

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Developing a 10 year Fisheries and Wildlife Management Plan.

FOR: February 2013 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator; Ken Johnson, Water Division Administrator, and Tim Lawhern, Enforcement and Science Division Administrator

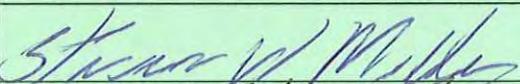
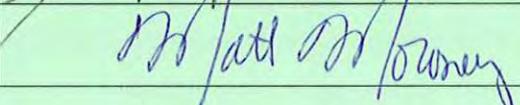
SUMMARY:

The Department is required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare long range plans for fish and wildlife management activities that receive federal aid. The Department is planning to initiate the process to update the existing fish and wildlife plan as required beginning in the spring of 2013. Department staff will describe for the Board: the need for the plan; the proposed process to be used; the proposed process for significant public involvement in developing the plan; and the planning timeline. The updated plan will require NRB approval before being officially submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service by June 1, 2015.

RECOMMENDATION: For Information only

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

- Background memo
- Plan development outline
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Approved by	Signature	Date
Steven W. Miller, Bureau Director		2-13-13
Kurt Thiede, Administrator		2-13-13
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		2/14/13

Plan for Fish and Wildlife 10 Year Planning Outreach Effort

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to outline how the Department will engage the public in providing input on the priorities for the 10 year strategic planning effort for fish and wildlife programs.

This Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Plan will determine the priorities on which the Department will utilize hunting, fishing, trapping license dollars, Pittman-Robertson funds, and Sports Fish Restoration funds. The plan will also complement the WI Wildlife Action Plan which directs expenditures of the State Wildlife Grants.

We have merged the planning timeline for both plans which now need to be completed and sent to USFWS by June 1, 2015.

STAKEHOLDERS

Governor's Hunting Heritage Council
Statewide conservation organizations
Hunters
Anglers
Trappers
Tribes and GLIFWC
Bikers
Birders
Paddlers
Boaters
WI Association of Lakes
Hikers
ATV'ers
AG community
Forestry
Woodland Land Owners
Outdoor Industry Representatives

STRATEGIES:

In developing this plan, the following strategies are proposed in the development of the plan:

1. Since fish and wildlife are held in trust for the public, our goal is to devise a process that provides opportunity for a diverse spectrum of the public to provide input through multiple venues. To this end, we propose establishing a diverse advisory group consisting of a broad array of stakeholders to provide advice on

- outreach and issue identification. For example, these insights could inform survey tool development and distribution plans.
2. We propose getting local input at the regional level.
 3. We propose getting input from statewide stakeholder organizations.
 4. We propose using technology to gather input from the public through on-line surveys.
 5. We propose convening the advisory group in the spring of 2013 to develop a consensus approach, and begin the outreach process beginning in January 2014.

TACTICS AND ACTIVITIES:

TACTIC: Establish a statewide advisory group during the spring of 2013 and develop a consensus on appropriate tactics, activities, timelines, and participants.

Activity: Identify key stakeholders to participate in core advisory group

Activity: Hold 3-4 facilitated meetings during spring - summer 2013

Activity: Develop consensus plan for collecting public input

{Note the following tactics and activities are proposed for consideration by the advisory group and will be refined following discussion with the group}

TACTIC: Obtain Legislative Input

Activity: Contact Chairman of Assembly and Senate Committees and seek joint public hearing to gather input.

Activity: Contact minority leaders in Senate and Assembly for input and participation.

Activity: Participate in public hearing.

TACTIC: Establish listening and input sessions in each of the DNR regions in the state.

Activity: Determine locations of meetings

Activity: Develop a presentation and methodology that can be used at meetings.

Activity: Train a team of staff to hold the meetings

Activity: Schedule staff to attend.

Activity: Market the sessions in local communities

Activity: Conduct meetings

TACTIC: Reach out to statewide stakeholder organizations and arrange to attend their statewide meetings to present information and solicit input.

Activity: Identify the statewide stakeholder groups.

Activity: Identify when statewide meetings will be held.

Activity: Obtain time on their agenda.

Activity: Schedule staff to attend

Activity: Attend meetings

TACTIC: Intentionally reach out to culturally diverse communities and engage them in soliciting input on the plan (Native Americans, Hmong, Hispanic, African American, etc).

Activity: Identify culturally diverse groups.

Activity: Determine a venue to engage the group.

Activity: Develop culturally appropriate materials

Activity: Identify culturally diverse staff to gather input.

Activity: Schedule input sessions.

TACTIC: Utilize the internet to solicit input through a web based survey that can be accessed and widely distributed across Wisconsin.

Activity: Develop an on-line survey

Activity: Develop a distribution plan

Activity: Launch survey and interpret results

Timeline:

December , 2012	Fish and Wildlife Team adopts planning strategy
February/March 2013	Informational presentation to Natural Resources Board
April, 2013	Invitations to advisory group members
April/May 2013	Meetings of advisory group
May, 2013	Fish and Wildlife Team develops final implementation plan
June-August, 2013	Prepare for outreach activities
Sept, 2013-March 2014	Outreach activities
April, 2014-June, 2014	Fish and Wildlife Team integrates public input, prepares draft plan
July 2014-September, 2014	Appropriate review of draft – including another round of public review if necessary
January, 2015	Final plan presented to Natural Resources Board
February, 2015	Plan submitted to USFWS for review
June, 2015	Final plan due.