Form 1100-001
(R 2/11)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 8.B.2

SUBJECT: Department and Conservation Congress implementation of Act 21 and the Spring Hearings/ WCC County meeting and the rule making process

FOR: OCTOBER 2011 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE: Rob Bohmann, WCC Chair and Scott Gunderson, DNR Executive Assistant

SUMMARY:

The passage and implementation of Act 21 has made significant changes to the rule making timeline. These changes to the rule making process timeline will impact both the traditional DNR Spring Rules Hearing and, by association, the WCC Annual County Meetings that are held jointly.

Department staff and the WCC have worked collaboratively to develop a plan for implementing Act 21 and how the new process will affect the annual DNR and WCC joint meeting. The rule making process is now a 2-year process, so the traditional annual rule hearing is no longer conducive to the process. Rule proposals will now only be presented in odd-numbered years when there can be legislative committee review of the rule proposals.

The Congress determined that for 2012 there will be an annual meeting in each county, similar to the traditional Spring Hearings, however, all of the questions including those from the department will be advisory. In addition, there will be a town-hall format component to the meeting to get input from the public on the Governor's charge to the Congress for regulation simplification and to discuss other issues such as recruitment and retention of hunters/anglers/trappers and the Youth Conservation Congress.

The Congress will also continue to have their annual convention and use that time with the delegates to educate them on Act 21and important internal procedures including breakout sessions with study committees and DNR liaisons. The Congress will encourage participation and collaboration by other outdoor user groups and work to continue to further develop the format for future county meetings in even-numbered years.

RECOMMENDATION: Informational item only; no action needed.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No	☑	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☑	Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☑	Background Memo	Yes	☐	Attached

APPROVED:

Tim Andryk — Bureau Director, Tim Andryk — Date 09/19/2011

Administrator, N/A — Date

Matt Mooney — Secretary, Cathy Stepp — Date 10/5/11

cc: NRB Liaison
DNR Rules Coordinator
Tom Hauge, WM/6
Mike Staggs, FH/4
Randy Stark, LE/8
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WCC Executive Committee (3 copies)
Kari Lee-Zimmermann, LS/8