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NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 in the Spruce/Sands Conference Room at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. for action on items 1 and 3. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters
- 1.A. Calling the roll

William Bruins – present	Preston Cole – present
Christine Thomas – present	Jane Wiley – present
Terry Hilgenberg – present	David Clausen – present
Greg Kazmierski – present	

- 1.B. Approval of agenda for July 17, 2012

Mr. Cole MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Information Item

- 2.A. Update on Wetland Legislation Implementation

Ken Johnson, Water Administrator, updated the Board on the Water Regulation Handbook and the new Chapter 200 (all about wetlands). He discussed the seven step practical alternatives analysis (PAA) process, when to limit the PAA, functional analysis factors, decision making, the seven steps to completeness, limiting alternatives to the site. He then reviewed the three decision standards 1) avoidance of wetland impact, 2) minimization, and 3) no significant adverse impact. **(PowerPoint)**

Discussion followed as to the roll-out timeline of the implementation.

3. Action Item

- 3.A. Request adoption of Emergency Board Order WM-09-12(E), proposed rules affecting Ch.'s NR 10, 12, and 19 pertaining to the wolf hunting and trapping season and regulations, a depredation program, and approval of quota and permit levels, and approval of 2012 wolf harvest zones and inclusion of 2012 harvest zones as addendum to Wolf Management Plan

Kurt Thiede, Land Administrator, and **Bill Vander Zouwen**, Wildlife Ecology Section Chief, gave a joint presentation. They reviewed the timeline from Act 169 signing date of April 2, 2012 through October 15, 2012 when the season begins. They then discussed the process and input, wolf recovery and population trend, location of WI wolf packs, WI farms experiencing wolf depredation, statutory provisions already decided, objectives for wolf season rule and 2012 quotas, approach to harvest zones, approach to quotas, quotas for public input, wolf quotas for 2012-2013, other states & provinces percent harvest, human-caused mortality, quota impact, hunter licenses, reporting & registration, season closures, trapping, hunting hours, night hunting, baiting for hunting, technology, key depredation program elements, wolf proposal survey results, key tribal concerns, and the next steps. They then requested the Board adopt emergency board order WM-09-12(E). **(PowerPoint)**

Discussion followed on whether it is state required to have bear hunting dogs vaccinated for rabies.

Chair Clausen stated that to make sure the Board receives feedback on key aspects of the wolf season rule, quotas and permit levels, we are requesting that testimony and written comments focus on aspects of the rule that are within the Board's authority to address. The law (Wis. Act 169) established specific parameters that cannot be changed without legislation. The statute clearly establishes that: there will be a harvest; the season dates (Oct. 15 - end of

February); up to 6 dogs are allowed for hunting wolves starting the day after the November Gun Deer season; that trapping is allowed; the license and application fees are set (\$10 application, \$100 resident, \$500 non-resident); hunting is allowed; baiting is allowed; hunting at night is allowed following the November Gun Deer season, and shotguns, crossbows, bows and rifles can be used. Again, none of these provisions can be changed without legislation. What the Board is able to consider is how these various techniques and provisions are implemented, as well as how many wolves should be harvested, the number of permits are to be issued, and where the harvest should occur. We know this is an important issue for many, and the Board is counting on your testimony and written comments to help make its decision, therefore, focusing on how things occur, instead of if they should or shouldn't occur is of much more value to this Board.

Chair Clausen recognized all of the various representatives from the various federally recognized sovereign tribes in Wisconsin that were in attendance. The Board, and the Department, are committed to and recognize the importance of our government-to-government relations, and that those relations involve respectful and cooperative communication and dealings. He offered that should any tribal representative wish to appear earlier in the schedule, as reflects that special relationship, the Board would be more than happy to accommodate you.

Chair Clausen stated that in addition, Tribal Representatives, WI legislators, and WI Conservation Congress are uniquely granted the permission to address the Board with no time restriction. All other speakers will have 3 minutes to give their testimony. At the sound of the alarm, the speakers will have 15 seconds to conclude their testimony out of respect for the speakers following you.

Public Appearances:

1. **Representative Scott Suder**, Abbotsford, 69th Assembly District. He stated that after the federal delisting of wolves last November 2011, he along with Senator Terry Moulton co-authored a bill in the 2011 legislative session which gives the DNR authority to begin managing wolves in WI - a public harvest as the method to control the wolf population. The bill passed in the legislature with great bi-partisan support. Governor Walker signed Act 169 into law on April 2, 2012. They worked with DNR staff, along with attorneys and many others as well as hunters, farmers, and constituents in crafting this legislation. This was a combined effort and a very successful effort. They used Appendix J to document the harvest season that was created but not part of the Wolf Management Plan as a guideline for drafting this bill. The cost for a harvest tag was \$100. After hearing complaints from hunters and trappers and looking at the western states and their fee structure, he plans to lower the harvest tag fee in the next session 2013-2015. He stated he would be very clear that they gave the DNR great flexibility to create rules to achieve a framework for a hunting and trapping season including setting quotas, zones, and permit levels. After reviewing the proposed rule, he was disappointed that the harvest levels are not higher. He understood that this is the first season and the DNR needs to take the conservative approach. But he felt it could have been more aggressive. For the past 10 years, his office has received numerous calls concerning wolves and the need to control them. 18 counties in northern WI have drafted resolutions to manage wolf numbers down to a 350 goal, a number that is part of the DNR WI Wolf Management Plan. He understood this as an emergency rule and that the DNR is working to develop a permanent rule. He stated that the legislative intent of the bill is clear. The intention is to manage wolves down to a 350 goal which is part of the WI Wolf Management Plan. This is what his constituents in his district, along with many others throughout the northern counties, are demanding of legislators and are demanding of this Board. He expects the DNR to craft a permanent rule to manage the wolf population to 350 goal as intended. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on one of the written comment concerns received that the legislature did not seek the science and there was not adequate public input.

Representative Suder stated that yes, public input was actually quite impressive. Not only input received from constituents, they worked very closely with many, many individuals in the Wisconsin DNR. They had many conversations with tribal members. They also had two very well attended public hearings in Madison. This is not a closed door process in any way. This was not a rushed process. They utilized the WI Wolf Management Plan and Appendix J. He believes it is based on science and based on utilizing experts in the field in terms of the people that we did outreach to develop and craft legislation. This is not just legislators sitting amongst themselves crafting legislation. They worked closely with the DNR and others to develop this and they think they have it right.

Discussion followed as to where the hearings were in Madison and whether they were before the Natural Resources committees of the Assembly and the Senate or beyond.

Representative Suder stated the Natural Resources committees held hearings.

Ms. Wiley asked Representative Scott Suder, co-author of Act 169 and first speaker before the Board, how many were in attendance at the Senate and Assembly hearings.

Representative Suder stated that he did not have the information but would get back to the Board.

Discussion followed as to whether there is any evidence that the 350 management goal as established in 1999 was not a good goal in 2012.

Representative Suder stated that they operated off the WI Wolf Management Plan that exists. They operated off the science and experts within the DNR, others, and their constituents to develop the criteria. They also gave DNR great flexibility with regard to the wolf. They thought that was important. In this case, it was important to get it right. The 350 goal is based on science. It is based on the DNR's own plan. That is the why they decided to go with it. It is still relevant today as it was in 1999. There are others that will say they should do a do-over here. That was the science we have before us and we still think it is still very sound science.

2. **Jennifer Stenglein**, Madison, University Researcher. She stated she had worked with Dr. Timothy Van Deelen to develop a model to predict the short and long-term impact of the proposed harvest scenario on the WI wolf population. There are important limitations to this model because the influence of some population-level effects are difficult to quantify and predict. Disease events and behavioral changes due to harvest were not included. If 1 number is reported from the model, she asked to correct the 10% population reduction prediction and say that the model showed an average 13.5% population reduction in the next year. The difference in these numbers if the outcome from modeling harvest as a discrete number of wolves or as a percentage of wolves in each zone. She asked that these numbers come from a model that is more likely underestimating the true population reduction compared to overestimating it. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on whether there have been any changes to the early model that showed a steadily declining population that did not stabilize and later it showed stability on core population that had less than a 10% human caused mortality which also required the inflow of wolves from Minnesota and Michigan, whether the minimum population count, population estimate, or an individual based model was plugged into the model, whether 1,000 wolves would dramatically change the results, whether this model is used by any other state, and whether the model is peer reviewed and accepted.

3. **Joseph Miller**, Bowler, Tribal Council Member and **Randall Wollenhaup**, Bowler, Tribal Wildlife Biologist, representing Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians **(Handout)**

Mr. Miller stated that on behalf of their Tribal President Robert Chicks and Tribal Council of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community (SMC), he extended their heartfelt thanks and blessings to all who had gathered here and are listening. He summarized the letter presented to the Board from Chair Chicks. Wolves are a clan animal and has great cultural significance. There are eleven tribes in the state of Wisconsin, all with unique individual, culturally significant aspects. He extended his welcome and acknowledgement to all of his tribal brethren that are appearing before the Board today. Wolves are of great importance to SMC. SMC has worked cooperatively with the state of Wisconsin over past years on numerous issues – bear, fish, and now wolf. They acknowledge that working relationship and it is their intent to continue. It needs to be stated, working relationships that we have something to work for. They are concerned with the overly aggressive approach, especially in these initial phases. The first year is an experimental year. Much data will be collected, much information will be gathered and as that develops, and permanent rules will be implemented. SMC asks that the policy makers do not act in haste to implement. SMC respects everyone's opinion, everyone has roots embedded here.

Mr. Wollenhaup offered an amendment showing a no harvest zone on their holdings and requested the Board approval of this no harvest zone. This is a concession on SMC's part. Tribal members he worked with have no interest in having the wolf listed as a game species nor any interest in harvesting it. They have rules within

their tribal management plan that there will be no harvest on the reservation. Looking at the DNR proposal as written, they have a few other concerns. 1) As stated by DNR staff already, the WI Wolf Management Plan must be updated. As some have stated earlier to the Board, the proposed hunt is based on this Plan. The management plan also calls for public review of management goals every 5 years. That has not occurred. Since over the 13 years since the plan has been put out, a lot of research has been conducted, and information collected. If the DNR is truly going to base this proposal and hunt on sound science and good conservation practices, we need to be able to use that information.

2) There has been a lot of talk about increased depredation when this bill was originally written. Some of those wolves have since been removed. If people are truly concerned with increased depredation, there are ways other than public harvest to look at. There are studies out there that have looked at bear baiting season and how that relates to dog depredations. That study is pretty clear and came out last year. Those findings were that it indicated the probability of wolf hunting dog depredation is significant in relation to the duration of bear baiting. If you truly want to increase depredation in WI, this is something that needs to be looked at. They are not requiring any payment for dog hunters in the state of WI. SMC would like to see that when the DNR puts out a zone where wolf packs are known to have depredated on dogs, and if hunters still choose to run their dogs there then they are taking the risk.

3) SMC also has concerns about future monitoring and education funding. The majority of the money collected from this licensing is going to go to depredation payments. They have already begun to see some participation, volunteer trackers, because they know something is coming. Their concerns are that the information they are providing the DNR is essentially going to become a tool for wolf hunters in the future. They will have locations and numbers in the pack. They have serious concerns about whether they want to continue participating in this program if that information is going to be used to hunt wolves.

4) Finally, they have a big concern with the permanent rule for December. If basing on sound science, why would the permanent rule be proposed during the season and not have all the information available since the season runs to the end of February? SMC requests that the permanent rule at least wait until after the season is over so all information can be utilized to make the best choice and best decision possible.

Mr. Miller stated the SMC has a significant amount of forest crop lands in their boundaries. It is not uncommon to see four to five individual, different bear baits per 40. If he was going to be a wolf hunter, he would go where the wolves are to increase the odds. SMC has that fear. It is evident and has been established specifically with bears. That is why SMC finds it to be very crucial to defend the wolf population. The consultation process started only recently. In the early phases of this, not all 11 tribes were consulted. There are 11 tribes and not four or five. In order for SMC to respect your concerns brought forward, SMC needs to be shown the same respect. In closing on behalf of SMC, he thanked everyone in attendance for their ear, the Board and DNR for all consideration given in this manner. To the Representative that spoke earlier, he is also an elected official. Like all elected officials, we are fallible. We sometimes make decisions that do not encompass all aspects and every concern in the best interest of our entire communities. He respects the efforts of the WI legislation. Sometimes, legislation is fallible and we have to go back. It is written on paper and not cast in stone. We are humans and sometimes we need to amend and make adjustments in order for things to evolve and progress in their stated fashion.

Discussion followed on whether SMC is happy with the boundaries in the amendment?

Mr. Miller stated this is a concession on behalf of the SMC. They have long since established and disagree with the provisions stated earlier about recognized federal boundaries as a point of contention. They do this solely with what they feel they can protect their wolf population, the core habitat of their wolves. That is their concession that was made in the map provided earlier. For the record, SMC's position is to township boundary and always has been and always will be. In this instance in order to get concession and compromise in their willingness to work with, solely for the wolf issue, SMC made this concession.

4. **Ralph Fritsch**, Townsend, representing WI Wildlife Federation (WWF) spoke in support of the proposed rule. He thanked staff for working so hard for implementing a very complicated and controversial wolf harvest season in a very short period of time. WWF recognized the great success of the state and federal Endangered Species Act in promoting the full recovery of the gray wolf in WI. He appreciates that the DNR has followed the recommendation of the WWF and decreased the proposed harvest success rate for the harvest of wolf. However, the proposed success rate is still higher than the state of MN and far higher than the actual success

rate of the Rocky Mountain states. WWF recommends that the Board adopt the MN 7% success rate. The WWF further believes that the proposed rule is still ultra conservative and will need to an insufficient harvest of wolves in WI. With the harvest is set at 201 statewide, the framework of the proposed regulation will likely lead to a total harvest in the range of 80-100 wolves which would lead to a minor decrease in the statewide population.

5. **Legislator Orman Waukau** spoke in place of **Gary Besaw**, Keshena, representing Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak today. The Menominee people are the oldest continuous residence of the state of WI, this great state they all call home. In their history, they came from five primary clans: bear clan, eagle clan, moose, crane, and wolf. Again, they are taught by elders that this is who they are. He is a bear clan. During white tail season, being a young man, he was always told by his elders, do not hunt or kill bear. Being a young man during deer season, he came across a big bear. He turns around and puts the scope on the bear's heart and presses the trigger. Click. Nothing happened. He then went back to hunt. After hunting, he looked at that shell thinking there was something wrong with it. He put the shell back in, fired, and bang it went off. Someone was telling him something, to respect what he was taught by his elders. Be respectful of what you are taught by your elders.

We look at the wolf as one of our primary clans. Not only in the form of hunting and gathering, but that wolf goes out and helps take care of the white tailed deer that this great state of WI is known for. It helps take care of the sick. It keeps a healthy herd. This is one of the reasons why the Menominee are opposed to wolf hunting. In effect, we are saying we will hunt our brothers and sisters. Menominee and the state of WI have worked together in partnership each spring as they have their annual sturgeon feast. This is one of the great success stories of a partnership. That is why we are all here. We are here to protect our natural resources. Each spring, thanks to the state of WI, they bring us sturgeon. We bring them back home because this is where they came many years ago. It was their spawning ground. They put them back in the waters and then we take them and have a feast. They have been very blessed to have the state of WI helping them celebrate as they honor the sturgeon as many people, the Menominee, people to the south, Shawano. Again, they look forward to working with state of WI. One of the best things we can do is to respect one another. In our case, the Menominee people, as with their other brothers and sisters out here, we look at them as our brother and sister. See you again.

6. **Dan Perotti**, Ironwood MI, representing self and Northern WI Houndsmen Association Club stated that there is no logical reason to start a conflict if the conflict can be avoided. The wolf season as proposed contains basically three points which are offensive to many of the groups who have worked to have the wolf season created. Their short list of concerns are: 1) the overlapping/concurrent running techniques for harvest: that is trapping and hunting simultaneously 100% of the time; 2) allowing cold weather/snow-trapping (late season); and 3) it is imperative to leave no room for an injunction as in prior attempts in the U.S.

Together hunters, trappers, sporting dog enthusiasts, livestock producers, hobby farmers, and others will stand strong against the antis. It is their recommendation that the season be "tweaked" to avoid any potential conflict and to sustain the solidarity we have created and enjoy the strength we have. He quoted a hunter "if my dog gets in a trap, we are going to have an issue; not only with the licensed trapper, but with the flawed law." **(Handout)**

Dr. Thomas asked Mr. Perotti what tweaking his club would want done.

Mr. Perotti stated changing the dates as follows: hunting only from October 15 – November 10 (3+ weeks); trapping/hunting from November 11 – December 25 (6 ½ weeks); and hunting only from December 26 – March 1 (9 weeks).

7. **Thomas J. Givnish**, Madison, representing University of Wisconsin-Madison as Henry Allan Gleason Professor of Botany and Environmental Studies. He stated that he believes the proposed kill rate of roughly 24% is too high and biologically unjustified. This is not the time to install an aggressive hunting policy that may endanger that recovery. He recommended an initial overall kill rate no higher than 10% and with permits no more than three times the proposed kill.

The proposed harvest does not use best available practices to ensure the persistence of wolves, which would be to establish refugia that are not hunted. Making the proposed Zones 1, 2, 3, and 4 no-hunt areas would still target heavy harvests in areas where 90% of livestock depredation takes place. Designating these zones as no-

hunt areas would make wolf numbers, genetics, and social interactions much more stable and sustainable over time, and exert downward pressure on high deer populations that hunters have been unable to control in recent decades.

The DNR must reduce the length of the hunt to reduce interference with population estimates made during the snow season.

The DNR must increase the transparency of its deliberations regarding the wolf hunt. Hunters are by no means the only constituency with an interest. He supports The Nature Conservancy's proposal that the DNR convene a group of experts to re-evaluate what a healthy and sustainable wolf population in WI would look like.

He then noted that the people of WI have been poorly served by a Legislature that has imposed its will on so many aspects of the proposed wolf hunt without input from the DNR and outside experts; at least beyond the bear hunters and their attorneys. He is troubled by the fact that several inhumane practices are being promoted in this first hunt – such as hunting at night, with lights, or with dogs and baits and traps. It will stain the reputation of the DNR and hunting in WI. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on how WI has genetic diversity now and whether harvesting wolves across the entire landscape would have a genetic impact.

8. **Mike Brust**, Wausau, representing self and the WI Bowhunters Association (WBA) as President stated that WBA applauds this initial effort by DNR Wildlife to bring the wolf population to the established goal and believe their approach is credible, although overly-conservative to accomplish that objective. They believe the total harvest goal of 201 is too conservative, especially regarding Zone 5 and will never be approached anyway because the anticipated success ratio of 10% is not realistic based on the data from other states. The anticipated success rate should be 5% or less of the goal harvest with adequate permits issued accordingly. WBA believes Zone 5 should be managed as Secondary Range at least, or, perhaps more properly Unsuitable Range. This would raise the statewide harvest goal to 234 or 285 respectively. WBA believes it is time to manage wolves in WI based on the actual population and not an arbitrary minimum count of less than the total population. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on public harvest and depredation.

9. **Howard Goldman**, St. Paul, MN, representing the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). He represents 245,000 members in the state of WI. He stated that HSUS opposed the delisting and that wolves only occupy 5% of its historic range. Wolves are a public trust. They are an apex predator, play a very important role in natural ecosystems and are a symbol of the wilderness. There is no biological reason to hunt wolves. This is recreational killing. The population has been stable for 2 years without public hunting and trapping. Under the delisting, farmers/landowners can legally shoot a wolf depredating on livestock and domestic pets.

The DNR has estimated that the illegal take may be as high as 161 wolves, an additional 84 wolves will be killed under depredation controls, 34 will die from vehicle collisions, for an estimated total of 480 wolves or 56% of the population. The population model does not factor in any disease events, it does not fully account for pack disruption from taking of alpha male or female and impact of stress on the packs from months of hound hunting. The model concludes that the tipping point is at 30% of human caused mortality (HCM). USFWS stated that HCM is the most significant factor in wolf conservation and is the one variable that this Board can address. The DNR's plan leaves no room for error. WI must do the right thing and protect the wolf.

(Handout)

Mr. Bruins asked Mr. Goldman for USHS's opinion as to how many wolves should be allowed to exist in the state of WI.

Mr. Goldman stated that the population will largely manage itself. The single most important issue to the state is depredations. Those would be addressed in the delisting and a focus on best management practices which are in place throughout the state.

10. **Bob Welch**, Redgranite, representing Hunters Rights Coalition (HRC) stated their support for the rule but wish the quotas were significantly higher. He thanked the Secretary and her staff for making this rule in an expeditious manner. He made it clear that the numbers in the statute, that are in the rule, that have been used by

everyone today, are the rules that were in the Wolf Management Plan produced by the DNR. That is what was used to get delisted. It was not someone else's number; it was not some former employee that came here today wishing it was higher. 350 was used to get the delisting, based on minimum count. If some day we get to real population numbers and confidence in those numbers, then and only then should we be looking at perhaps changing what the 350 is. There is a limit between the wolves peacefully co-existing with us and having problems. That is social carrying capacity. That is what we are managing to. Because of the legislation and the Chair's request that we do not address all those things today is a good one. The tools are in place to be able to manage wolves with a public harvest season, not based on emotions because you will hear a lot of that today, but based on science. Wolves will become a trophy species.

Chair Clausen asked Gloriann Klein, speaker #11, to the podium but she was not in attendance. He stated he would come back to her. He requested Corry White to give his testimony at the podium.

11. **Corry White**, Madison, representing self. He stated that the legislation forcing this hunt was premature and deeply flawed but constrained his proposals to the rulemaking at hand. The rules established by the DNR immediately upon the release of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) restrictions allow for property owners and owners of livestock to have much greater flexibility when addressing "problem" wolves. He requested 1) wolves living away from people and not causing difficulties for landowners be left alone, 2) the deeply flawed Wolf Management Plan population goal of 350 be discarded, 3) the hunt be much more closely targeted to areas where wolves have entered people's property and caused problems, and 4) wolf sanctuaries be established wherever wolf territory coincides with areas of no roads or few lower maintenance roads. Whatever inconveniences these proposals might impose on a hunt pale in comparison to the damage the hunt threatens to do both to wolf population dynamics, and most importantly, to our own ability to understand the relationship we share with these exceptional animals.
12. **Zoe White**, Madison, representing self. She is age 9 and a future wildlife biologist. She has learned about Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson. Aldo Leopold learned early in his career about the importance of predators to the balance of nature. He went on to advocate for a respectful place in the human management of wildlife for larger predators that had mistakenly been considered "competition" for hunters in the past. We have a space in our state for wild animals to live with us. She feels badly for the people who have had their livestock attacked by wolves and believes it is right for those people to have more power over wolves. No hunt should go on where wolves are living in the heart of wolf territory far away from people. They should be entirely left alone. She requested the Zones should be adjusted so that hunting quotas in our wildest places be zero. They need sanctuary. All hunting should take place where people have had problems with wolves on their property attacking their livestock.
13. **Gloriann Klein**, Milwaukee, representing Wolf Info Now. She stated that the Governor's office reports 20 called in to support this bill while 898 wrote in to oppose this legislation. The wolf is wise, majestic, incomprehensible, misunderstood. She assigned each Board Member an assignment as follows: 1) Bill Bruins – Compensation. Farmers feel entitled to compensation from depredating wolves. What happens when hound hunters get more compensation than farmers or when the fund runs out. 2) David Clausen – Hound Hunting. Ban training hounds under the current rule, separate rules for bear hunting. Comply with state statues for canine fighting and cruelty to animals. 3) Preston Cole – Core Areas. Establish low harvest numbers in public lands, target problem wolves, reduce harvest to 10%, maintain integrity of pack structure. 4) Terry Hilgengerg – Baiting. Location – animals are territorial. Baiting alters behavior. Habituating a wolf with human food is dangerous. 5) Greg Kazmierski – Trapping. Hunter's code of honor. Where is the ethics in this. Ban clubbing of down or trapped wolves. 6) Christine Thomas – Zoning of harvest areas and numbers. Establish core areas for good wolf habitat and non-problem wolves versus mixed and ag zones which can have depredating wolves for lack of options. Create a refuge area with 9% harvest. 7) Jane Wiley – Tribal Lands. Generally protected due to treaty rights except the 2 townships in Zone 2 as part of the Stockbridge Munsee reservation needs to have same protection as the Chippewa and Menominee, including a 6 mile buffer zone. Killing 1-2 wolves would likely wipe out an entire pack. Do not condone this sloppy legislation. **(Handout)**

Mr. Kazmierski asked Ms. Klein how much her group has contributed to Wolf reestablishment in WI.

Ms. Klein stated their group is only a few months old. She has spoken from experience as an individual having hands-on experience working with wolves both in WI as well as out west.

14. **Joe Koback**, Montello, representing the Wisconsin Chapters of SCI. They are thrilled the gray wolf is back. The population is not stable and is still exploding. Wisconsin has the responsibility to manage it. The landscape has changed. Even though his group would like to see more aggressive numbers, at the same time they do not want to be too aggressive either. They want the wolf to stay here in WI. They are supporting this just the way it is. Wisconsin has not had a season yet and need to get that data of what does work and what does not work. For this year, they would like to support this and next year work on the permanent rule and use this year's data. They would like to see higher numbers because the wolf is not stable. This year's harvest will not stop that.
15. **Ray Leonard**, Custer, representing Timber Wolf Information Network. He stated his understanding that the Board is quite limited in any adjustments to the Act and addressed some deficiencies in the proposed baiting rule. 1) Food conditioning – it is a mistake to expand on the potential of providing food rewards to wolves. It is impossible to totally prevent human scent at bait sites and wolves will quickly associate human scent with a food reward. 2) Enforcement – the proposed rule currently allows either bear baiting or deer baiting practices, or both. This will certainly provide challenges to law enforcement as wolf bait sites will look very much like bear or deer baits, after those seasons are closed. In addition, the rule prohibits substances that are toxic to canids, however, highly toxic substances like the artificial sweetener Xylitol cannot be easily detected in the field. If he could, he would tell his members to call in every bait site they encounter and make sure it is checked out to make sure it is a legitimate wolf baiting site and that it does not contain toxins. 3) Bear behavior – having bait sites available well into the winter months could potentially alter bear denning behavior. One of the triggers for denning is a lack of food. He requested that bait for wolf hunting be restricted to scent baits.
(Handout)

Mr. Kazmierski asked whether Mr. Leonard believes there will be a lot of baiting with the limitation of what can be used for bait on wolves.

Mr. Leonard stated he did not know he could speak on that since this is new. He can see continuing bear bait sites that are on the landscape already.

Mr. Kazmierski believed primarily the provision was put in the bill so if someone was hunting deer and they were over a bait site that they would not get busted for hunting wolves over a bait site when they incidentally took the wolf during deer hunting or other pursuit.

Mr. Leonard stated he was more concerned with bear sites that would continue on after October 9. Wolf sites would look just like bear bait that would be difficult to enforce.

16. **Scott McAuley**, Wisconsin Rapids, representing Wisconsin Trappers Association. He stated they support mandatory trapper education. If you are going to trap a wolf, you need Trapper Education. They teach ethics, trapper ed, the right tool for the right animal. You are trying to regulate ethics with the 7" trap rule. You are never going to regulate ethics. You can make the rules, but no one is ever going to follow them. There are a couple grey areas in here. Wolf season, according to Act 169, goes from October 15 to the end of February. That is the canine season. If he is wolf trapping the first 3-5 days and he catches a coyote, what is he supposed to do with it? You are putting the trapper and law enforcement in a position that do you let the landowner go and the landowner wants it dead? He suggested the coyote and fox seasons run concurrent with wolf season and it be a few days in October and a full two weeks in February. As for the 8" trap restriction, there is not going to be that many trappers out there using the bigger traps. When the ground gets frozen at the end of November/December, you might need a bigger trap to come up through the frozen snow and dirt in order to get a good catch on the foot of that animal. Keep it simple. You can add to Section 21: If you are wolf trapping, you are restricted to the 7" trap. They look forward to working on the permanent rule with everybody.
(Handout)

17. **Jodi Habush Sinykin**, Milwaukee, representing Midwest Environmental Advocates. She stated the DNR has offered no peer-reviewed scientific evidence in support of their quota numbers, an omission all the more

concerning in light of the DNR's chronic inability or unwillingness to control over-hunting and over-trapping of our state's wildlife over the past fifteen years, especially with regard to quota exceedances for furbearers year after year. DNR's inability to control excess harvests provides another reason that greater caution should be exercised regarding the quotas proposed for this year's hunting and trapping season for wolves. Quotas are only as good as the DNR's ability and resolve to enforce them. The first season quotas should be reduced and DNR directives to limit harvest zones to those portions of the state experiencing livestock depredation problems, at least until such time as the state's outdated Wolf Management Plan is revised to take into account best-available science and assessment of the indiscriminate impact of hunting and trapping on wolves' social structure and long-term viability. She then joined others today asking that the Board direct DNR to begin revising the 1999 Wolf Management Plan and to delay permanent rule making until the management plan updates have been completed.

She then drew attention to the rules regulatory void concerning the use of dogs as a method to hunt wolves. Other than prohibiting wolf hunting with dogs at night, the DNR has failed to impose the full array of reasonable restrictions necessary to keep Act 169 statutory directive that dogs be used to trail or track wolves or to curtail unsafe proximity between dogs and wolves, certain to lead to animal fighting, grievous injury, and death to both dogs and wolves. The scope statement failed to encompass dog training as a matter to DNR regulation. Without the ability to impose reasonable restrictions on the training of dogs to hunt wolves, an activity which can be conducted for much of the year including the 4 ½ month hunting season, there is no way DNR can enforce the regulatory parameters needed to prevent irreparable harm from taking place. Hunters violating any proposed dog hunting rule will claim they were merely training their dogs and therefore not obliged to comply. **(Handout)**

~~XX. **Peter David**, Odanah, representing Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) as Wildlife Biologist **(Moved to last speaker) MODIFIED**~~

18. **Al Lobner**, Milladore, representing the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association. He stated his initial reaction to the proposed plan was that at this rate, they would never get the wolf population under control. His attitude since attending the Black River Falls meeting has not changed. This population needs to be reduced. Another concern is the goal that was set for this season. He does not remember 350 as being the minimum population goal. This needs to be corrected to have a socially acceptable wolf population. Canine diseases can diminish a population quickly when members of the species have constant interaction with other members of their species. This concept is nothing new and he believes is being ignored to allow for a so-called diversity within the ecosystem. There are some that feel a wolf population has built up resistance to the parvovirus since it was found in wolf populations in the 1980s. Do not be fooled by that assumption. That outbreak reduced the wolf population from 25 wolves down to 14 in 1985, as documented by Adrian Wydeven. Keep in mind we will never be able to vaccinate the entire wolf population this time. Remember the quotation from President Theodore Roosevelt "In a civilized and cultivated country, wild animals only can continue to exist at all when preserved by sportsmen." The affluent people who testified today who protest against all hunting and consider sportsmen as enemies of wildlife, do not understand. In reality the genuine sportsmen is by all odds the most important factor keeping the larger and more valuable wild creatures from total extermination. **(Handout)**

Mr. Kazmierski requested clarification on the concern about training wolf hounds year round. He asked Mr. Lobner whether it would be his understanding that the leash law would also include wolf training as well as coyote training.

Mr. Lobner stated that to his knowledge, the leash law includes all dogs and not just hunting dogs. They cannot run loose in the northern 1/3 of the state where the wolf population is at.

Mr. Kazmierski stated there have been concerns about trap sizes and traps being out there during dog hunting. He asked Mr. Lobner whether this was a problem.

Mr. Lobner stated he had heard occasional instances but for all intended purposes, no.

Chair Clausen requested DNR Enforcement and Science Administrator, Tim Lawhern, to clarify the leash law for May and June and on state lands.

Mr. Lawhern stated that the information provided earlier is accurate. The northern part of the state must have dogs on a leash at all times except during the hunting season. It does not matter what kind of dog, whether it is a bear dog, coyote dog, bird dog, or pet. If you are in the southern part of the state, it is regulated during certain seasons as to when you can have your dog on or off a leash.

Chair Clausen asked whether there is a prohibition in the process of training your dog in the northern part of the state in May and June and on DNR lands from approximately April 1 – July 1.

Tom Van Haren, DNR Warden, stated that Chair Clausen was correct. In the northern restricted zone (25%-30% of the state), in May and June, you cannot train dogs on free roaming wild animals, regardless of species. In July and August, you can train your dogs on bears. The leash law part of the dog training rule only applies to DNR lands. It does not matter where you are in the state. From April 15 – July 31 if you want to have your dogs on DNR managed lands, they must be on a leash. This is statewide.

19. **Mike Wiggins**, Chair, and **Joe Rose**, Bad River Voigt Task Force Representative, representing Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Mr. Wiggins stated his name is Rising Sun and he is of the Eagle Clan. The wolf is a very powerful symbol of what little wilderness we have left. He shared their traditions regarding their relationship with the wolf. He summarized a small portion of their creation story. They talk about four orders to the creation. The Great Spirit created everything in the universe. The first things that came were of the physical world. Then the next order was the plant world. The next order was the animal world, and finally the human world. He skipped the first three orders. According to their traditions, the Great Spirit took soil from the four corners of Mother Earth – the four cardinal directions. Starting first in the east, then to the south, then to the west, and then to the north. This soil is taken into sky world and placed into the sacred shell. The Great Spirit breathed life into the soil creating original man. He lowered original man to meet Mother Earth. The first steps taken on Mother Earth, man tread very lightly out of love, honor, and respect. There was a sound that was heard by the creator even before creation occurred, that sound had a rhythm. After everything was created, the Great Spirit set everything in motion. We have all the natural rhythms. We have day and night. We have four seasons, the tides flow, the moon comes, the heart beats. That was blueprint for all natural rhythms that set everything in motion. Great Spirit asked original man to visit all places and things. He began his walk about. While traveling, he met the wolf. Since the wolf was of the third order, he had been here much longer than man. Wolf became the guide. In time, blood brother to man. They were inseparable companions. Man thought he finished the responsibility given to him and returned to the Great Spirit. Man and wolf stood in presence. The Great Spirit spoke to both of them. You are both much alike. You will take a mate for life. Your social order will be very complex. The wolf was given the wolf pack and man was given the clan system. Both will make your living by chase. Both will be excellent hunters. Man expressed loneliness and noted that the animals occurred in pairs. The Great Spirit took soil from the four corners of Mother Earth and breathed life into the soil of Mother Earth and created woman. Now that man had a companion, the Great Spirit told them from this day forward, even though brothers, you will walk separate paths. To wolf, if man approaches on your territory, you will retreat further and further into the wilderness. It was prophesized that in the age of the 7th fire, the wolf may no longer have a place to retreat. What he was referring to at that time was wilderness. If you no longer have a place to retreat, you will soon pass out of existence. And you man, if your brother passes out, you will soon follow. The Great Spirit was not referring to just the wolf, but everything the wolf represents. When wolf passes, humans will follow.

Our destiny is related to the destiny of the wolf. We were put here to live in harmony and balance with all corners of creation. We were put here to live in harmony and balance with all corners of creation. Complex because of the countless ecosystems and their relationships to each other that result in environmental integrity. And so, we have a very important relationship to wolf and his time as human approach the fork in the road in the day of the 7th fire. One fork in the road was a hard surface and the other a more natural path. We see the hard surface today as that vast lane of technology pollutes and destroys. They see the other path, a more natural path. A path that will result in restoration of the natural balance. Some belief systems refer to as Armageddon and the other a more Utopia message. In the prophecies, even though we are living in the 11th hour of a very serious environmental crisis on a global basis, there is hope. Their people were given a gift – loosely interpreted it means medicine. Along with the gift goes a tremendous responsibility. That responsibility is to share knowledge and wisdom of how to live in harmony and balance with all others. So they

say that human beings come in all four colors represented on the medicine wheel - red, yellow, black, and white. In this age of the 7th fire, new people will arise. They will turn and look back, and retrace footsteps. Wolf will pick up the medicine bundles fallen by way side and go to the elders for an interpretation of those teachings. The bundles will be taken underground for generations due to persecution. They are now beginning to see light of day once more. They say a new paradigm will come into being during the age of the 7th fire. In terms of money or materialistic gain, our political power or control, or any of those egotistical things, true worth will be measured in terms of clean water, fresh air, and pristine wilderness, and all of those things represented by the wolf.

Mr. Rose stated his Elder set the context and foundation through which Ojibwa world view is rooted as it pertains to the wolf bill and the hunting of wolves in general. Collectively, that view and the position of tribes will be put forth later in the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) testimony. He spoke today not so much on the greater legislative points and issues surrounding the wolf hunt as it pertains to the rest of the state of Wisconsin but more from inside out approach as a sovereign nation. He will talk through the filter of the wolf packets that call the interior of their reservation, home. From that perspective, he shared that they have four wolf packs on their reservation. One of the things they talked with Secretary Stepp and DNR officials about earlier on was the importance of their tribal management authority as pertaining to the boundaries of their reservation. His Elders' comments about their values that pertain to wolves is alive and well within their homeland and the notion of hunting occurring within their boundaries was a very difficult proposition to reconcile.

They put forth the notion of leaving their management and wolf packs to their own control and authority. He acknowledged their thanks for that recognition. For their perspective, through the notion and filter of their wolf packs up north on the Bad River Reservation, the boundaries of their reservation need to be extended in spirit. They talked about that also and reasserted their desire to see a zero quota zone extended around their reservation for about 6 miles. It is their position that this request is very reasonable. That request is rooted in science, management, and notions of sustainability for the wolf packs that call their reservation home. They have studied their wolf packs. They are working with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and other agencies to get a handle on the home range of their different packs, to get a handle on depredation and other different types of things occurring within and around their reservation. There has been a nice cooperative effort to that end.

Their telemetry studies have shown is that their wolves do not honor the boundaries of their reservation and they do cross over into areas. The outer range of where their packs roam has been established. That 6 mile buffer, zero quota zone we are talking about would put integrity into the notion of truly protecting their wolf packs within their reservation. The radio telemetry, the amount of movement they see off their reservation is all contained within their proposal in their letter to the NRB/DNR. Their boundaries, as were established, along delineated roads for ease of identifiable boundaries. It also encompasses an area where they are looking at, at least along their western border and southern border, primarily private property owners, a lot of farms. From a management based perspective, they already have harvest goals readily accessible for the issuance of depredation permits. Depredation permits would cover a lot of the zero quota zone. There are other perspectives too like the beautiful black wolf that was killed on U.S. Highway 2 trying to cross within their boundaries. There are other harvest and accidental kills and things of that nature that will occur. On the eastern boundary, there is public land and some hunting opportunity there that would come into play. When you look at the buffer zone they are requesting and the protections it would insure from a sustainability aspect for their wolf packs, that six mile buffer would represent a very insignificant hindrance in terms of hunting opportunity and access to hunting opportunity. In the big scheme of things in terms of what your goals area statewide, that zero quota zone is minute and in their opinion will not be a significant hindrance to Wisconsin hunters and how they go after wolves.

The other thing he shared is when you look at how small their wolf packs are and their range, the harvesting of an alpha or omega and the impact on the social perspective on that pack really concerns the tribe. The kind of disruption which could affect small packs is one they fear that sustainability of that pack in general could be jeopardized. As they leave their reservation boundaries, they are trying to insure their safe return, unless engaging in activities around farm lands that is negative. Ultimately, the sustainability of these wolf packs is such that they believe in the long wrong, although contrary to their value system, that through social displacement and social order of wolf packs, that through displacement, as young males come up and are kicked out of the pack and through social displacement in general, that ultimately by sustaining their wolf packs they will contribute to the betterment of hunting opportunities on public land areas around their reservation. That

cuts to the core of what he heard before as far as the spirit of hunting, the spirit of outdoorsmen, the spirit of harvesters or sportsmen as to what they are striving for.

Meanwhile, within that small sovereign nation, management of their wolf packs according to their value system, there are other techniques besides lethal means to do that. Is this unprecedented? No. Zero harvest antlerless quotas are better established in certain zones from a deer hunting perspective. When he thinks of the imaginary line between the mouth of the Bad River whether it empties into Lake Superior and the arbitrary point on Michigan Island thereby establishing a line that delineates a fish refuge. He sees the same spirit in the deer hunting perspective and that fish refuge perspective that is essentially in their request to direct the DNR to work with them to establish this zero quota zone around their boundaries. From a management perspective, all of the outcomes can be met at the state level through depredation permits.

He could talk about the lack of consultation that could accompany testimony such as this, but more importantly, they still have time to work together for a win-win situation. Again, that is in the context and framework of what is inherently an oppositional approach and contrary view to recreational hunting. To summarize, they ask the Board to direct the DNR to work with them on the zero quota zone. Their team is ready to do that. They already have some cooperative work established that will help from a science perspective. That is essentially what this is rooted in. Sustainability.

Mr. Kazmierski stated there looks like there is a lot of open agriculture land in the buffer zone the Tribe is asking about. He asked what the consensus of the private land owners in those areas and whether they are willing to go along with what the Tribe is requesting.

Mr. Rose stated that when you look at the way the zero antlerless harvest is put forth in certain zones from a deer hunting perspective, that acknowledges that there are still opportunity for harvest and access that can be found to accomplish that goal of taking an animal. He did not know the consensus would be from private landowners within that buffer zone other than to say that within a short drive from zero quota zone are tremendous tracks of public lands and forests that can be hunted. He also acknowledged that there are no limits on harvesting from a depredation standpoint.

Mr. Rose then invited Members of the Natural Resources Board to the Bad River Reservation and to take a trip around the waterways still stands. Mr. Moroney is invited also. He thanked the Board for the gracious dinner and social gathering on June 27 at Crex Meadows.

20. **Dave Hochtritt**, Pickett, representing self. He requested to be removed from the list of speakers.

Chair Clausen asked Laurie Groskopf, speaker #21, to the podium but she was not in attendance. He stated he would come back to her. He requested Nancy Warren to give her testimony at the podium.

21. **Nancy Warren**, Ewen, MI, representing National Wolfwatcher Coalition as Great Lakes Regional Director. As their name implies, their supporters enjoy viewing wolves, finding their tracks, and hearing their howls. They are an all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting positive attitudes about wolves through education. They believe their past comments have been ignored throughout each step of the process and it is their hope that the Board will now give them serious consideration. This proposed rule takes an overly aggressive approach to wolf management; it fails to take into consideration input from all stakeholders and the general public and fails to fully address key issues.

They asked that the Board reject the rules and regulations put forth because the harvest quota of 201 wolves must be substantially reduced. Less than 10% of the wolves are responsible for livestock depredation. Zones must be established to protect wolves in areas of prime habitat that have not caused livestock depredation. Zones and quotas that specifically address depredation should be created. For example, Zone 1A, which identified areas of high depredation should not have been eliminated. DNR should establish buffer zones around tribal lands. The Wolf Management Plan must be updated to reflect the biological carrying capacity of 700-1,000 wolves. Baiting must be limited to liquid scents. Howling must be prohibited as a means to lure wolves. Training season for dogs must be prohibited while wolves are at den and rendezvous sites. Prior to releasing a trapped wolf, the incident should be reported to DNR so that the wolf can be collared whenever possible. DNR must prohibit the use of clubbing as a method to dispatch a wolf. DNR should require that hound hunters take responsible actions to minimize conflicts. Do not compensate \$2,500 for dog depredations if hunters continue to utilize the same areas where wolves are known to kill dogs. DNR must develop a

strategic plan to address enforcement, especially the use of bait, night hunting, and hunting with dogs. DNR must work with legislators to revise Act 169. **(Handout)**

22. **Laurie Groskopf**, Tomahawk, representing self. She stated that the framework presented is custom designed to keep the wolf population at the current level. On page 9 of the green sheet package, it does state that the literature shows that 23% - 29% harvest will not result in any reductions. In her way of looking at this, 38% - 50% harvest would be needed in order to start the reduction in the population. The social carrying capacity was never dealt with. There is no mention of it in the rule. The biological carrying capacity many people feel is the same as it has been. Her question is it that Wisconsin needs more wolves than Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and the upper peninsula. Several years ago she began an effort to organize citizens who felt like they were not able to voice their feelings and worked with a number of county boards on resolutions. She knew there was some dissent faction out there but was extremely surprised to see the extent and depth of it. She then read through the main counties she dealt with and their votes on each resolution. She said that if you can get county boards to agree on anything, then the fact that these county boards and the votes they saw, shows the depth of the problem up there. Like Dr. Kroll said, we need to look at what the people want. It is very important to them to get the wolf population brought down significantly. **(Handout)**
23. **Doug Moericke**, Waupaca, representing self. He stated that in 1997 in Hayward he spoke about maintaining habitat between corridors connecting northern WI wolf habitat and the central forest. This was to encourage genetic diversity for the survival of the timber wolf. In 2004 at River Falls, he testified about developing a wolf season. He asked the Board to proceed on the hunt cautiously. The proposed wolf hunting season is too long because it enters into the breeding season. Hunting pressure during the short breeding season is a potential limiting factor affecting wolf numbers and survival of a stable population. Enforcement of all the rules and regulation of the wolf harvest is arbitrary at best given the vastness of the wolf harvest zones proposed. In regards to the proposed zones, he stated The Public Domain Act incorporates that federal and state lands are owned by all. The emergency Board Order simply satisfied entitlement of a select segment of the general population. Either apathetic or uninformed WI residents are not knowledgeable of the shortcomings of this rushed bill. The zones proposed on federal and state lands do not guarantee refuge areas from the hunting pressure of such a long season. Reimbursement for hunting dogs needs to change based on this fact: He was not aware of any other hobby that is reimbursed by federal or state funds. The WI idea developed by the University of WI back in the late 1800's was to ensure that the majority of the WI public benefitted from sound science and research. WI's environmental teachings of the great icons should influence the final decisions that are decided here today. **(Handout)**
24. **Margaret McClure**, Madison, representing self. She spoke in opposition to the proposed rule. She presented a gruesome story of a trapped wolf. The story represented mankind at its most remorseless. At the end of her story, the hunter/trapper killed the wolf in a beastly fashion. **(Handout)**
25. **Gregory McClure**, Madison, representing self. He stated they moved up here one year ago from New Mexico where they dealt with their own wolf issue and introduction of the Mexican gray wolf. He offered a few comments and observations. There are strongly held beliefs about the wolf and the fabulous gift that WI has been given by its reintroduction. He grew up in a hunting and trapping family. He hunted bear and coon with dogs.
He opposes trapping wolves and hunting them with dogs. He is concerned with trapping and the indiscriminate selection of an animal. With respect to a wolf pack, you can certainly disrupt its social structure if you happen to trap an alpha male. By trapping a pregnant female, it would interrupt the breeding season by running the trapping season too late. Trapping should not be part of a depredation process. You cannot select the wolf that is a problem wolf by setting out a trap.
Harvesting in general is an interesting way to describe the process. Arbitrarily setting a 350 number based on the 1999 figure is a bit of science that needs to be reevaluated. Science is not fixed. It is not static and evolves over time. The 350 number should be reevaluated. This group needs to spend more time working with tribal entities and needs to be continued moving ahead. One thing that came up in the west in terms of dealing with wolves is a change in ranching and farming practices. He has not heard a lot about that and was wondering if that was not something that might need to be looked at more fully. As an example, the fate of carcasses on

farms, running sheep with minimal amounts of dogs and human contact is another way to set up a situation to create a problem. **(Handout)**

26. **Lee Fahrney**, Hollandale, representing WI Conservation Congress (WCC) as Executive Committee Secretary. He stated that WCC has long had a position supporting the return of management of the gray wolf to the state and the implementation of a harvest season when the population was sufficient to sustain such. They are highly supportive of the 2012 wolf hunting and trapping season. The WCC Wolf Committee approved the DNR's proposed season structure, zones, and implementation plan that was presented to them on June 9. However, the committee is concerned that the proposed harvestable quota is too conservative and would like to see the quota set at 300 animals, exclusive of tribal harvest and depredation permits. This would not jeopardize the viability of the wolf population that is well over two times the management goal of the species. The goal of 350 limits should be the upper limit of the social carrying capacity. Biologically, they believe that wolf populations beyond that target figure are having a negative impact on other wildlife populations and their ecosystems. They get a lot of feedback from their delegates and from the sportsmen's organizations. There is a noticeable impact on other species, most notably white tailed deer. They have seen declines in the deer harvest in the northern part of the state. They look forward to the data that will be gathered this first year and working with the DNR. WCC wants to be involved in all of the decision making that takes place. **(Handout)**
27. **Lynn White**, Clintonville, representing self. She first became involved with wolves back in the early-mid 1980's when she was a grad student in Natural Resources at UW-Green Bay. She began contributing to the DNR's Endangered Resources program through the tax check off and the wolf plates later in the 1990's. She and her husband still have them today, despite that it costs them over \$100 for each of them each year. She knew these funds would help pay for depredation of livestock and that that was fair. But then she heard hunters were sending their dogs into harm's way despite being informed by the DNR of problem areas and the dog hunters insisted on being compensated. This is a good example of a use and abuse of our tax dollars.
She did not think killing 24% of WI's population is conservative. She is especially opposed to killing of 29 out of 35-40 wolves in Zone 6. There are few, if any, reports of depredation in this zone. This killing is for fun. Do not use livestock depredation as an excuse to have a hunting season on wolves. A subsidized compensation program is in place. In six months, with no hunting season, this has already eliminated 39 wolves. Why a quota of 200? 160 wolves with no documented history of problems will be allowed to be killed for the fun of it. She opposed the expansion of baiting from scents. She opposed authorization of up to five depredation reimbursements for calves without actual proof of kill. She respects the Native American's request for buffer zones around their reservations. **(Handout)**
28. **Patricia Randolph**, Portage, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Ethic. Submitted comments were 20 for the hunt and 898 against. The system is deliberately stacked against the majority of the citizens. Legalizing cruelty invites torture. Hunters are documented in shooting the back legs, snaring, and trapping wolves, then setting dogs on them. Hunters will kill wolf pups in front of their parents or use their cries to lure them. They have dragged injured wolves and coyotes in neck loops to encourage dogs to attack. This is encouraging the worst sadism and it will be taught to children. These hunters have no back tags. Mandate front tags then. Warden staff are inadequate to monitor this. This shames our state and will not be forgotten. Boycotts of Wisconsin tourism and products are active on facebook. Hunters are on a major push to consolidate their exclusive power in law against the rights of humane citizens' participation. We have a right to govern the billions of dollars of land we buy and our wildlife under the Wildlife Public Trust Doctrine. The money to fund DNR wildlife management is structured on killing license funding. The Natural Resources Board has 4 of the 7 members mandated to represent hunting and farming to assure their control of wildlife for killing. 80 years of the Conservation Congress so-called public election privatized to 5,000 avid killers of wildlife. This is a corrupt system. **(Handout)**
29. **Richard Thiel**, Tomah, representing self. He retired from the DNR in 2011 and is one of five people who served on both the DNR's 1989 Wolf Recovery Plan and the 1999 Wolf Management Plan. He urged this Board to direct the DNR to immediately commence the timely revision of the 1999 Wolf Management Plan for these reasons: The Assembly Natural Resources public hearing held in February 2012 with authors Representative Suder and Rivard stated repeatedly that Act 169 is based on the WI Management Plan. The DNR's plan is 13 years old. DNR plans generally have a 10 year horizon. The DNR's existing plan emphasizes the intended horizon on pages 4, 8, and 28. A 2006-07 addendum was approved by Administration in August 2007. It

substantiated much of the 1999 plan, made a few changes, and among other things that the population goal be revisited. In winter 2010-11, the DNR Wolf Science Technical Committee actually began a review of the population goal. Options circulated amongst stakeholders that include a numerical goal with one emphasizing a human conflicts management focusing on population control using wolf removal by government agents, landowner shoot permits, and some as yet to be prescribed public harvest, as its management tools. Unfortunately, administration called off this exercise and the 1999 Wolf Management Plan remains in place, including its goal.

How was the 350 wolf goal formulated and was it based on pure science as asserted by some? On Page 16 of the plan, “this management goal falls about half way between the delisting level of 250 wolves and the perceived biological carrying capacity of 500 wolves for the state. During the review of the second draft of the wolf plan, of persons commenting on the population goal, 38% supported the goal, 38% felt it was too small, and 24% felt it was too high. Therefore, the goal seemed a reasonable compromise between population capacity, minimum level of viability, and public acceptance. The science in this section refers to the figure of 500 and not 350. For the 500 number, GIS analyses were performed with the wolf population demographic data for WI’s wolf telemetry project at that time. They cannot exclude the possibility that a population of 300 to 500 wolves may decline to a point that delisting will be necessary. He emphasized that harvest was not part of the formula because it was not part of the plan because the Natural Resources Board took it out. He respectfully urged the Board to direct the DNR to revise the Wolf Management Plan beginning immediately. The Wolf Science Technical Committee should integrate wolf population goals, wolf management zones, and as noted in his handout. **(Handout)**

30. **Norm Poulton**, Tomahawk, representing Northwoods Alliance as Board Member & Wolf Issue Liaison. He stated he is very much against this wolf plan in the way it came down. He is also a member of the Timber Wolf Alliance of WI, the International Wolf Center in MN, and a volunteer tracker for over 17 years. He is very concerned with the trackers they are losing because of this type of plan that the politicians came up with. We do not need this plan, particularly this type of plan that was dreamt up by the anti-wolf folks and passed by the legislature. None of the wolf biologists were consulted about this. This was all done by legislators. WI loses 25% of the adult wolves each year. This is verified. They are lost to diseases like sarcoptic mange, canine parvovirus, and others. They are killed by cars and sometimes wolves kill other wolves other territorial disputes. When they are off the endangered species list which they are now, Wildlife Services has the authority to kill wolves. Farmers can shoot wolves attacking livestock. Wolves’ acclimated to human beings can be killed and wolves are illegally shot by people. They found around 25 wolves last year and that is only what they found. How many were really shot they do not know.

He stated that he has a real problem with the 350 figure. This is not the biological carrying capacity for wolves. His understanding is 800-1,000 wolves. This is what we should be going by. This 350 figure comes up again and again and it does not have any real basis. He is very upset with the way this whole plan came down. This should have been done by wolf specialists, wildlife biologists, people that know something about the wolves. He is concerned about what they call a public carrying capacity because for a lot of the anti-wolf folks, this is the capacity. Look at the bumper stickers. They don’t say 350 wolves do they? They say “no wolves.” Do not listen to these types of people. Listen to the people that know something about the wolves. This is ridiculous and he feels terrible about this. Someone had mentioned about the loss of deer. After the deer season was over, they still had 1.4 million deer in the state of WI which was 40% more than the goal. A wolf will consume 18-20 deer each year. The reason I use the word consume, is that wolves are also scavengers and feed on dead deer. They are not having effects on the deer herd. **(Handout)**

31. **Will Stahl**, Neenah, representing the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club. He stated as caretakers of their natural heritage, all Americans have a shared responsibility to protect wildlife and wild places for future generations. The quotas and rules proposed by Act 169 are out of step with both public opinion and science. 87% of people believe the wolf is a vital part of our National Heritage. Wisconsin would be the only state to allow wolf hunting with dogs, which public opinion is largely against. The quota allowed is 57% human caused mortality to a species removed from ESA protections only six months ago, in addition to existing 75% mortality in pups and 25% mortality in adults. This plan and rules have not been peer-reviewed and both DNR and NRB spokespersons have commented publicly they “do not know” what the effects on the wolf population will be. Despite recent research no refuge areas have been proposed leaving core populations which have no history of chronic depredations, vulnerable to the destabilizing effects of hunting and trapping. In the DNR survey, a greater number of respondents favor a lower or zero quota as opposed to a higher quota. More respondents

were opposed to the Act 169 rules concepts than those that favored them. The DNR mission to reduce the wolf population implies the 350 goal which was never intended as a maximum population in the wolf management plan, and only as a minimum. It is not best biological practice to conduct so aggressive a cull before the additional effects of the recently enacted depredation control measures are known.

Additionally, their members oppose recreational trapping. Wolves are essential to a truly healthy ecosystem. Helping maintain healthy populations of deer and other game animals, preventing over-browsing, restoring aspen stands that benefit endangered game and song birds. Vehicle collisions and other damage by deer and elk are reduced in areas where wolves are present. Act 169 plan does nothing to address public misperceptions about wolves, campaigns, and misinformation about wolves, or public understanding of the value of predators to the ecosystem. Our responsibility to protect wildlife and wild places for future generations tells us to manage in a fashion that considers all lands and wildlife that use them. WI's natural heritage forged the understanding of leaders like Aldo Leopold and John Muir who saw that our imperfect understanding of natural balances in a healthy ecosystem drastically affects those complex relationships. Leopold and Muir understood that we must treat lightly on earth, leaving wild places and wildlife untouched by our presence as possible. **(Handout)**

Ms. Wiley asked Mr. Stahl what he is recommending.

Mr. Stahl stated that depredation controls be allowed to remain in place and that the quota be reduced greatly or eliminated. At this point, we do not know what the effect on the population will be on these kinds of quotas. We heard someone speak earlier about 39% collapse in the population several years ago. If we have such an event follow this wolf hunting season, we would have very few wolves left. The idea is we are supposed to have a minimum of 350 based on the 1999 plan. The actual carrying capacity as the gentlemen just stated is much higher.

32. **Rad Watkins**, Hazelhurst, representing Timber Wolf Alliance (TWA). TWA supports a harvest based on sound science, research, alongside public input and public involvement. They suggest a few tweaks to this rule in order to make it a valid plan. The TWA does not support reducing the wolf population to 350 wolves. To quote the representative that stood before them this morning, we must use the best science we have before us. We are not doing that. That is a fact. Science was not used. TWA strongly recommends the plan be updated so it can act as a guide. TWA supports the low range of the DNR's original quota of 142 wolves, understanding that there will be additional wolf mortalities such as pup mortality, poaching, road kill, mange, and other diseases. Wolf mortality rates are dynamic and can change quickly as local populations and pack sizes decrease. Hence, a more conservative harvest in year one's emergency rule makes sense. They understand some areas are not suitable for large populations of wolves because of the high density of people living in these areas or due to the high level of agricultural/livestock activity. These locations may be appropriately labeled "unsustainable" and the high percentage of culling at the low end quota range considered appropriate. They support DNR's management strategies to reduce wolf populations in these areas outside of the reservation boundaries. They support low or no quotas in primary wolf range where numbers are beginning to stabilize. Most conflicts in these zones are caused by people training or hunting with dogs. Public harvest or depredation control actions are not likely to reduce these conflicts.

TWA has concerns with the baiting of wolves for hunting and trapping. It could lead to greater habituation of wolves to humans. A rule designating that only scents be used to bait wolves may be the more responsible way to go. They are also opposed to the use of hunting with dogs, which is part of the legislation. They asked the Board make special recommendations for rules that say no training with no dogs outside of the October – February season. If you want to give hunters a lasting recreational opportunity, this quota is way too high. **(Handout)**

33. **Scott Meyer**, Gleason, representing United Sportsmen of Wisconsin (USW). USW is not in agreement with a harvest goal of 201 wolves. It should be more aggressive. This is an emergency rule and would hope as we work towards a permanent rule that the emphasis be on management of wolves to a 350 goal. He has been involved with the wolf de-listing since 1999, spent time on the wolf stakeholder committee, was listed as an intervener in the last federal lawsuit, and spent more than 8 years with federal and state attorneys with regards to wolves. There are several things which he noted today. We need to remember that the gray wolf is recovered as a species and now we need to turn to the management phase. The USFWS has used the current WI wolf management plan, which is recognized as Cadillac plan in the U.S., and was what the experts based their delisting on.

The premise of federal delisting is whether we can still afford protection of the gray wolf. The answer is

yes. Does the bill and rule afford protection? Yes. It allows the DNR to set harvest levels and permit numbers and zones. In the federal final delisting threat analysis the USFW stated the DNR is committed to maintaining a wolf population at 350 wolves outside the Indian reservations and no harvest would occur if the population fell below 350. Again, they have afforded protection for the gray wolf. The state also has a listing process which if the population would fall under 200, they would be listed at a state level. This is based on the current wolf management plan. We need to continue to follow the plan for at least 5 years while the USFWS monitors our progress. At a goal of 350 wolves we are 3 times the number as required by federal law for delisting. Depredation costs at 350 wolves in 2005 were about \$65,000 and were more socially tolerable. We can manage wolves in WI using public harvest with afforded protections as required by law at 350. He has seen written science papers and testimony suggesting raising goals and opening the wolf management plan. He would encourage the Board not to entertain this idea because this is what will open them up to another lawsuit. We are basing it on the current wolf management plan.

34. **Melissa Smith**, Madison, representing Stop the Wisconsin Wolf Hunt as Executive Director did not testify.
35. **Annette Olson**, Glenwood City, representing self. She along with her family are farmers in St. Croix County and have lost animals due to what they believe, wolves. Their farm is a small family owned business, the bottom line of their operation is significant. Every opportunity is examined where profit or loss may occur. Also, because their operation is small, the animals they raise are actually viewed as just a dollar sign. Some of them are viewed as pets. All of them are always viewed as investments that we must protect and they are out property that we are responsible for. It is difficult and potentially dangerous to walk upon a tortured carcass of a newborn calf with its mother still circling and nudging it, still trying to protect it. It is a scene that infuriates a farmer. Knowing that we cannot build fences that can keep wolves and other predators out has become a reality.
- Small farm operations such as hers have taken to buying, feeding, and carrying for another form of livestock for predator control. They place donkeys in every pasture that they own so that predators such as the wolf will be kept out or driven out before any damage can be done. Since she has used these animals for predator control, she has not lost an animal due to depredation.
- It is an additional expense they have to incur to raise livestock. Since the wolves have become nuisance animals to so many farmers in the state, they have been placed in a situation where they spend extra money and time to provide and care for additional animals. Time is also money. She asked the Board to follow the legislative intent of the 350 goal as was established with the WI Wolf Management Plan to help ensure farmers the ability to keep more of their profit. **(Handout)**
36. **Randy Jurewicz**, Madison, representing WI Chapter Wildlife Society. He is a retired wildlife biologist that worked for the DNR on the wolf management program for 31 years. Who thought that the 1999 Wolf Plan would be this misunderstood? The Wildlife Society is a national organization of professional wildlife biologists. Both the national and local Wisconsin chapter are totally in favor of a regulated harvest of animals, including wolves and more importantly, the needed control of wolves causing depredations.

They do not support this rule as presently written. The initial harvest of wild wolves in WI can best be described as experimental. The proposed harvest framework that Bill talked about this morning, has a number of uncertainties. The WI Chapter believes that harvesting at the maximum, 20%, within the two zones identified as the most suitable wolf habitat, is inappropriate given all of those uncertainties. Harvest zones 1 and 2 should have harvest quotas of only 10% or 35 wolves in zone one and 20 wolves in zone 2 for a new grand total of 156 wolves and not 201. 20% is too heavy. That kind of harvest at 10% is both a prudent and professional approach to this program. **(Handout)**

Mr. Kazmierski asked whether the 350 number that was decided on in 1999 was balanced between the biology and the social carrying capacity.

Mr. Jurewicz stated 350 was an estimate.

Mr. Kazmierski stated the social side has not really changed. It has gotten more vehement against more wolves due to increased depredation shown on the charts. He asked Mr. Jurewicz why he feels this number should be changed because scientifically you thought that number was sound in 1999.

Mr. Jurewicz stated there was a misperception that fewer wolves would equal fewer depredations. Depredating wolves need to be removed immediately by wildlife services and landowners. They have already killed 39 wolves in WI. There are 100 people out there that have permits to kill wolves today. Those people

are taking care of the problem wolves. WI did not have that in the past. Up until January 27, 2012 with wolves being on the federal list, WI did not have the ability to remove depredating wolves.

Mr. Kazmierski stated that is what the hunting season is supposed to do. Remove some wolves and minimize depredation. He has data from the Society's website that shows when removing depredating wolves, depredation dropped dramatically after the first season in Idaho. That was not their most recent season where they reduced the population by 50%. They state WI in there as showing the same results when we had our depredation tags a few years we had that opportunity. He did not know how you think more depredation.

Mr. Jurewicz stated because this will end up disrupting packs. Those individuals that get disrupted from the packs will be livestock killers rather than deer killers. People are going to take out the biggest and best deer killing wolves on those tags, leaving the pups and yearlings.

Mr. Kazmierski stated that according to Idaho, that does not seem to be true and there are no signs to support that at this point.

Mr. Jurewicz stated that we are not Idaho.

Dr. Thomas stated this means something to her if the Wildlife Society is coming out on something. She asked Mr. Jurewicz to clarify the process the Wildlife Society go through to come to this recommendation in reducing the quota in zones 1 and 2.

Mr. Jurewicz stated that the Wildlife Society has a nine item policy statement. Working within that nine items, the Wisconsin Chapter president Scott Hull, reviewed the draft statement and agreed that the harvest of 20% in the best habitat is too drastic this first year.

Dr. Thomas clarified that Mr. Jurewicz wrote the statement and that the Board reviewed it.

Mr. Jurewicz confirmed.

37. **Matt Dallman**, Minocqua, representing The Nature Conservancy (TNC) as Director of Conservation. This is a great success story for the DNR and their managing this apex species. For the first time hunt, TNC requests that the vast majority of wolves be harvested this year from secondary and tertiary ranges. The current structure proposes that potentially nearly 30% of the quota come from primary ranges. That is way high. By focusing on a harvest in secondary and tertiary habitats, it would reduce problems between wolves and humans and increase stability and the likelihood of maintaining a healthy wolf population in WI. They recommend a quota in primary ranges be set at 10% or lower to accomplish this goal. They would also like to see the DNR convene a group of experts in the coming year to scientifically reevaluate what a healthy and viable wolf population is to WI. Wisconsin's current management goal of 350 was set 13 years ago. We have learned a great deal since that time as far as carrying capacity and habitat requirements of this species. It is essential that the state targets to manage the species in an ecological and societal carrying capacity for WI. This information would be invaluable in setting harvest goals in the future. TNC would be happy to work with the DNR to convene and identify a group of experts to answer these important questions. The Conservancy advocates caution. Most agree the last thing we want is to return the wolf to the listed status. DNR is being overly aggressive in their proposal. Please consider lowering quotas this year, focusing hunting on secondary and tertiary areas, and convening a group of experts to reevaluate the wolf management plan.

Mr. Bruins stated Mr. Dallman started off by talking about how great a job the DNR has done in the past 30 some years in reestablishing the wolf population to the levels it is at today. Yet he came out with others being highly critical of the DNR plan to manage the wolf population in the state. Why would the DNR, who has done such a fabulous job of building the wolf population back in the state now want to deep six it. What would be the rationale for that?

Mr. Dallman stated we really need to reevaluate the plan that was written 13 years ago. If it was left for DNR staff and the experts within Wisconsin to determine what the proper number is, that would have been great. The legislative process had taken that out of their hands. That is the issue.

Mr. Hilgenberg asked Mr. Dallman whether he had a number in mind for wolves.

Mr. Dallman stated no. That is why there is a need to convene a group of experts. They would be happy to bring in experts they work with across the country, people from WI to sit down and look at updating 13 years of data to figure out what that number really is. What is the societal carrying capacity; what can the land handle. He does a lot of work with forestry. They do see issues.

Mr. Hilgenberg stated the Board has to put a number on the page which is now 201 as supported and recommended by the DNR. What is your number?

Mr. Dallman stated they do not have a number to set. If they take the core to 10% , we are looking at 160's.

Chair Clausen asked whether TNC would have an issue if we kept an overall goal of 201 but took the other wolves out of the other part of the state.

Mr. Dallman stated their goal issue is to maintain a core area and a core population and deal with problem animals. If you want to shift it, shift it to the place where problems are occurring and not in the core areas.

38. **Emily Matthews**, Kiel, representing self. She stated there is a reason there needs to be a bounty on wolves. They are dangerous animals. They threaten livestock. All the models underestimate population numbers. Out west, the problem is so bad that they ran out of money to reimburse. Ranchers first had to prove it was a wolf kill which was hard to do and were reimbursed at only 1/8 their actual loss. She would like to debunk the myth that wolves kill only sickly animals. Often they kill for the thrill. The losses incurred by ranchers indicate this. She questioned the boundaries. She lives in the lower, southern zone. Will these permits be assigned according to area where you do not want the wolves or are people just going to go where the wolves are? In general, she was in favor of the hunt but with a few exceptions. The objective should state "to reduce" and not to begin to reduce. She asked why the DNR wants a population above the population goal? Why is the quota set so low? In 2005, the Idaho Statesman reported that WI's wolf population was already 700 back then. The deer herd has seen reduction. People have given up hunting because they do not want to waste money going after non-existent deer. She agrees that baiting should not be used. She does not think dogs should be used and she certainly does not think that they should be clubbed. They should be shot. There are some people just think we should not keep livestock at all and we should all be vegans. **(Handout)**

39. **Barb Eisenberg**, Milwaukee, representing self. She urged the Board to vote no on the proposed rules. She came from Milwaukee today because it was an important issue to her and for many that were unable to attend. She also noted that there was a problem with the comment email address given in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Emails were rejected and did not go through. She did not know how many other citizens tried to submit comment and had their emails bounce back. They deserve the right to be heard. When citizens cannot be heard, we feel powerless.

She has a degree in Biological Aspects of Conversation and understands the importance of large predators in the ecosystem. She urged the Board to examine the science carefully and give the greatest weight to the research conducted here in WI and not Idaho because it is the most relevant data. She had listed facts to help her consider the rule. However, what it comes down to is not a question of whether we can manage wolves with hunting, trapping, hounding and baiting, but should we. She stated no, we should not. There is no biological reason for a wolf season. She has not seen any research showing that a wolf season has any effect on depredation, although the implied reason for the hunt is depredation, the DNR's stated reason is to reduce the statewide wolf population and provide hunting and trapping opportunities.

The 350 wolves mentioned in the management plan was a minimum number believed to be necessary to sustain the population without the threat of extinction and not a maximum. Estimates for wolf habitat in the plan are out of date. A 2007 GIS analysis concluded that the biological carrying capacity is higher than previous estimates. In addition, there are plenty of hunting and trapping opportunities in WI. Depredation is and always has been addressed through the removal of wolves found to be a threat to livestock and educating farmers and hunters in how to prevent depredation. Professor Treves, wolf management and public policy research, has developed a risk map that predicted 92% of future livestock depredations but it seems so far his research has not been used to shape wolf management policy. It is not a question of whether we can legally manage wolves but should we. She asked the Board to vote no and recommend the DNR set the number of permits at 100 or whatever number of permits have already been issued for depredating wolves. No more. **(Handout)**

Ms. Wiley asked Ms. Eisenberg whether she suggests the Board simply reject Act 169.

Ms. Eisenberg stated if it is within your power, yes.

Ms. Wiley stated it is not.

Ms. Eisenberg then stated for the Board to reject the rules.

Ms. Wiley stated they would be playing a very careful game if they did that.

Ms. Eisenberg asked whether it was possible for the Board to set the number at zero. It is a number.

Ms. Wiley stated it would be a dangerous thing to do.

40. **Shawna Hoess**, Fort Atkinson, representing self. She did not testify.
41. **George Meyer**, Madison, representing self. He stated we heard many today that want a more aggressive harvest bringing the population of wolves in the state of WI closer to the 350 wolves set in 1999 and some that want no wolves harvested. He spoke to the Board from the perspective of some of his former colleagues. Some that signed the 1999 Wolf Management Plan. There was a balance to the process and it took many years. Excellent scientists, Randy Jurewicz, and a great public involvement were engaged. He then read the most important sentence in the Wolf Management Plan from 1999: “The goal (350) seemed to be a reasonable compromise between population capacity, viability, and public acceptance.” He stated there is no question, that there are 800+ wolves in WI. They knew in 1999 there was more capacity. This came down to a compromise. That is not a bad word. In 1999, 62% of the public that was surveyed believed the goal should have been 350 or less. They recently collected signatures across northern Wisconsin from Burnett County to Forest County. That number has not changed. The unfortunate illegal harvest taking place gives you some other data point on what the social acceptance is. As Laurie Groskopf stated earlier, 18 counties accepted it. We need to have a balance of ecological, viability, and social. **(Handout)**

Chair Clausen asked Mr. Meyer on his and WI Wildlife Federation’s thoughts on giving the tribes a 6 mile buffer around the reservation.

Mr. Meyer stated WWF has no position. He heard testimony on the buffer from Chairman Wiggins and others. His response was they have no sovereign right to a 6 mile buffer. Their rights stop at the boundary line that the tribes have used. He believed the state has the ability to explore, not in the temporary rule, but in the permanent rule to look at that request. You would need to justify biologically those 6 miles protecting core population. Clearly, you need to allow depredation control. And before you do that as discussion for the permanent rule you should get the landowners in that 6 mile area to sit down and talk so you get acceptance. It may not fit every reservation. Some are scattered. It could be explored.

42. **Tim Van Deelen**, Waunakee, representing self. He is an associate professor of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin. His research specialties are the population management of wolves, black bears, and deer in WI. He testified in favor of having a wolf hunt in WI in front of both the Senate and Assembly Natural Resources Committees. His statement today was informational. He highlighted findings and recommendations from the recently released Deer Trustee’s Final report which have a direct bearing on the development of policies for managing wolves in Wisconsin. Their final report was released last week. In the context of deer management the Deer Trustees final Report found that “predators have not had a negative impact on statewide deer herd size or quality” (page 37) or on the demographics of deer living in the northern and central parts of WI where wolves are most numerous (page 37). They cite multiple lines of evidence for this finding including review of relevant scientific literature, lack of population level effects associated with increasing wolf numbers, and lack of effects observed in demographic parameters derived from the age structure of harvested deer.

Despite these findings, concern remains about the impact of predators on deer. The Final Report recommends continued research into the effects of predation on the deer population. Recommendations specific to management policy under discussion today includes a specific recommendation to revise WI’s wolf management plan including additional human dimensions research to quantify desires for wolf management that are more representative of WI’s citizens and a specific recommendation to implement a wolf management plan to limit/decrease wolf societal conflict.

On this last recommendation they include two very specific pieces of advice: 1) “The goal should be to limit/decrease wolf societal conflict rather than a goal to sustain some specific number of wolves (page 42); and 2) “We believe that the initial wolf population control program should be conservative”... “to reduce or prevent legal challenge” (page 42). He raised these issues because he thinks they reflect biological wisdom and because they suggest that the 2 imperatives of wolf management need to be population stability for the wolves and relief for livestock owners who are experiencing depredation. This was the substance of his testimony to the Senate and Assembly Natural Resources committees. Their modeling suggests that population stability depends on providing core areas. To him, 10% sounds better than the 20%. Similarly he testified that we should define success in wolf management in terms of our ability to address depredation problems rather than in terms of goal number that is difficult to justify. This is exactly what the Final Report recommends. Advocating for a goal of 350 reflects a misreading of the 1999 wolf plan and to the extent that it represents a judgment based on conservation science, that science is over a decade out of date. **(Handout)**

Chair Clausen stated to Mr. Van Deelan that he had talked about stability and that he had been involved in modeling. He asked Mr. Van Deelan to comment on the difficulty of maintaining stability in a given number population.

Mr. Van Deelan stated this would be elementary population harvest management. Anyone can read about this. It is outlined in the deer management manual the DNR has published. It is also in the 1984 DNR ecology deer management book, a manual most deer hunters have on their shelves. 350 was a stable number if the carrying capacity was 500. Stability has to do with the ability for the population to remain at a given size if you hold the quota constant. If you have a relatively high quota built into your carrying capacity, then mistakes you make are sort of self-correcting.

The key difference between the 1999 report and where we are today, is our understanding that the carrying capacity is dramatically higher. That is a very practical problem with DNR, that instability. It means that you have to correct yourself in each time step for each year. That then requires that you have very precise testaments of wolf numbers. If you are in the neighborhood of 350 – 400 individuals, this is a very shy and cryptic predator, which exists on the landscape in very sparse density. If you think the decision of deer estimates are hard to estimate, try estimating a sparse number. It is going to be difficult. It is going to be expensive. It will set up a similar argument on deer as to what the numbers will be. Thinking out of the box, the first goal to see if we can steer our wolf harvest towards areas of depredation are occurring and recognizing that harvesting the core of the wolf range, comes at an opportunity cost. You cannot apply the quota you are taking out of the core range in the middle of the national forest somewhere to areas where you going to have depredation concerns and that becomes more severe as you reduce the population size.

Mr. Bruins stated the concern is to maintain the core areas of the wolf. He questioned Mr. Van Deelan as to whether the wolf understand what this parameter is? If food disappears in that area, what happens to that core area?

Mr. Van Deelen stated that is a very hypothetical. You have probably three times as many deer on the landscape as what would be in the wolf population. Does the wolf understands this? The individual does not but the population does. Wolf packs are territorial. They tend to stay in a place rather than move. It is not as fluid as what you are asking.

Mr. Bruins stated it is somewhat fluid because they are going to find food where it is probably the easiest to find.

Mr. Van Deelen stated that would change on the order of tens of years and not year to year.

Mr. Kazmierski referenced Dr. Kroll in setting the wolf population at societal conflict level rather than a number. He agrees with that concept. Shooting at numbers is always a pain. We still have a societal conflict here. Would you recommend the Board set at a depredation level? You also stated that depredation does not include the ones we are paying for. It also includes wildlife depredation. How would you set a goal at where to keep the wolf population without a number?

Mr. Van Deelen stated his point is, it is much easier to track depredation than it is going to be tracking wolf numbers. If you are able to steer a harvest towards the agricultural areas and measure the decline in depredations, you are satisfying one of the primary goals of wolf management without having to come up with what is going to be a difficult population estimation problem. That is the point he is making and a point that Dr. Kroll and the committee members made.

Mr. Kazmierski stated Dr. Kroll went on to say that depredation study is important and establishing that in his report. Are you suggesting we have more of that depredation study going on especially in areas there is a high population?

Mr. Van Deelen stated he is talking mostly about depredations on livestock.

Mr. Kazmierski stated but the public is not. The public is talking about all depredation.

Mr. Van Deelen stated he understood that. To answer your question, how do you fund the depredation study? He can put more graduate students on it. He was happy that the Final Report was very enthusiastic about depredation studies, recommended expanding, and that sort of thing. However, research is expensive and the cost benefit analysis that the DNR has to do with a limited pot of research money. If DNR decides that more work, more detail, more study areas is important for research on predation on deer, he would be happy to work with them to do this. The context we were talking about has mostly to do with the depredations on livestock.

Mr. Kazmierski stated when we are trying to balance the social aspect, that is what he is looking at.

The social includes the hunting community and the agricultural community, and the people with their pet poodles. He has to satisfy all of those in coming up with a recommendation.

Chair Clausen stated Dr. Kroll also said that it did not appear to be impacting deer populations in the northern Part of WI.

Mr. Kazmierski stated that if you read the whole report, that was just one line.

43. **Chris McGeshick**, GLIFWC Board of Commissioners Vice-Chair, and **James Zorn**, GLIFWC Executive Administrator, representing Voigt Intertribal Task Force of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) (MOVED FROM 18th PLACE) (**Handouts**)

Chris McGeshick, GLIFWC Board of Commissioners Vice-Chair spoke in opposition to this rule. The tribes take seriously the management responsibilities that flow from these rights, and have steadfastly maintained their intent to be full participants with the state in managing the resources of the ceded territory, including the wolf. Their testimony includes that this rule represents a backlash against wolves. A punishment for the protection that wolves received under the ESA. For tribes, who believe that their fate is intricately tied to the wolf, this is particularly disturbing. The DNR's use of a population goal from the 1999 Wolf Management Plan is inappropriate. The DNR's explicit effort to reduce wolf populations is contrary to the Voigt Task Force's Management objectives. The harvest rate proposed in the rule pushes the envelope of allowable harvest and leaves little room for error. Depredation harvest was mishandled in the quota setting process used for the rule. The distribution of depredation harvest is not taken into account by the proposed quotas. The lack of zone restrictions creates enforcement issues and could lead to quota exceedances in some zones. The DNR also rejected the tribes' request for a six mile buffer around reservations.

For these reasons, the Voigt Intertribal Task Force urges the Board to reject Emergency Board Order WM-09-12(E) or at least 1) direct DNR staff to engage the Voigt Intertribal Task Force to develop a co-management framework related to wolves. This would include establishing a state/tribal wolf management committee with state and tribal co-chairs, responsible for making management recommendations to both the state and the tribes using a consensus approach; 2) Direct DNR staff to work with the tribes to develop a joint Wolf Management Plan to reflect current conditions, including a more appropriate population goal; and 3) Reduce the wolf quotas for this year's harvest, particularly in the core wolf zones.

Mr. McGeshick shared a story with the Board that is important to himself and to their culture and tradition regarding a healing circle ceremony which is essentially for the hurting and healing in the tribal community. He had invited DNR staff to attend this as well. For the ceremony he was provided one of those pebbles that carry a message of the tribal community, which is what they represent at GLIFWC. In the healing circle run or walk, essentially you walk from Mole Lake all the way up to Lake Michigan. You have time to resonate and think about what you want to say and what needs to be healed. To the tribal communities this is really important spiritually.

We cannot just say that this is the way things happen. We have to work together. It is a co-management aspect of our natural resources. There are a number of things to address today. DNR staff told him that they are uncertain as to what can impact the wolf population such as goals set at 350. There are a number of biological impacts. We talked about the science, we talked about biology. They have uncertainties and if you are not plugging in the right numbers, it is going to have an adverse effect. We are positive of that. From that uncertainty, he sees the magic number of 201 right now. Why not evaluate this uncertainty more?

The uncertainty of even coming here and speaking since this is legislation, it is law. Now you are approving the emergency rule. This is a process we go through all the time. But what happened with the legislature taking an action essentially restricted what the Board does. They took an agency, the DNR, and are limiting them in how they can biologically manage their resources. You are not making decisions for the state. The legislature did. Now you have to try to rectify that through the rule making process. One area that he is impartial to is the safety aspect. He recognizes there are a number of things that he wants to discuss. There are many people hunting deer during the 9 day gun deer season and many are out in the woods. Now you are going to allow buckshot. When it comes to working together, the tribes have a strong engagement when it comes to mining and wolves. It is something they view as very spiritual.

James Zorn, GLIFWC Executive Administrator, representing Voigt Intertribal Task Force of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). There are key points, as Chris McGeshick mentioned, that the Voigt Intertribal Task Force wants to reaffirm. As you know, this is a very difficult thing for the folks in his tribes to see. If anyone by now does not truly understand where wolves fit in to the Anishinaabe life way

and world view, then you have been sleeping. They do not need to belabor that. What has challenged them at GLIFWC is to figure out how to play a role in the decision that this Board must make in the recommendations that the DNR staff must make. It is a very difficult thing to do. He went back to a couple basics. Today started off with someone saying the state has a management goal of 350 wolves. That may be a true statement. The state thinks it has a management goal. We know from the tribes ceded territory treaty rights, that goal may not be legally applicable to tribes if in some way violates their rights or somehow serves to limit what the tribes have reserved under the treaty. He heard someone say that 350 was set by a list of four or five factors. He did not hear about tribal input. They suggest as well as others have suggested that this really needs to be revisited and anything out of the starting block so to speak on the 350, they suggest and might need to think about because of the unanswered question with respect to the Voigt Case and treaty rights. He said that it seems like there is only one aspect of the tribal treaty rights that is being considered here. The context of the mysterious 128 number that all of a sudden became 201 and so on. The idea of the tribes are entitled to harvest some wolves, there had to be this too.

But the other aspect of the tribal rights involves use of wolves as part of a living dynamic, balanced landscape. As you had heard Joe Rose say, as will ma'iingan (wolf), so will us. So the tribes feel they have in the treaty is the presence of the wolf on the landscape not the elimination of them. Not the claiming that a certain number to kill, the claiming of a number to maintain. As you know, the tribes are very reluctant to put numbers down. DNR has its challenges. He can communicate from the tribal perspective that the number of wolves on the landscape right now should be the number we are starting from. The 350 was there for some purpose. Actually in 1999, which was is in the last century. The tribes and the treaty really bargained for a balanced society here where they were brought in, a treaty of peace. No more war. You get the land. You get the timber. You get the mineral. But hey, we get to use what is out there in the way we have since the time of the morning. That right of use is not just for take but for the presence of wolves. And so the tribes also bargained for a balanced natural world when the wolf can play its role regarding sustainability to tribes in their community. The tribes are very concerned that going out to shoot here as being proposed, based upon the 350 goes too far because the state does not have authority.

One other point, he has been in this business for 25 years. He was around in 1985 with the first interim spear fishing agreement. Back then what the tribes faced, in his view, is what the state now is facing. Yet the state is now doing exactly the opposite of what the tribes were asked to do then and what the tribes actually did. When you have uncertainty, the magnitude for error is great. If you recall, right after the treaty rights were affirmed in 1983, the tribes came knocking on the state's door asking to exercise whether it is deer hunting, spear fishing, migratory bird or whatever. The state said, oh please, we do not know a whole bunch. We do not know what affect this will have. Let us go slow. Let us crawl before we walk. Let us see what we have that has taken years to figure things out. Right here now, it seems in light of the uncertainty amid questions of sciences and all that stuff, you really do not know. The tribes were asked in fact in courts to regulate against the worst case scenario when it comes to the walleye fishery.

The tribes ask the state right now to do the same thing with ma'iingan (wolf). How we manage against the worst case scenario, that perfect storm, when something hits perhaps too much depredation focused right there in relation to some other hunting or trapping. How can we control that? Especially in areas that are near and dear to the tribes. Numbers? Do not ask the tribes to ask how many brothers they sanction to be killed. Going down to 350 is too many. At least this Board is exercising its responsibilities here in response of it, sounds redundant under the Voigt case, consistent with the stewardship, and the mandate that you have here under WI law and the WI Constitution. Thank you for the comfort of speaking honestly, frankly, and without fear that what the tribes have asked them to say would be misunderstood or misplaced.

Chair Clausen thanked everyone for their patience, passion, and their participation.

Mr. Cole MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley.

Mr. Cole asked DNR staff on the issue of depredation and focusing on areas of depredation, what latitude does the Board have to change those quotas in those areas? Seemingly, permits for depredation are enough according to some of the folks who had spoken today.

Mr. Vander Zouwen responded that if you are only concerned about depredation obviously we have ways to deal with that condition to the harvest. We are targeting permits for landowners that are having problems.

Mr. Cole stated that seemingly it is not enough that there should be a hunt in those areas.

Mr. Vander Zouwen stated that is a belief of a lot of people that we need to be more responsive than just dealing

on those lands and to try to actually reduce the population. So we did recommend quotas that would reduce the population more in these areas that we think have the potential for more conflict because they are more agricultural. **Mr. Cole** asked whether the depredation zone is zone 5?

Mr. Vander Zouwen stated zone 3 and zone 4 are areas that have more areas of agriculture. Obviously zone 6, which is the remainder of the state, is primarily agricultural and has a lot more people. They are requiring a lot higher quota as a percentage of the population. Trying to bolster the local depredation permits to landowners and through population reduction where we have more agriculture. That is the whole idea behind the zones and trying to protect more of the wolves in the northern part of the state that people have been calling for more protection. **Mr. Cole** asked that in the areas of high amounts of depredation, whether the DNR continues to get complaints about depredation.

Mr. Vander Zouwen stated they are just getting this authority now and are just getting the permits out there. They have taken 39 to wildlife services and landowners so far. Not a very high number but has certainly helped the people that have taken them. He was not sure he understood the question.

Mr. Cole would like to focus a higher number in those areas. Zone 4 has 10.

Mr. Vander Zouwen said they did initially and what they took to the public recommend the far northwest where we have the biggest problems along Lake Superior in Bayfield Peninsula. They took out a map that had something called zone 1a in a very small, not so easy to put on recognizable boundaries, hard to know if you are in or out, but where the problems were. They heard feedback that it is going to be hard for people to know where they are, are they really going to apply for that zone because it is a small area to hunt on, and that it is primarily agriculture land. Are you really going to accomplish what your objectives are? And might people actually be hunting in the nearby county and federal land and registering it as having been taken there because the permit levels are much higher nearby this core area by federal and county lands? With all that input, they decided to simplify it and deal locally with the depredation permits and deal in more of a broad scale with these larger zones that we are proposing.

Mr. Cole asked whether he is missing something relative to where an overlay map is that shows where those permits have been taken out and the complaints overlaid on top of it is.

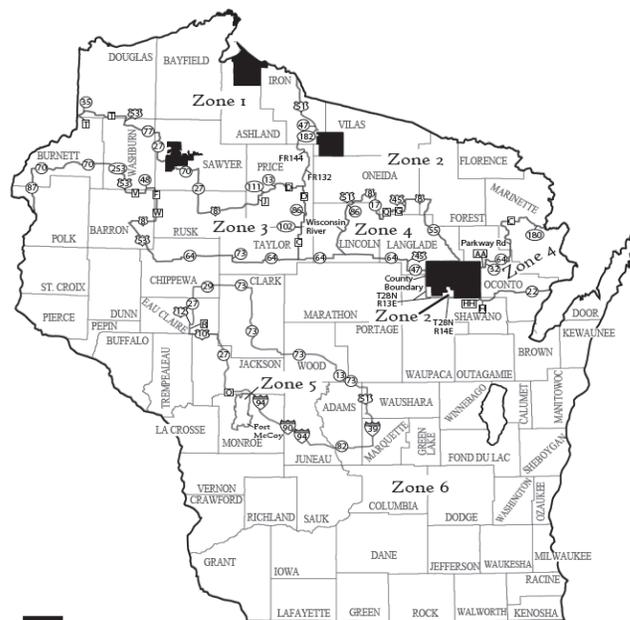
Mr. Vander Zouwen stated the DNR does not have a map to present to the Board. The best he can do is say which zones.

Mr. Cole modified his question asking for the number of permits.

Mr. Vander Zouwen stated primarily because they have had so much damage at the Fornengo farm which is in zone 3, he believed, they removed around 15 wolves. A large percentage or a little less than half were taken right there. A fair number in the far North West part of the state were removed which would be zone 1 and a scattering elsewhere. This would be a simple representation.

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED, seconded by Dr. Thomas, to amend Board Order WM-09-12(E) to add the Stockbridge-Munsee lands to the non-quota areas where wolf harvest is not allowed.

1. In SECTION 27 amending NR 10.145(30(f), at the end of the second sentence, add “Stockbridge-Munsee wolf zone”.
2. In SECTION 29 creating NR 10.295, replace the map with this map:



Zero Quota Areas
Wolf harvest is not allowed within the exterior boundaries of the Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Menominee, and Red Cliff reservations nor within the designated Stockbridge-Munsee wolf zone except with DNR depredation permits.

Mr. Hilgenberg stated that staff has reviewed this amendment.

The motion passed 7 - 0 on a roll call vote.

William Bruins – yes	Preston Cole – yes
Christine Thomas – yes	Jane Wiley – yes
Terry Hilgenberg – yes	David Clausen – yes
Greg Kazmierski – yes	

Ms. Wiley MOVED, seconded by Dr. Clausen to amend Board Order WM-09-12(E) to require the department to consider establishing additional areas where wolf harvest by hunting and trapping are not allowed if a tribe makes that request.

- 1. In SECTION 27 amending NR 10.145(3)(f), create a third sentence which reads, “The department shall consider requests from any tribe for inclusion in additional zero quota, no-harvest zones by rule.”**
- 2. In SECTION 29 creating NR 10.295, add a sentence following the introductory material which reads, “The department shall consider requests from any tribe for inclusion in additional zero quota, no-harvest zones by rule.”**

Mr. Bruins stated he was uncomfortable with the amendment. He asked whether any of this proposal affected zone 6, in the unsuitable range.

Ms. Wiley stated no because there are no tribes there.

Mr. Bruins asked whether any of this proposal could possibly impact predation issues for livestock farmers.

Ms. Wiley stated no because already within the reservations as she understands it, you can in fact if you have a non-tribal piece of land within a reservation and there is depredation, you can apply for a depredation permit. She asked the DNR attorney if that is correct.

Tim Andryk, DNR attorney, stated yes you can in no harvest zones.

Chair Clausen asked Mr. Andryk to read the amendment for all to hear.

Mr. Andryk read the amendment. The option to consider depredation permits are still included in the no harvest zones that are included. In those no harvest zones in the rule, depredation permits are still lawful. You can use them. No harvest zones apply to hunting and trapping but not depredation permits.

Mr. Bruins stated that this is a more relative topic for the permanent rule. He really does not see a need to include this in the emergency ruling that we are dealing with that is on the table now.

Mr. Hilgenberg asked for clarification on the motion as to whether this is strictly ceded territories and reservations here or any place they want.

Ms. Wiley stated just like the Stockbridge. They are not part of the ceded territory.

Mr. Hilgenberg questioned whether it is contiguous to their area.

Ms. Wiley stated not really. Menominee’s are not part of the ceded territory.

Mr. Andryk stated the way the amendment was written applied to outside and inside the ceded territory. It applied to all tribes and not just the Chippewa.

Mr. Cole stated “shall consider.”

Ms. Wiley stated the Stockbridge-Munsee reservation is not part of the ceded territory.

Mr. Andryk stated he believed it is outside.

Mr. Kazmierski questioned whether the amendment only applies to the emergency rule.

Mr. Andryk stated that is correct.

Mr. Kazmierski stated which we are going to be voting on and will not have time in between for tribal consultation. It might set some precedent for the permanent rule.

Mr. Andryk stated that is up to the Board. He did not think it ties your hands with the permanent rule.

Secretary Stepp asked Kurt Thiede, Land Administrator to address the consultation so the Board is aware of their efforts.

Mr. Thiede stated as he recalled, there was a formal consultation including Secretary Stepp, Executive Assistant Scott Gunderson. There was also a trip up to LCO for another consultation opportunity with the Voigt Task Force. In addition, the Voigt Task Force had requested the DNR also reach out to the other tribes including the Chippewa tribes. They held individual meetings with leadership from Menominee, Stockbridge, and he believed John Gozdziński, Northern Regional Director, had an opportunity to meet with certain members of the Chippewa tribes.

They also had the annual fall tribes meeting that took place up in Red Cliff. They also had opportunities to address the wolf issue with representatives from individual tribes as well.

Chair Clausen asked whether this amendment applies only to actual reservation or treaty trust lands.

Mr. Andryk stated the way it is written it can apply to any closed area that the tribes have proposed and that we shall consider their proposal.

Chair Clausen clarified whether or not they own the property.

Mr. Andryk stated yes.

Ms. Wiley questioned whether the DNR met with the Forest County Potawatomi.

Chair Clausen stated they are having an extended discussion and the roll call was already started.

The motion failed 3 - 4 on a roll call vote.

William Bruins – no	Preston Cole – yes
Christine Thomas – yes	Jane Wiley – yes
Terry Hilgenberg – no	David Clausen – no
Greg Kazmierski – no	

Chair Clausen stated this is a temporary rule and he was not exactly sure of the ramifications.

Chair Clausen stated there has been some discussion about changing quotas around and lowering goals and quotas. Is there any interest on the Board in pursuing that?

Mr. Bruins stated the DNR has done a yeomen's job with striking the right balance of quotas on this first hunt. Obviously, we are going to learn things but he thinks as has been presented, it is a very good start to something that could be a very valuable tool to resource management in this state.

Mr. Kazmierski complimented the DNR on trying to find what seems to be an impossible balance. To the audience here on both sides of issue, it is important for people to understand that we should be here with big smiles on faces that this has been a huge success. A big part of that success has been those evil, barbaric sportsmen. He distributed data he requested from Kurt Thiede on exactly how the wolf program was funded since the beginning of the program. It shows that federal Pitman-Robertson expenses at \$1.952 million dollars, 67% of the total wolf recovery management program in the state. These are sportsmen willing to step up and once again serve as the North American model. This is another success story. We should defer to our science team at DNR and include the rule as written.

Dr. Thomas stated there have been several aspects of this that have been controversial over the last few weeks in emails and discussions. Because clearly it is the first time we are doing this, she would like to insure that the most possible data gets collected.

Dr. Thomas MOVED, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg to amend Board Order WM-09-12(E) to include language that the department shall come back to the Board on September 26, 2012 with a plan for data gathering and that the data must answer many of the unknown questions prior to the permanent rule. Data also must be gathered annually from the wolf harvesting season. This information must be utilized in establishing recommendations for subsequent seasons. Information gathered shall include, but is not limited to, whether or not there has been physical contact between dogs and wolves, and information necessary to use the criteria in subs. (1m) and (1u) to establish harvest quotas and the number of licenses to issue.

Mr. Cole requested that the department come back to the Board at the September 26, 2012 meeting with a timeline for updating the Wolf Management Plan and that the new wolf plan must be proposed in tandem with the permanent rule.

Secretary Stepp stated that this has been an amount of heavy lifting done so far, first of all, to address Dr. Thomas' concerns about data gathering. She would love to hear input from all of you from constituents around the state that you heard from, from your regions and the areas they are most concerned about as well. She also extends the offer to the public who has been very good about reaching out to her during this process to find out what the areas are of most concern. The DNR will do what it takes in order to instill faith in the public in the state of WI that we can have

a responsibly managed wolf herd. She knows the DNR can do that well because we do a lot of things well in the DNR. She is very committed to making sure that we can do that. Having said that, when they talk about the Wolf Management Plan being opened up and redone, she wants to have Kurt Thiede address some of the nuances to that. **Mr. Thiede** stated his first thought was they had been asked to come back in September with a timeline and recommendation for the review of the Wolf Management Plan. So far, all of their efforts have been on this rule at this moment. They understand there is more work to do, obviously dependent on the Boards' action today with the hunt underway and the application process on a very short order. If it would please the Board, DNR can commit at least at this point to be ready in September with our recommendation but he thought at this point cannot give a firm yes that they will be ready by a certain date.

Mr. Hilgenberg questioned in speaking to the amendment, when the board will be looking at the permanent rule. **Chair Clausen** asked Mr. Andryk for the timeline on this.

Mr. Andryk stated Act 169 requires the DNR to have a permanent rule ready to review by Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse within eight months of the act going into effect which means at the December 12, 2012 Board Meeting. The Board has to approve that rule proposal for the DNR to send over to Legislative Council which is generally the request to go to hearing. Then after that, there is no timeline. Then we can go to hearing, have consultation with the tribes, make changes to the proposal, and focus on the economic impact of that proposal. The Board can adopt a rule anytime thereafter. Basically, the emergency rule you are acting on today would be in effect until the permanent rule comes into effect. The only timeline that is required in Act 169 is to get that rule proposal to the December Board meeting for the Boards' approval and to send the proposal to Legislative Council Clearinghouse and to the public to solicit additional comments.

Chair Clausen asked whether this will not be finished before the data comes in from the first year harvest.

Mr. Andryk stated the initial proposal that you will see in December, yes. They will not have all the data in because the season will still be ongoing. By the time the Board acts on adopting it, all of the season data will be in and the Board will be able to consider all the information the DNR has gathered before adopting the permanent rule.

Mr. Hilgenberg thought that the Board would want the DNR to have the updated plan for the permanent rule. The scenario being, in order for the DNR to have all the stuff ready for the next season, that has to be done by May or June or some date like that. If we do not have a permanent rule in effect next year at this time, then we operate under the emergency rule.

Mr. Andryk stated yes, with the exception of the quotas. Quotas are a separate item. The DNR's proposal is to have the quotas brought before the Board on an annual basis.

Chair Clausen asked Mr. Andryk whether two separate motions are needed to approve the quota and the rule or all at once.

Mr. Andryk stated the Board can do this all at once if you wish.

Chair Clausen clarified that the quota applies only to this season.

Mr. Andryk stated that was correct.

Mr. Kazmierski noted that Mr. Andryk was required to sit on the sidelines for some of the lawsuit.

Chair Clausen stated that we have a motion and a second on the floor here.

Mr. Kazmierski stated this is for part of the discussion and that this is about opening the plan and coordinating the rule. He asked whether it wise for the Board to open the plan from a federal perspective.

Mr. Andryk stated it depends upon how we do it, how comprehensive they do it, and whether it is science based. It is one of those things that he believes they will have to be careful with. You heard testimony today that the delisting was based on our plan and what was in there. Moving forward to update that plan, DNR has to be careful and try to minimize the risk to the season in the future that occur that is going to have to be a cautious approach.

Mr. Kazmierski questioned whether this would need to be tracked on the same timeline.

Mr. Andryk stated not necessarily in his opinion.

Dr. Thomas reiterated her motion that maximum data gathering happen before we attack the permanent rule.

Mr. Cole stated at the end of December to go out to the public and that process usually takes 4 – 6 months or maybe one year.

Mr. Andryk stated it can vary within those timelines.

Ms. Wiley stated in the meantime the emergency rule would be in effect except for the quotas.

Mr. Andryk agreed.

The motion passed 7 - 0 on a roll call vote.

William Bruins – yes	Preston Cole – yes
Christine Thomas – yes	Jane Wiley – yes
Terry Hilgenberg – yes	David Clausen – yes
Greg Kazmierski – yes	

Dr. Clausen asked the Board whether there was any interest to take up the 6 mile buffer around reservations.

Mr. Cole offered that the management plan should take a look at that.

Dr. Clausen asked about inclusion in the permanent rule.

Mr. Cole stated as Kurt Thiede said, there is a lot of work to be done. He worries about private property issues with a 6 mile buffer that seems like a lot without hearing the impacts of those property owners. He thought they should ascertain their sentiment around a 6 mile buffer and wait to hear back from them. If they like it, he loves it.

Dr. Thomas then spoke on one of the controversies swirling around with potential for animals being clubbed to death. She is assuming the potential for that to happen would be for an animal that was not dead in the trap.

Dr. Thomas MOVED, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg to amend Board Order WM-09-12(E) to require any wolf found not dead in the trap be humanely dispatched by shooting.

[This is in a trapping-only section, preceded by the introductory material, “No person may . . .”]

Section 25. NR 10.13(1)(b)18. is created to read:

NR 10.13(1)(b)18. ‘Killing captured wolves.’ Kill any wolf except by the use of a firearm. A person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law, who has caught a wolf by trapping, may authorize a person who is accompanying them and who is allowed to possess and use a firearm to kill the trapped wolf with a firearm.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Clausen commented on reopening the wolf plan. As was said today, the wolf plan was the reason Wisconsin got the delisting. If there is reluctance to reopen the wolf plan, which the Board has mandated should happen every five years, look at what was actually in the wolf plan that we received the delisting from. We have departed a long way from the plan in that it calls for no public harvest for a considerable period of time and it called for no compensation for dogs used for hunting. There were several things in there that were absolutely ignored. Fish and Wildlife did not say that this a deal breaker and we are going to relist you. I do not think we should have any fear about reopening this plan, especially when we are trying to bring more knowledge in.

Mr. Cole reminded the Board that there was an update to that plan in 2006-2007.

Ms. Wiley stated she had shared this earlier with Secretary Stepp, which was for her to use her considerable powers of persuasion as well as the strength of her position to convince the Legislators not use their collective heavy hand to enact laws rather than to go through the usual administrative rule process.

We have seen with Act 169 what happens when the professional DNR staff and the Natural Resources Board are excluded from the process.

And if the Legislature ignores you, Secretary Stepp, I hope you can appeal to the Governor not to sign environmental laws forwarded to him. We need public hearings beyond the Natural Resources Committees of the Assembly and Senate. We need our professional staff’s input, we need the Congress, we need environmental and conservation organizations and interested citizens input. And we need the Natural Resources Board to review the process and set the policy. We need total transparency for Wisconsin citizens to trust and value what DNR does and that will not happen if we are continually forced down this awkward and unreasonable path (ovation).

Mr. Hilgenberg thanked staff for all the work done. This has been a very hostile issue on both sides. It is very unfortunate but he personally believes they were very professional, very straightforward, and tried to be very accommodating in how they dealt with this issue. He commended staff for a job well done.

Secretary Stepp thanked the Board. She understands the extraordinary amount of reading that you have all done, public contact, and comment that you have reviewed. She continues to be impressed by this Board with how committed you are to the resource management of Wisconsin and how helpful you have been to her in making sure we are garnering our workforces in a direction and ways of making sure it upholds how you see the department should be going. The work that the men and women of WI DNR do under incredible scrutiny and there is always someone that is unhappy with it. She gave her personal and professional thanks to staff for their committed, spirited passion for Wisconsin. She then personally thanked the members of the public. There is nothing more inspiring for those of us in government to be able to interact with people who passionately care about any issue, no matter what side of the issue you are on. We look forward to your partnership as we look forward to managing the wolf population and all things we do at the DNR.

Mr. Cole called the question.

The original motion as amended passed 7 - 0 on a roll call vote.

William Bruins – yes	Preston Cole – yes
Christine Thomas – yes	Jane Wiley – yes
Terry Hilgenberg – yes	David Clausen – yes
Greg Kazmierski – yes	

Mr. Cole MOVED, seconded by Mr. Bruins to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

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