or average size of fish in the lake. These types of regulations encourage the harvest of small fish, however, they offer slightly different opportunities and some may be more difficult for anglers to understand:

- Maximum size limits allow harvest under a certain size, but restrict all harvest above that size. This regulation is the most effective way to encourage harvest of small fish because all harvest is limited to under the maximum size. However, anglers lose the opportunity to harvest larger fish.

- Protected slot size limits allow harvest of small fish under the lower end of the slot, but also allow the harvest of one trophy fish that is larger than the upper end of the slot. Protected slots are effective at encouraging harvest of small fish, but also allow the opportunity to keep a trophy fish. However, in places with a lot of fishing effort the number of large fish removed from the population may be excessive.
- “1 over” regulations allow the harvest of multiple fish under a certain size as well as 1 fish over the size limit. The 1 over regulation allows the greatest harvest opportunity, however, is the least effective at protecting larger fish and overall size structure.

The department is interested in learning the type of regulation you prefer. If the goal for a particular lake is to increase the average size of fish by allowing the harvest of small fish, please indicate whether you would be in favor of each of the following regulations:

-
- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 8. Maximum size limit: No fish <u>over</u> the length of X inches are allowed to be harvested. | 8. YES___ NO___ |
|---|------------------------|
-
- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 9. Protected slot size limits: There is no minimum length limit but fish from the size range of X inches to Y inches may not be harvested and only one over Y inches is allowed to be harvested. | 9. YES___ NO___ |
|---|------------------------|
-
- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 10. 1 over: There is no minimum length limit but only 1 fish over the length of X inches is allowed to be harvested. | 10. YES___ NO___ |
|---|-------------------------|
-

QUESTION 11-21. Panfish management

In recent years, panfish advisory questions ranging from reduced bag limits to separation of species have been submitted by the Conservation Congress. In addition, data from spring lake surveys has shown a significant decline over the last 50 years in both the average and maximum size of panfish in Wisconsin. In response, the department has been tasked with writing a panfish management plan. Management tools for panfish include season, habitat, bag limit, length limit, and predator management. Current statewide regulations on 94% of lakes are a daily bag limit of 25 panfish with no minimum length limit. About 6% of lakes statewide have a reduced panfish bag limit (generally 10 per day) and a few of those have minimum length limits.

Based on a public survey conducted in early 2013 of almost 3,500 respondents, one-third were satisfied with the size of panfish they caught, one-third were dissatisfied and one-third were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Half of the respondents preferred to keep the daily bag limit at 25 panfish, while the other half preferred to decrease the bag limit. Over half the respondents preferred to keep fewer fish that were larger in size. Below are several general questions to help provide more guidance and direction in the next step of management plan development.

Significantly reduced bag limits statewide may increase the average size of panfish in most waters and may spread out the harvest over longer time periods. The lowest bag limits are likely to have the most significant effects.

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| 11. Do you think there is a general statewide need to increase the average size of panfish in Wisconsin inland waters? | 11. YES___ NO___ |
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| 12. Do you think there is a general statewide need to spread out panfish harvest each year in Wisconsin inland waters? | 12. YES___ NO___ |
|---|-------------------------|
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13. Do you support keeping the statewide general inland waters panfish combined daily bag limit of 25 fish? 13. YES___ NO___

14. Would you be in favor of reducing the statewide general inland waters panfish daily bag limit of 25 fish to 15 fish? 14. YES___ NO___

15. Would you be in favor of reducing the statewide general inland waters panfish daily bag limit of 25 fish to 10 fish? 15. YES___ NO___

16. Would you be in favor of reducing the statewide general inland waters panfish daily bag limit of 25 fish to 5 fish? 16. YES___ NO___

Panfish species have distinctly different life histories, behaviors, and growth patterns. Having separate angling bag limits for bluegill, crappie, and perch may help improve management of these species, but would add a level of complexity to the regulations.

17. Would you be supportive of having separate angling bag limits for bluegill, crappie and perch if it can be shown to improve management? 17. YES___ NO___

Certain waters across the state have the capability to produce truly large panfish. Special angling regulations would maximize the potential for these waters to produce very high quality size panfish. Because of the variability of panfish populations, it is unclear which regulations will work best in which waters. The department is considering differentially applying regulations on this subset of waters in a structured manner to determine the most effective regulation. Over time the department will evaluate these regulations and continually move towards using the most effective ones.

18. Would you support high minimum length limits on panfish in specific waters? 18. YES___ NO___

19. Would you support greatly reduced bag limits for panfish, in specific waters, in order to determine the effects on panfish populations? 19. YES___ NO___

20. Would you support restricting harvest of game fish in specific waters, to increase populations to levels that would control panfish abundance through predation and maximize panfish growth? 20. YES___ NO___

21. Would you support habitat improvements or habitat protection, in specific waters, in order to determine the effects on panfish populations? 21. YES___ NO___

QUESTION 22-27. Trout

Statewide trout populations are as abundant as they have ever been and there are many fishing opportunities available for trout anglers. Biologists will continue to monitor trout populations to make sure they remain healthy. The department would like to know what type of opportunities you support and how you think they should be structured.

The department enlisted the help of a trout regulations task force made up of stakeholder and partner representatives from around the state, which advised us to respect regional differences when gathering input

from anglers on season structure. The questions below will be analyzed on both a statewide and regional basis using results by county.

With present weather patterns, there are some good days to fish for trout in the winter when the season is currently closed. There are also instances where anglers receive citations because they forget about the five-day season closure that occurs between the early catch and release season and the open trout season at the end of April/early May. In addition, some anglers have indicated they would like more opportunities to fish for trout in the fall, after the season closure on September 30. This date was initially chosen partially because many fisheries properties are fishing-only easements and landowners may want to restrict access after September 30 when they would be hunting deer on their property. With all this in mind:

22. Would you favor changing the early catch and release season dates (the first Saturday in March through the Sunday preceding the first Saturday in May), on waters where it currently applies, to January 1 through the Sunday preceding the first Saturday in May if this change will not have any significant impact on trout populations? **22.** YES____ NO____

23. Would you favor applying an early catch and release season to all inland trout streams from January 1 through the Sunday preceding the first Saturday in May if this change will not have any significant impact on trout populations? **23.** YES____ NO____

24. Would you favor eliminating the five-day closure that occurs between the early catch and release season and the open trout season (from the Sunday preceding the first Saturday in May to the first Saturday in May) and continuing the catch and release season during that time if this change will not have any significant impact on trout populations? **24.** YES____ NO____

25. The open trout fishing season currently ends on September 30. To provide more opportunities to fish and harvest trout in the fall, would you favor extending the open trout fishing season to October 15 if this change will not have any significant impact on trout populations? **25.** YES____ NO____

26. The open trout fishing season currently ends on September 30. To provide more opportunities to fish for trout in the fall but not increase harvest, would you favor adding a trout fishing catch and release season from October 1 to October 15 if this change will not have any significant impact on trout populations? **26.** YES____ NO____

Wisconsin has a number of “put-and-take” lakes and ponds, where trout are stocked in the spring but are not expected to live throughout the winter. Legal-sized trout are typically stocked annually and the majority are usually caught relatively quickly by anglers. These lakes and ponds have various regulations statewide that could be condensed into a uniform season with standard size and bag limits.

27. Would you favor development of a uniform trout season (first Saturday in May through first Sunday in March) and regulations that would apply to all “put-and-take” trout lakes and ponds statewide? **27.** YES____ NO____

DEPARTMENT WILDLIFE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 28-29. Modifications to the permit preference system for bear, bobcat, fisher, otter, wolf, elk, sharp-tailed grouse and turkeys

The demand for hunting and trapping opportunities exceeds the available opportunity for certain species. In order to assure that harvest is held to a sustainable level and to distribute hunting and trapping permits in a fair and equitable way, the legislature has established limited draw preference systems for bear, bobcat, fisher, otter, wolf, and turkey hunting management. All of these preference systems have slight variations but two rules or laws are consistent between the drawings:

- People who do not apply for three consecutive years lose any preference points they have earned in previous years when they were not successful in the permit drawing.
- The department has established deadlines by which people must apply for the permits and there are no exceptions, even for people who have missed the application deadline but would still like to apply for a preference-point only.

The loss of preference points by people who have not applied in three years may have assisted the department with maintaining current records. However, it is easier to store and access that type of information with today's modern information systems.

People who have missed application deadlines have asked the department if they could at least apply for a preference-point-only, acknowledging that they would have no chance to actually draw a permit, in order to continue building the number of preference points they will ultimately need to draw a permit. This is not allowed under current law but changing the law may be a good customer service opportunity for the department.

28. Do you support allowing people who fail to apply for limited draw hunting or trapping permits for three or more years to maintain preference points they have previously acquired? **28.** YES ___ NO ___

29. Do you favor allowing people who have missed a limited draw permit application to still apply for a preference-point-only, providing them with an advantage in the following year's drawing? **29.** YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 30. Transfers of limited draw hunting and trapping permits

Under current law, the transfer of certain limited draw preference points for specific hunting and trapping opportunities is allowed if the transfer is to a minor in any situation or if the transfer is to a surviving spouse, personal representative, guardian, or trustee upon the death of the person who earned the preference points. These limited draw permits include bear, bobcat, fisher, otter, wolf, elk, sharp-tailed grouse and turkeys.

A person who has drawn a wolf harvesting license can also transfer their permit to any person who is legally able to hunt or trap in this state.

The department receives many requests but is not able to allow the transfer of permits in additional situations. For instance, the department has been asked to transfer permits to terminally ill individuals, senior citizens, and veterans.

Rather than expand the number of classes of people to whom a limited draw harvest permit may be transferred, it would be less complicated to simply allow the transfer of permits to any other person who is legally able to hunt or trap in this state. This is how wolf permit transfers are currently handled. A simple law allowing transfers would avoid making people prove that they have a certain illness or establish other complicated regulations. Some potential hunters and trappers would appreciate this type of customer service.

However, some people think that expanding the number of people to whom permits may be transferred will result in an increase in the number of applicants for limited draw permits and result in an over-all increase in the number of preference points that would be needed for success in the drawing. The wait required to draw a tag would likely increase. Drawing certain permits, such as for bear or bobcat, can require 5 or more years of preference points.

Through this advisory question, the department is asking people to weigh their concerns about customer service and simplicity against concerns about permit availability.

30. Do you favor simplifying the conditions for being able to transfer a limited draw harvest permit or points by simply allowing transfer to any other person who is legally able to hunt or trap in this state and not restricting transfers to minors or certain other people upon the death of the permit/point holder? **30. YES**____ **NO**____

QUESTION 31. Allow the use of foot cable restraints for harvesting furbearers

A cable restraint is a device used for the live capture of furbearers. The device consists of a non-spring activated cable which includes a relaxing mechanical lock, stops, and swivel. International research on humane trap systems has documented the safe use of cable restraints on dry land, with much of the field research conducted here in Wisconsin from 2000 to 2002. Beginning in 2004 our law has allowed the statewide use of passive neck cable restraints for bobcat, coyote, fox and more recently, wolf. Use of this tool is during the latter portion of the trapping seasons beginning on December 1st, as a respectful, precautionary measure to minimize incidental contact with other wildlife and domestic dogs. This device has proven to be safe, humane and selective.

Additional trap research conducted following the same protocols has shown the foot cable restraint to pass all injury score systems for these same species, especially wolves. Use of this tool could be allowed with the same start date as currently approved for passive neck cable restraints, December 1st. Use of this tool during the latter portion of harvest seasons will minimize contact with black bear, allow careful review, and provide an additional, versatile tool for trappers.

31. Do you favor allowing the use of foot cable restraints during the latter portion of the furbearer harvest seasons, beginning on December 1st? **31. YES**____ **NO**____

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 32-33. Simplifying hunting and fishing stamp requirements

In order to simplify regulations and the licensing process, some individuals and organizations have been exploring the concept of a single hunting and a single fishing stamp which would consolidate from five to two the number of stamps that a person would need to obtain all fishing and hunting privileges.

Hunters currently need to purchase a turkey stamp (\$5.25), a pheasant stamp (\$10.00) and state waterfowl stamp (\$7.00) to participate in all of those activities. Anglers currently need to purchase an inland trout stamp (\$10.00) to fish inland trout waters and a Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp (\$10.00) to fish for those species in the Great Lakes.

If this concept were enacted, all hunters would purchase a single stamp, which would support habitat work, and with the purchase of an appropriate license, authorize any type of hunting. All anglers would need to purchase a single stamp, to support fisheries & habitat work, and with the purchase of an appropriate license, would authorize any type of fishing. Exemptions for young people, mentored hunters, and participants in educational events would be maintained.

A goal is that there would be no reduction of revenue for the important fisheries and wildlife conservation programs currently funded by the stamp programs. The accounts would continue to be segregated and dedicated so that funds could not be used for other purposes. Under this proposal, current stamp funding obligations such as the pheasant stocking program, wetland habitat work and trout and salmon stocking would be maintained and most likely increase.

Because additional hunters and anglers would be purchasing the stamps and potentially generating additional revenue, it may be possible to fund new programs that improve habitat on both public and private lands. For wildlife programs, those funds might be used for forest habitat management which includes deer, ruffed grouse and other forest species. Funds could also be dedicated to enhance hunter recruitment efforts and expand access to private lands.

If additional hunters and anglers are purchasing the stamps, the fee for each stamp could be reduced while still maintaining or increasing overall funding levels. For instance, using current hunter numbers a fee of \$5.00 for the hunting stamp could provide \$3.5 million. A hunter who pursues waterfowl, pheasants and turkeys currently pays \$22.25 in stamp fees for all of those privileges. This proposal would not impact federal migratory bird hunting stamp requirements and hunting and fishing licenses would still be required.

32. To simplify regulations and the licensing process, do you support establishing a single hunting stamp which would be purchased by all hunters but would be less expensive, earmarking funds for waterfowl/wetland, pheasants/grassland, and turkey management purposes as in the past and allowing any additional funds to be available for forest management and hunter recruitment? **32. YES**____ **NO**____

33. To simplify regulations and the licensing process, do you support establishing a single fishing stamp which would be purchased by all anglers but would be less expensive, earmarking funds for inland trout habitat and Great Lakes trout and salmon propagation, as in the past and allowing additional funds to be available for inland lake habitat management/stocking and combating aquatic invasive species? **33. YES**____ **NO**____

QUESTION 34. Restrict deer baiting and feeding ten days before and during the traditional 9-day firearm season

We have heard hunters say that feeding and baiting affects deer distribution and natural daytime movement. When deer need to move less to find food, and are concentrated in areas where access and/or hunting are restricted, the quality of the hunt is reduced. For the department, this can make managing the herd more difficult and contribute to the debate about the accuracy of deer numbers.

In 2006 and 2008, Conservation Congress spring meeting attendees voted in favor of banning baiting for deer hunting by 56% and 54%. Another question in 2006, which proposed banning both baiting and feeding just 10 days prior to and during the traditional 9-day firearm season, had a greater level of support with 62% voting in favor. This same question was asked in 2011, and had roughly the same level of support, 63%. These votes have not led to changes, other than banning baiting and feeding of deer in counties or adjacent counties where deer have tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). Currently, baiting and feeding of deer is prohibited in 35 counties because of their close proximity to CWD positive deer. Banning baiting and feeding of deer in counties where it is currently allowed may encourage deer movement during shooting hours and result in a more even distribution of deer available to hunters on both public and private lands.

Baiting and feeding would still be allowed at other times of the year. This compromise would still allow those who believe they need to hunt with bait to do so during most of the archery and some firearm seasons. This compromise is not ideal for reducing disease transmission risks associated with baiting and feeding; however, it would result in less deer feed being placed on the landscape at a time of the year when much food is currently placed. The DNR is not able to modify deer baiting and feeding regulations by administrative rule, except for adding counties where it is banned because of CWD positive deer. Otherwise, changes to deer baiting and feeding regulations must be made in state statute by the legislature.

34. Would you support legislation to authorize banning deer baiting and feeding statewide 10 days before and during the 9-day gun deer season? 34. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 35. Remove white deer/ albino deer protection

Albino, white and piebald deer have a recessive genetic mutation that causes a total absence (in the case of albinos) or lack of (in white and piebald deer) body pigment. Albino deer are completely white with eyes, nose and other soft parts being pink. White deer are deer that are white except for the hooves, tarsal glands, head or parts of the head, and their hooves, eyes and nose are dark. Piebald deer have varying amounts of brown fur beyond what is present in white deer and they too have dark eyes, nose, and hooves.

In the wild, white fur and markings place these animals at a selective disadvantage because they lack the typical protective coloration and are more visible, making them more susceptible to predators. These animals often have other recessive traits and physical maladies such as poor eyesight in albinos, because of their pink eyes. These recessive genetic conditions are quite rare (estimated at less than one percent under natural conditions) and the phenomenon is often localized in a specific area. From a strictly biological perspective, there is no reason to protect white deer. It is currently illegal to harvest albino or white deer in Wisconsin outside of the CWD zones. At the January meeting of the Natural Resources Board, the Board took action to reinstate protection of white deer in the CWD zones. This change will be in effect for the 2014 deer hunting season, so in 2014 it will be illegal to harvest white and albino deer statewide. Piebald deer are not protected.

35. Would you favor legalizing the harvest of white and albino deer statewide? 35. YES____ NO____



Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 36. Tundra swan season (050112, 200412, 630112, 670612, 680112) (Requires legislation)

The tundra swan is the most common swan in North America and has very few predators. Wisconsin is within the range of the eastern population of tundra Swans and could develop a state tundra swan hunting proposal for consideration at the flyway and federal level. Tundra swans tend to favor larger bodies of water in great numbers as compared to trumpeter swans, which commonly stay in smaller groups and prefer smaller ponds and marshes. The trumpeter swan is well established as a breeding swan in Wisconsin and was removed from the state endangered list in 2009.

Studies have shown tundra swan population numbers are currently rising, even with hunting allowed in other states. Each year tens of thousands of tundra swans migrate through Wisconsin with recent peak population counts on the Mississippi River of over 30,000 swans. Wisconsin could benefit from allowing a hunt unique to very few other states.

36. Are you in favor of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress asking the Wisconsin Legislature to give the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources authority to develop a hunting season for tundra swans? **36. YES**___ **NO**___

QUESTION 37-38. Transferring of license or permits (Requires legislation)

Currently, there are two different applications (Transfer of License or Permit to Youth Application and a Wolf License Transfer Application) and statutory authorities for the transfer of certain licenses or permits to another individual.

The Transfer of License or Permit to Youth Authority/Application allows a person who has purchased a spring turkey, fall turkey, bobcat, fisher, otter, upriver sturgeon spearing, class A bear hunting, sharp-tailed grouse or Horicon/Collins goose license or permit to transfer that authority to a youth 10-17 years of age. Currently, a youth may only be the recipient of each type of transferred permit once in their lifetime.

The Wolf Harvest License Transfer Authority/Application allows a person who has been awarded a wolf license to transfer that license to a minor who is under the age of 18, is eligible to use the approval, and has

not been previously transferred a wolf harvest license. A youth may only be the recipient of a transferred wolf license once in their lifetime.

However, a person who has been awarded a wolf harvest license may also transfer that license to another person who is at least 18 years of age and is eligible to use the license, and there is no limit to the number of times an adult may receive a wolf harvest license which is transferred under this authority.

In an effort to simplify the current license or permit transfer application process and expand opportunity by creating one application for all license or permit transfers:

37. Would you support legislation that would allow a person authorized to purchase a spring turkey, fall turkey, bobcat, fisher, otter, upriver sturgeon spearing, class A bear hunting, sharp-tailed grouse, Horicon goose or wolf harvest license or permit to transfer that license or permit to anyone that is eligible to use the license or permit? 37. YES___ NO___

38. Would you support legislation that would allow a person authorized to purchase a spring turkey, fall turkey, bobcat, fisher, otter, upriver sturgeon spearing, class A bear hunting, sharp-tailed grouse, Horicon goose or wolf harvest license or permit to transfer that license or permit to any immediate relative (husband, wife, son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter) that is eligible to use the license or permit? 38. YES___ NO___

DEER & ELK COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 39. Provide additional deer registration process opportunities (680113)

Wisconsin currently limits deer registration to in-person registration at a DNR authorized registration station. This proposal would allow a hunter to register a deer in-person, phone in, or online. This change would allow a hunter to register a deer without the need to find an open registration station. This convenience is allowed in other Midwestern states.

39. Do you support the additional deer registration opportunities to include in-person, phone in, or online? 39. YES___ NO___

QUESTION 40. White deer protection in CWD zones (570213)

It is illegal to harvest albino or white deer (which are defined as deer that are white except for the hooves, tarsal glands, head or parts of the head) in Wisconsin, except in the CWD zone. Some people feel that because of their rarity and uniqueness they should be protected in the CWD zone also.

40. Do you support extending protection of white deer to the CWD zone? 40. YES___ NO___

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 41. Terrestrial invasive plants (440213)

Terrestrial invasive plants such as spotted knapweed and tansy can be found in private and public bulk soil supplies (gravel pits) across Wisconsin. The seeds from these terrestrial invasive plants are being distributed by the wind into bulk materials (soil, sand and gravel). Bulk materials being distributed from public and private suppliers are then used in public and private landscape/construction projects such as yards, roads and parks. The seeds germinate and create a new invasive plant infestation problem.

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41. Do you support new rules that would require publicly and privately owned bulk material providers to work on eliminating these invasive plants on their properties so as to prevent the spread of invasive plants? 41. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 42. Education on managing lead at shooting ranges (040313)

Lead at shooting ranges is a concern for shooting range users, operators and the public. Removing and recycling lead from shooting ranges has been addressed by the Environmental Protection Agency, National Rifle Association and National Shooting Sports Foundation.

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42. Should the WCC work with the DNR to create a voluntary seminar for shooting range operators to be offered throughout the state that instructs them on establishing an environmental stewardship program for recycling lead and how to safely and efficiently remove it from shooting ranges? 42. YES ___ NO ___
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FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 43. Trapping Mentorship Program (Requires legislation)

There is no age restriction in Wisconsin for people purchasing a trapping license. However, since new trappers are required to successfully complete a trapper education course before they can buy a license that authorizes trapping, there is a practical limit as to how young an individual can be and expect to pass the course, and therefore purchase their first license.

Many parents would like their younger children to come with them on the trap line, and assist in setting traps, and even set their own traps. It is hoped that trapping and selling their own fur will create an interest and excitement in young children which they will keep throughout their lives.

In 2009, the state legislature created a Hunting Mentorship Program to allow individuals who have not yet completed a hunter education course to obtain a license that authorizes hunting provided they only hunt with an adult mentor under certain conditions (arm's reach, one firearm, etc.). A mentored trapping program would accomplish this same opportunity for beginning trappers.

43. Do you support legislation that would create a Trapping Mentorship Program to allow a person who has not yet completed trapper education to obtain a license that authorizes trapping, provided they only trap while accompanied by an adult licensed trapper? 43. YES___ NO_____

QUESTION 44. Trapper Education requirements for landowners (540113) (Requires legislation)

Section 102.04(3) of the Wisconsin State Statutes defines farmers as those individuals who own and operate or rent the land which they operate as a farm. Currently, Wisconsin residents that are farm operators as defined in section 102.04(3) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, may purchase a trapping license which allows them to trap anywhere in Wisconsin where they have permission to trap, including public land, and private lands owned by others, without having first completed a trapper education class.

44. Would you favor legislation which would require that Wisconsin resident farmers as defined under section 102.04(3) of the Wisconsin State Statutes successfully complete a trapper education class before trapping in Wisconsin, except on lands they own or rent for agricultural purposes? 44. YES___ NO_____

QUESTION 45. Elimination of trapping hour restrictions (050113, 310113)

Current law prohibits trapping activity between the hours of 8:00 PM and 4:00 AM. There is no biological reason for this restriction and obligations such as work hours can interfere with an individual's ability to trap, or the extent to which they are able to trap.

45. Would you favor a rule change which would eliminate trapping hour restrictions? 45. YES___ NO_____

LAND USE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 46. Adequate free access to waterways (710413) (Requires legislation)

Free use of the state waterways “without tax, duty, or impost” is a right guarantee by Article IX of the Wisconsin Constitution. Individuals cannot exercise said right without access facilities. As with any constitutional right, the state and its municipalities share the responsibility to provide an adequate amount of free access to the waters of the state. The state’s administrative code s. NR 1.91 specifies adequate access standards to waterways based on the type and size of the waterway.

State statute s. 30.77(3)(e) allows municipalities to charge launch fees and parking fees at sites they own and operate. The transfer of ownership of access sites from the state to its municipalities combined with the implementation of fees as allowed by said state statute has resulted in instances where either inadequate free access or no free access exist to some of the state waterways. The water resources account funded by a portion of the gas tax originally created to fund access site maintenance has been redirected to other purposes through recent acts of the legislature.

46. Would you support the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources and the Legislature to modify the state statute to allow launch fees only after adequate free access has been established to the state’s waterways and to reinstate the portion of the water resources account required to provide such adequate free access? **46. YES___ NO___**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 47. Establish a Senior Resident Conservation Patron License (200113) (Requires legislation)

Currently when a person reaches the age of 65 they may purchase a reduced rate fishing license, small game license and state park sticker. If they purchase a Resident Conservation Patron License, none of these discounts apply. This forces them to purchase individual licenses in order to receive their senior discounts. Many people would prefer to continue to purchase a Conservation Patron License, even though they may no longer use all the benefits (licenses) of the patron license. There is currently a Junior Conservation Patron License available, but not a Senior Conservation Patron License.

47. Would you support establishing a Senior Resident Conservation Patron License? **47. YES___ NO___**

QUESTION 48. Retrieval of hunting dogs from property without landowner permission (230113, 250113, 330113, 540313) (Requires legislation)

Hunting dogs can stray onto property where their owners do not have permission to be. Currently the animal cannot be legally retrieved without the property owner’s permission. Property owners cannot always be located to obtain the necessary permission to retrieve a hunting dog. A quick retrieval is always in the best interests of the dog, dog owner, and property owner. In the states of Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, and Iowa a person on foot may, without permission, enter private land without a firearm to retrieve a hunting dog. After retrieving the dog, the person must immediately leave the premises. This exception does not authorize the taking of wild game.

48. Do you support legislation that would allow the owner of a hunting dog the ability to retrieve their hunting dog without landowner’s permission? **48.** YES___ NO___

MIGRATORY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 49. Mallard hen limit

Each year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) sets waterfowl bag limits. During the past several years, the mallard bag limit offered by the USFWS has been four mallards, of which only two may be hens. This is the only duck with a hen limit.

The waterfowl hunters of Wisconsin have chosen a one hen limit because band recovery data show that 69% of mallards harvested in Wisconsin were hatched in Wisconsin. Most of the hens from Wisconsin that are not shot return and nest the following spring.

49. Do you favor the DNR setting the mallard hen daily bag limit at two hens when offered by the USFWS? **49.** YES___ NO___

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 50. Protective slot limit for Mississippi River walleye harvest (120113)

Current Mississippi River walleye regulations allow a 6 fish daily limit with the minimum size being 15 inches. There is some evidence that suggests walleye numbers have declined; which further suggests that current regulations may not be providing ample protection for female walleye of spawning size/age.

50. Do you favor new walleye harvest restrictions for waters of the Mississippi River that establish a protected slot size limit (where fish within the slot size must be released) and allow the harvest of only one fish over that slot size limit? **50.** YES___ NO___

OUTDOOR HERITAGE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 51. Prevent non-resident novice hunters from applying for Learn to Hunt (LTH) bear programs (Requires legislation)

Currently, any novice hunter can participate in Learn to Hunt programs, regardless of residency.

51. Would you support limiting the LTH bear program to Wisconsin residents only? 51. YES___ NO___

OUTREACH & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 52. Support for the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo (Requires legislation)

The Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo has been held in Dodge County each year since 2006 with more than 32,000 4th and 5th-grade students from dozens of Wisconsin elementary schools attending each year. Students engage in many “see-touch-do” activities including archery, sporting dog demonstrations, firearm safety, fishing, trail recreation, heritage enrichment and wildlife conservation. The Outdoor Expo has received numerous accolades from students, teachers and parents and has enjoyed excellent attendance over the years. With the success of this endeavor firmly established, it appears the time is right to expand the effort statewide with funds donated by sportsmen and women for the future stability of our outdoor heritage.

Statutory precedent for voluntary funding from hunters, anglers, archers, ATV enthusiasts, boating, snowmobile and other outdoor users while applying for licenses has already been established. These include donations for combating invasive species, venison donation and for the general fish and wildlife account.

Wisconsin sportsmen and women have been most generous in support of youth programs in the past. With this initiative, the Outdoor Expo can be expanded to other areas of the state with financial support coming from the people who care most about our outdoor heritage.

52. Would you support legislation establishing a voluntary donation to support expansion of the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo statewide? 52. YES___ NO___

TROUT COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 53. Increase Wisconsin inland waters trout stamp fee (Requires legislation)

The trout stamp fees fund trout stream (cold water) restoration, improvements, surveys and maintenance activities have improved an average of 25 miles of stream and 1 spring pond per year. This has resulted in 865 miles of stream improved out of 13,000 miles of trout stream in Wisconsin.

Total trout stamp expenditures from 2008 through 2010 were on average \$1.6 million. An average of \$411,812 per year from 2008 through 2010 was also spent on inland trout habitat from general fishing license fees. The cost of the trout stamp has increased from \$2.50 during 1978-1983, to \$3.25 during 1984-1991, to \$7.25 during 1992-2006, and is currently \$10.00 since 2006.

The number of trout stamps sold varies from year-to-year and averages 142,000 stamps annually over the last 10 years. In addition, Patron License holders (currently about 50,000) support the Inland Waters Trout Stamp program.

The costs associated with trout work crews have increased annually and the costs of fuel and materials have more than doubled in the past five (5) years alone.

53. Do you support legislation that would increase the Inland Waters Trout Stamp fee from \$10.00 to \$15.00? 53. YES____ NO____

WARM WATER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 54. Reduce daily bag limit and institute a 10” minimum size limit on crappies on Palmer and Tenderfoot Lakes, Vilas County (640513)

With increasing fishing pressure, the crappie fishery of Palmer and Tenderfoot Lakes, Vilas County, is not as good as it has been in the past. It is felt by some that a reduction in the daily bag limit from 25 to 10 along with instituting a 10” minimum size limit for crappies on Palmer and Tenderfoot Lakes may solve the problem.

However, the creel data that is available from 1992 and 2009 show that there is not a problem with the crappie population. In Palmer Lake, the harvest of crappies has increased, the harvest rate has improved, and the mean length of harvested fish has increased.

Year-round public access is available to Palmer Lake at the county boat landing. Access to Tenderfoot is through a river channel from Palmer Lake that does not provide safe ice in winter. Tenderfoot is Michigan boundary water that is managed for walleye, not panfish.

54. Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit of crappies from 25 to 10 and instituting a minimum size limit of 10” on Palmer and Tenderfoot Lakes, Vilas County? 54. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 55. Reduce bluegill bag limit on Otter Lake, Chippewa County (090113)

The quality and quantity of bluegill populations on Otter Lake, Chippewa County, seems to be declining. Many feel the current daily bag limit of 25 bluegills on Otter Lake is too high.

55. Do you support reducing the daily bag limit of bluegill from 25 to 10 on Otter Lake, Chippewa County, but still have a daily aggregate bag limit of 25 panfish? 55. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 56. Eliminate the size limit on northern pike on Lake Alpine, Waushara County (700113)

Northern pike do not seem to be reaching the minimum size of 26” on Lake Alpine, thus anglers are unable to utilize the increasing number of northern pike present.

56. Do you favor eliminating the present 26” minimum size limit for northern pike on Lake Alpine, Waushara County, while maintaining the current daily bag limit of two? 56. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 57. Streamlining local fish rule changes (040113)

Currently the process to get a local bag limit or size limit change on a particular lake takes at least four years. More often than not, the local proposed rule change for a particular lake has been introduced to the local fish biologist by a group of concerned anglers, Conservation Congress member(s), and conservation club or lake association and is reviewed by the biologist for its need and effectiveness. The citizens group and the biologist meet again and a final proposed rule is formulated and presented as a citizen resolution at the spring hearing in the county where the particular body of water is located. The resolution then enters the process and maybe three years later the rule is implemented. Fish population dynamics change so rapidly on some waters that the rule proposed four years ago is no longer the proper rule for the lake.

57. Do you favor the creation of a process whereby the local fisheries biologist working with local citizens, conservation clubs, lake associations and the Conservation Congress can streamline local fish rule changes? 57. YES____ NO____

WOLF COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 58. Wolf Trapper Education (500113) (Requires legislation)

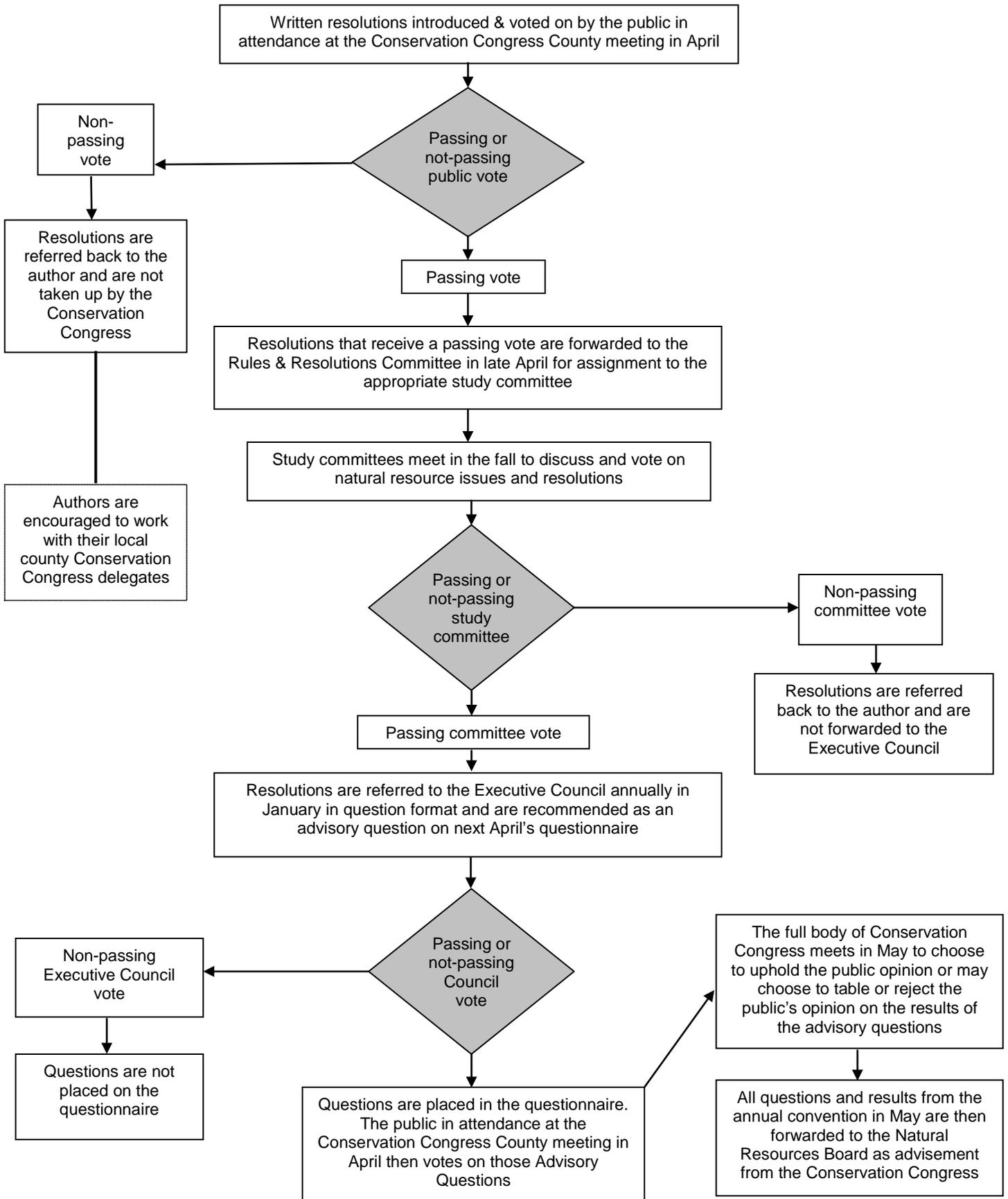
Wisconsin citizens now have the opportunity to manage wolves in our state. Regulated trapping is an important aspect of harvest management. In 2012, 52% of the wolves harvested were by licensed trappers and in 2013, 65% of wolves were harvested through trapping. However, this did not come about without concerns and protests by various user groups, especially upland bird hunters and citizens concerned about their dogs coming into contact with traps.

Although basic trapper education has been mandatory since 1992, wolf trapping is new, specialized and requires larger traps. For these reasons the Wisconsin Trappers Association, in cooperation with the DNR entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that identified the duties of each organization in offering voluntary wolf trapper education workshops tailored after the highly successful Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program. Feedback from the voluntary wolf trapper education workshops suggests that this course was extremely useful for those who trapped wolves in Wisconsin. Other states such as Montana and Idaho already require wolf trapper education.

58. Do you support mandatory wolf trapper education for everyone before they can trap wolves in Wisconsin? 58. YES____ NO____

NOTES:

The Conservation Congress Resolution Process



How to Write a Resolution

Resolution Content

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

Resolution Format

- ✓ The resolutions must be typed or legible hand written 8 ½ x 11 white paper.
- ✓ Resolutions must be 250 words or less, on one side of an 8 ½ x 11 white sheet of paper and there will be no attachments or additional sheets accepted for the same resolution.
- ✓ The author's name, mailing address, county, telephone number and signature is required to be at the bottom of the resolution.

Resolution Presentation

- Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution within the county. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced.
- No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.
- Written resolutions not meeting the above criteria and/or verbal resolutions will not be accepted.
- Provide the Congress County Chair with **TWO COPIES** of the resolution for submission at the beginning of the evening, one to be part of the official record and the other to be posted for public viewing.
- Individuals in attendance at the meeting can vote on the resolution being introduced within the county.

Sample Resolution

Title: Spring Dinosaur Hunting Season

The Problem:

Dinosaurs are a threat to agriculture across the state, especially in April and May, because they make deep footprints in newly planted farm fields, damaging the emerging crops. The problem is aggravated in southern Wisconsin, because dinosaurs are migrating across the state line to avoid hunting pressure in Illinois.

There is already an overpopulation of dinosaurs in Wisconsin.

At present, state law does not permit dinosaur hunting at any time during the year. We feel that Wisconsin law should be consistent with Illinois, which permits dinosaur hunting in the spring.

Wisconsin farmers are suffering significant crop damage because of dinosaur incursions.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Buffalo County on April 14, 2014 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change allowing a spring dinosaur hunting season.

Name of Author: Fred Flintstone

Name of Organization (*optional*): Private Citizen

Address: W12345 State Road 3

City, State, Zip Code: Bedrock, Wisconsin 54231

Name of the County Introducing In: Buffalo

Telephone Number (*including area code*): 123-456-0789

See WCC
Resolution
Process
(page 30)

**Thank you
for attending this year's
meeting!**



**Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Public Hearing**

&

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting**



**Interested in making a difference
by becoming part of the
Wisconsin Conservation Congress?**

**Talk to one of your local delegates or visit the
Conservation Congress website at:
dnr.wi.gov – search “Conservation Congress”**