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NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

BRIEF OF ACTION

The regular meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 in Room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. for action on items 1-3 and 6-7. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

1.A. Calling the roll

William Bruins – present Gary Zimmer – present
Christine Thomas – present Jane Wiley – present
Terry Hilgenberg – present Preston Cole – present
Greg Kazmierski – present

1.B. Approval of agenda for January 22, 2014

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval of the January 22, 2014 agenda, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

1.C. Approval of Brief of Action from December 10-11, 2013

Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval of the December 10-11, 2013 Brief of Action, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Ratification of Acts of the Department Secretary

2.A. Real Estate Transactions

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski of the Real Estate Transactions. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Action Items

3.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement

3.A.1. Request adoption of Board Order AM-19-13, proposed rules affecting chapter NR 446 related to the control of mercury emitted by coal-fired electric generating units (PowerPoint)

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Zimmer of the department's recommendations.

Discussion followed on possible CO2 emission standards that may be imposed by the US EPA and whether Wisconsin has an input on its potential implementation.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.A.2. Request adoption of Board Order AM-21-12, proposed rules affecting chs. NR 400, 405, 408, and 410 related to consistency with federal major source permit review requirements and clean-up of rules related to the former indirect source permit program (PowerPoint)

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED approval, seconded by Ms. Wiley of the department's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife
3.B.1. Request adoption of Board Order FR-20-12, proposed rules affecting NR 45.045(2) (a), (b), (d), and (e) relating to decreasing the distance from which firewood may be brought onto state lands from 25 to 10 miles and allowing wood from out of state to enter state lands if originating within 10 miles (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on the out-of-state wood regulation and whether neighboring states also have reduced the distance allowed to move firewood.

Public Appearances:

1. Harold Norslien, Black Earth, representing self and Norske Woodworks. He requested the Board decrease the distance to zero from which firewood may be brought onto state lands and that only certified wood be allowed in state parks. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on certified wood, whether the 10 mile restriction is enforceable, whether all the wood sold at Kwik Trip is treated, the advantages of certified/treated wood, and the process for certifying firewood.

Ms. Wiley stated that there is no real regulation in the sale or disposal of fallen wood in our state parks and in most cases it is left to rot. She asked that the Parks and Forestry staff bring folks to the table and then decide how to best use the fallen wood.

Discussion followed as to when, if at all, only certified wood would be allowed in state parks and forests, whether zero movement should be regulated for all private and public campgrounds in Wisconsin, whether only certified wood should be moved, and concerns in allowing any movement.

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski of the department's recommendations. The motion carried on a voice vote of 5 – 2. Mr. Bruins and Mr. Cole voted against.

3.B.2. Request approval of bear harvest quotas for the 2014 season via Live Meeting (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on the age structure and whether the ages of harvested bears is staying the same in the different zones.

Dr. Thomas requested that department staff have a conversation with Dr. Ginnett at the UW-Stevens Point regarding the University's bear study in the Clam Lake area. She stated that for the last few years they have not been able to keep pregnant females in their study as they are being harvested.

Dave MacFarland, Carnivore Specialist, indicated he is in communication with Dr. Ginnett.

Discussion followed on what zones experience the worst bear damage and what the department is doing to address the problem, whether the herd is in balance within the units where the department is moving towards stabilizing, and whether the department has considered the use of public and private land tags for bear management.

Public Appearances:

1. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair. He spoke in support of both the proposed quotas and permit levels for the 2014 season. **(Handout)**
2. **Al Lobner**, Milladore, representing Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, was not in attendance – no testimony was given.

Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg of the department's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.3. Request approval of Wildlife Management's 2014 spring meeting agenda of advisory questions

Public Appearances:

1. **Al Lobner**, Milladore, representing Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, was not in attendance – no testimony was given.

Dr. Thomas MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Bruins of the department's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

3.B.4. Request approval of Fisheries Management's 2014 spring meeting agenda of advisory questions (PowerPoint)

Mr. Zimmer MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski of the department's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.5. Congress Matters: Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2014 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions (Handout)
INFORMATIONAL ONLY – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- 3.B.6. Request approval of department recommendation to issue a Stewardship grant that will prohibit at least two (2) nature-based outdoor activities (NBOA) on non-department land: City of Merrill, Lincoln County

Mr. Bruins MOVED approval,

Public Appearances:

- 1. Dan Wendorf**, Merrill, representing City of Merrill as Parks & Recreation Director. He spoke in support of the department's recommendations.

seconded by Mr. Kazmierski of the department's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.B.7. ~~Request approval of department recommendation to issue a Stewardship grant that will prohibit at least one nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) on non-department land: City of Racine, Racine County~~ **DELETED**
- 3.B.8. Request adoption of Emergency Board Order WM-24-13(E) related to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee's Report (PowerPoint, Handouts, and Dr. Kroll video)

Eric Lobner, Southern Region Wildlife Management Supervisor, recommended the Board approve the corrected Board Order along with the following amendments:

Analysis

This amendment makes a number of modifications to Board order WM-24-13(E) which are either remedial, clarifying in nature, or which correct oversights in rule drafting.

This board order makes the archery deer hunting season at three state parks consistent with state park archery hunting opportunities at other state parks. This amendment restores an October 15 archery season opener at Blue Mound, Governor Dodge, and Tower Hill state parks which had been in effect beginning when a chronic wasting disease eradication zone was first established and continuing through current rules where they are located in the chronic wasting disease management zone.

The proposed rules do not intentionally address hunting hours for any species but, because cross references are modified, the rule would prohibit hunting of species for which there are no hunting hours restrictions in the southern farmland zone during a firearm deer season. The amendment essentially maintains current rules in most of the southern farmland zone, an area which includes the entire current CWD management zone. Under current rules and this amendment, hunting for species such as raccoons is allowed at night during any firearm season in the CWD management zone, now a part of the southern farmland, but not during the 9-day season in other areas of the state.

The board order establishes a bonus buck tag authorizing the harvest of one additional buck during a season if a hunter first harvests an antlerless deer. The order establishes that the bonus buck regulations are an option that the department may provide in the deer hunting season framework. The amendment clarifies when bonus buck could be a deer season feature, including upon recommendation of a county's deer management advisory committee and publication of an order of the secretary in the official state newspaper.

The order does not identify on the deer management unit map a non-quota area for the federally owned lands that are part of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The unit is established under the proposal in the season table. The amendment shows the unit on the map and clarifies, consistent with current rules, that federal lands which are not islands but on the mainland portion of Bayfield County are part of the Bayfield County management unit.

The order incorrectly shows Menominee County as being in the central farmland zone. The amendment shows it as part of the northern forest zone.

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1. In SECTION 17, amend NR 10.01 (3) (em) 4. b. in the following way:

10.01 (3) (em) <i>Archery deer season</i>		
b. Big Bay state park, <u>Blue Mound,</u> <u>Governor Dodge, and</u> <u>Tower Hill state</u> <u>parks.</u>	Beginning on Oct. 15 and continuing for the remainder of the archery deer season described in subd. 1.	One buck deer with an unfilled archery buck deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer as authorized by antlerless permits or tags issued under s. NR 10.104.

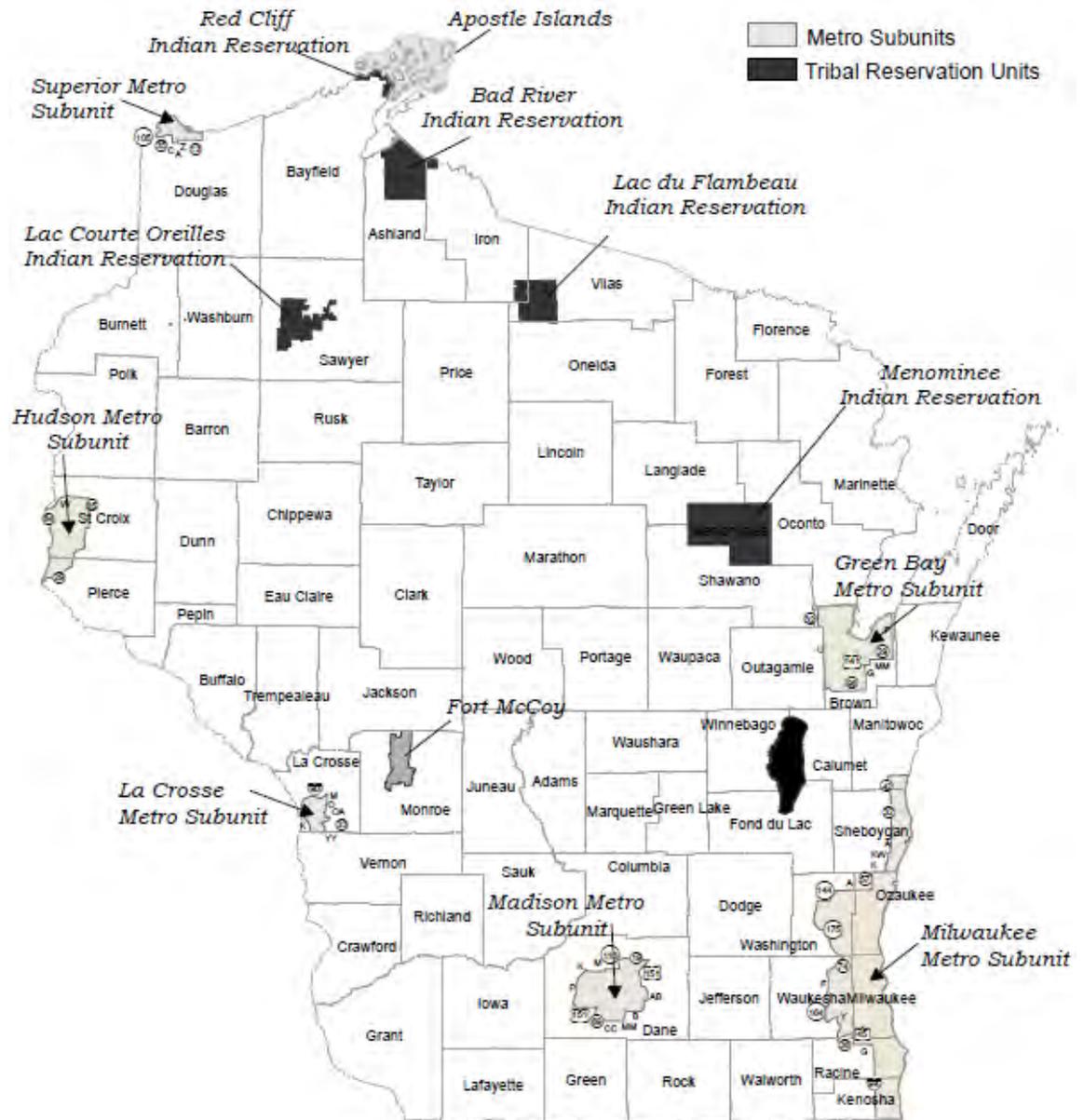
2. Between SECTIONS 23 and 24, insert a new section which amends NR 10.06 (8) (b) and (note) in the following ways:

NR 10.06 (8) (b) *Gun deer season*. Hunting hours established in sub. (5) shall apply statewide to bow and gun hunters pursuing any species, except migratory game birds listed in s. NR 10.01 (1), during the ~~season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e) 1. a. and b.~~ period beginning on the Saturday preceding the thanksgiving day holiday and continuing for 9 consecutive days in the central farmland and forest deer management zones established in s. 10.28 (4).

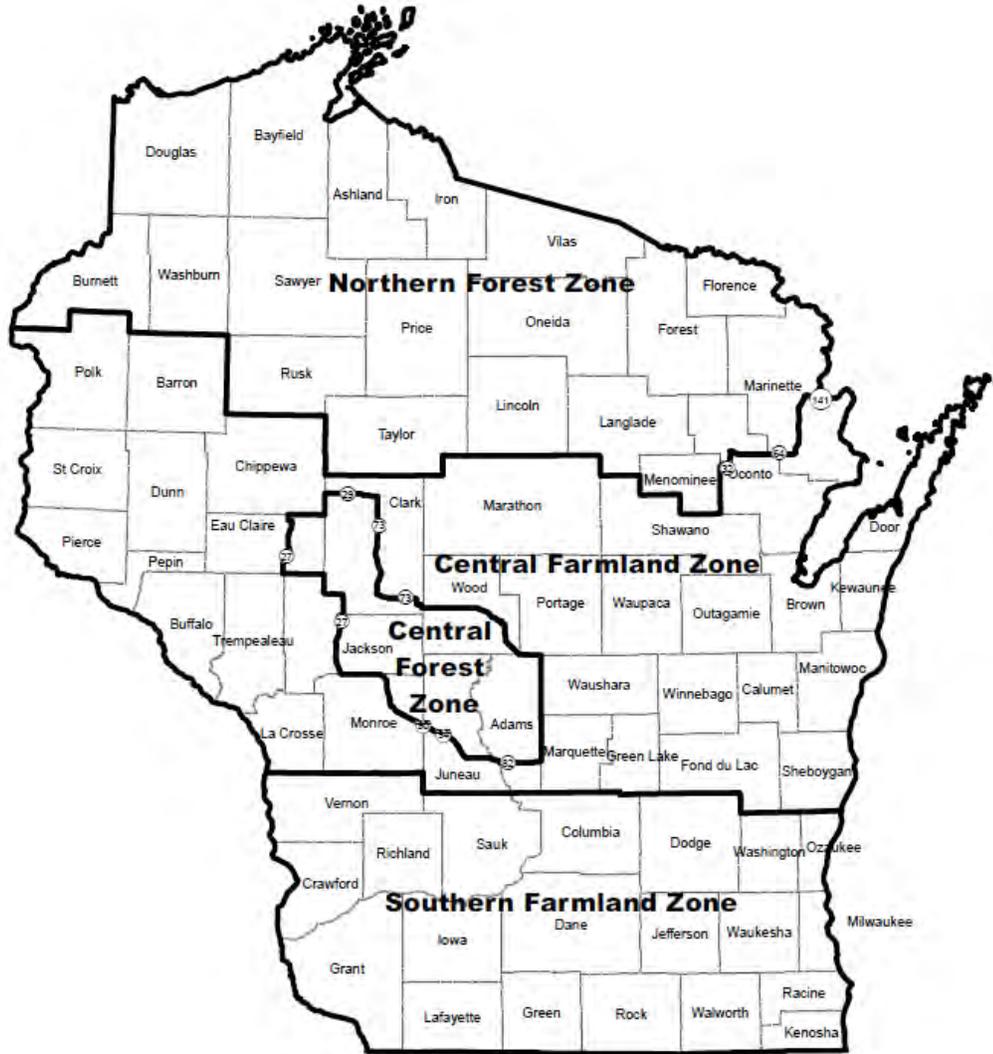
Note: The deer hunting with firearms hours do not apply to persons hunting coyote, fox, raccoon or other wild animals for which no closed season has been established during the muzzle-loader season, an extended gun deer season or the extended gun season dates following the 9-day deer gun season in a metro deer management unit or in the southern farmland deer management zone.

3. In Section 28, page 23, par. (9r), create par. (a) which will consist of all of the language beginning with “In 2014 . . .” Create par. (b) which consists of the following language, “Bonus buck regulations under this par. may be established by the secretary of the department upon the recommendation of a county deer management advisory committee. Modifications by the department shall become effective upon issuance of an order and publication in the official state newspaper.
4. In Section 28, page 24, par. (15), before the word “the” insert “islands of”. In sub. (d), before the word “Apostle”, insert the words, “permits for the islands of”.

5. In Section 32 where NR 10.28 (1) is repealed and recreated, replace the map with this map:



6. In SECTION 32 where NR 10.28 (4) is repealed and recreated, replace the map with this map:



(END of Department's amendments as submitted)

Public Appearances (12):

1. **Representative Fred Clark**, Baraboo, 81st Assembly District of Wisconsin. He spoke on the reconfiguration of Deer Management Units to county boundaries, the use of bonus antlerless deer permits, the use of the sex-age-kill population model and establishment of population goals, the elimination of in-person deer registration, response to Chronic Wasting Disease, and white deer rule changes. He requested that before committing the whole state to changes that would be very difficult to undo, that consideration be given to evaluating the changes to management units, registration procedures, use of the SAK model, and the herd goal setting process through a limited pilot program in perhaps two or three counties. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on the white deer issue and how the department is managing satellite outbreaks (sparks) of CWD.

2. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair. He stated that in August 2012, the Congress had taken a position in support of the Deer Trustee Report in its entirety. Congress does not have a position on the proposed standard season structure in this rule package or the proposed season dates for 2014. He addressed some concerns and noted that their Deer & Elk Committee will be meeting on March 22 and will review the department's recommendations at that time. **(Handout)**
3. **MaLenna Smith**, Plain, representing self. She spoke in support of reinstating protection for white and albino deer in CWD zones. **(Handout)**
4. **Robert Benson**, Lodi, representing Uplands Deer Management Association as Vice-President. He spoke in support of the department's recommendations. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on the proposed county deer committee and whether Mr. Benson attended the DTR meetings and if so, how he participated.

5. **Dr. Anthony Grabski, Ph.D.**, Blue Mounds, representing self. He spoke in support of the majority of the department's recommendations. His concerns related to the holiday hunt, bonus buck rule, and the 10 day muzzleloader season. **(Handout)**
6. **Ralph Fritsch**, Townsend, representing self. He spoke in opposition to many of the proposed changes. His concerns related to the public input process, emergency rule status, the proposed local process, and the proposed deer management unit boundary changes. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on the corrected DMU map for Oconto County and whether the local biologist would be chair of the proposed county committees.

The local biologist will not be the chair but rather a liaison to the chair and committee.

7. **Mark McCaulley**, McFarland, representing self and landowner in the CWD zone. He spoke in full support of the department's recommendations.
8. **Amy Sprecher**, North Freedom, representing self. She spoke in support of reinstating protection for white and albino deer in CWD zones. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on whether Ms. Sprecher had noticed a significant decline in white and albino deer populations during her past observations.

9. **George Meyer**, Madison, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as Executive Director. He spoke in opposition to several of the proposed recommendations and offered the following: 1) retain the use of the current DMU boundaries; 2) keep in-person deer registration; and 3) restore some level of active management of CWD in the state. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on hunter satisfaction in the past two deer seasons and the use of SAK.

10. **Kelly Maynard**, Madison, representing self. As a new hunter, she spoke in support of the department's recommendations. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed as to Ms. Maynard's 2nd deer hunting experience.

11. **Casey Fitz Randolph**, Cross Plains, representing Burr Oak Deer Management Co-op. He spoke in support of the department's recommendations. **(Handout)**
12. **Mike Brust**, Wausau, representing Wisconsin Bowhunters Association. He spoke in support of the department's recommendations and addressed the following concerns: makeup and selection of county advisory committees, crossbow season regulations, and archery license antlerless or either-sex permits. **(Handout)**

Discussion followed on whether archers should automatically receive an antlerless tag in the northern forest unit with their license.

Chair Cole stated that the Board would continue with the deer item after it returns from lunch and closed session.

Chair Cole requested a motion to go into Executive Session under the authority of s.19.85(1)(e) Wisconsin Statutes for purposes of discussing potential real estate transactions and under the authority of s.19.36(10) Wisconsin Statutes for purposes of discussing personnel matters.

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED, seconded by Kazmierski. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 7 – 0.

William Bruins – yes	Gary Zimmer – yes
Christine Thomas – yes	Jane Wiley – yes
Terry Hilgenberg – yes	Preston Cole – yes
Greg Kazmierski – yes	

Chair Cole reconvened the meeting. He reported that during the Executive Session, no action was taken.

Chair Cole moved the meeting to agenda item 4.

4. Citizen Participation

Public Appearance:

1. **Patricia Hammel**, Madison, representing Madison Action for Mining Alternatives
Topic: Mission of the DNR as it pertains to mining permitting and regulation. She stated that mining in the Penokee Range should not be allowed to progress without a full environmental review of the mining project as a whole.
(Handout)

Chair Cole returned the meeting to agenda item 3.B.8. and asked for Board discussion.

3.B.8. Request adoption of Emergency Board Order WM-24-13(E) related to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee's Report - Continued

Discussion followed on the fate of deer check stations going forward and data gathering, clarification of the bonus buck situation, whether the department has considered allowing the proposed county committees utilize antlerless or doe only seasons and other tools, keeping hunters connected to the system, whether the statement of scope would need to be revised and approved, the timeline for approval of the permanent rule, and the county committee structure and input process.

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Bruins of the department's recommendations.

Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator, asked to clarify the Board's motion as to whether it included the department's recommended amendments.

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Bruins of the department's recommendations as amended by the department.

Mr. Zimmer questioned whether the department's science services participated in the rule development as they were not listed on page 7 of the memo.

Eric Lobner, Southern Region Wildlife Management Supervisor, stated yes. It was an oversight. Science Services should have been listed in the green sheet package memo.

AMENDMENT K-1

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED to amend the department's recommendations with Amendment K-1 to add "sustainable harvest" as a goal in NR 1, seconded by Mr. Bruins.

Analysis

Board order WM-24-13(E) establishes natural resources board policy to manage the deer herd so it is in balance with deer range and to manage toward deer population objectives that are in balance with social, economic and ecological objectives.

This amendment adds sustainable harvest as another objective for management of the deer herd.

In SECTION 3, line 2, between the words population and objectives, insert the words "and sustainable harvest".

The motion to approve amendment K-1 carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT K-2

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED to amend the department's recommendations with Amendment K-2 to add an additional purpose to provide information to describe deer population trends, seconded by Ms. Wiley.

Analysis

Board order WM-24-13(E) establishes natural resources board policy that a purpose of the department's research efforts is to provide the information necessary to establish deer population estimates.

This amendment would strike the requirement to provide information for estimates and require instead that information be provided and used to establish descriptions of the deer population's trend.

In SECTION 6, line 3, Strike the word "estimates" and replace it with the word "trends".

The motion to approve amendment K-2 carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT K-3

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED to amend the department's recommendations with Amendment K-3 to eliminate "disease eradication" as a goal, seconded by Mr. Bruins.

Analysis

Board order WM-24-13(E) defines a "CWD affected area" as a zone established for the control, management, or eradication of chronic wasting disease.

This amendment would eliminate the purpose to eradicate the disease and maintain the purposes to control and manage it in the deer herd.

In SECTION 10, line 2, after the word "control", add the word "and". In the same line, strike the words "or eradication".

The motion to approve amendment K-3 carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT K-4

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED to amend the department's recommendations with Amendment K-4 to establish an 8th committee member who would also be a member of a local organization representing hunting interests.

Analysis

Board order WM-24-13(E) establishes county deer management committees which are to accept public comment on the county's deer herd. The rule establishes conditions for membership and that membership of each committee includes someone who represents certain interests or is a member of 1) the Conservation Congress, 2) a member of a Chippewa band in counties in the ceded territories, 3) agriculture, 4) forestry, 5) tourism, 6) transportation, and 7) local government.

This amendment establishes that there is an 8th committee member who is also a member of a local organization representing hunting interests.

In SECTION 28, page 21, create (b) 7. to read "7. A local organization representing hunting interests."

Discussion followed on the need to clarify the charge of the county committees and the Board's approval process, whether the county committee procedures will

be included in the permanent rule, whether the emergency rule should be amended to give the department authority to establish the county committees, and whether the department should create operating procedures for the county advisory committees. Discussion includes comments from Secretary Stepp.

Mr. Thiede noted that the operating procedures of the county advisory committees will be included in the permanent rule.

Mr. Hilgenberg requested that when reworking this, the department should be flexible as to classification, etc. of the area, and include how each committee will report to the department and this Board. The Board should receive an annual statement of their recommendations with insights into the deer herd.

Amendment 4 was seconded by Dr. Thomas.

Discussion followed on the importance of defining the county advisory committees role in the rules process and the importance of the department's county wildlife experts/biologists participation in the committee.

**The motion to approve amendment K-4 carried on a voice vote 5 – 2.
Mr. Zimmer and Ms. Wiley voted against.**

AMENDMENT K-5

Mr. Kazmierski MOVED to amend the department's recommendations with Amendment K-5 to establish bonus buck provisions for the 2014 season, seconded by Dr. Thomas.

Analysis

Board order WM-24-13(E) establishes bonus buck authorization provisions for the southern Farmland Zone and Units with an objective to Decrease or Stabilize the size of the deer herd for the 2014 season and beyond.

This amendment establishes the bonus buck provisions for the 2014 season.

In Section 28, page 23 and 24 (9r) is amended to read:

(9r) BONUS BUCK AUTHORIZATION ~~IN UNITS WITH AN OBJECTIVE TO DECREASE OR STABILIZE THE SIZE OF THE DEER HERD OR IN THE SOUTHERN FARMLAND ZONE. Beginning with the fall 2015 seasons, hunters who tag an antlerless deer in a unit or units with either a bow and arrow, crossbow or firearm during any deer season or with an agricultural deer damage shooting permit, may be issued a free tag valid for one bonus buck which may be harvested with either their archer or regular gun deer license in that deer~~

~~management unit or subunit, or similarly designated deer management unit or subunit in addition to the bucks they are authorized to harvest under sub. (7). One antlerless deer must be tagged by the same person in the current license year or the previous license year before a person is authorized to tag one additional buck in that deer management unit or subunit, or similarly designated deer management unit or subunit. An unfilled bonus buck deer carcass tag issued for the harvest of a buck deer during a season when the objective is to decrease the size of the deer herd is valid during the following year's season in that deer management unit or subunit even if the population objective changes for the following year's season. No person may kill and tag more than two buck deer under the authority of an archer license. No person may tag more than two buck deer under the authority of a firearm deer license. No person may tag more than three buck deer during any combination of annual deer hunting seasons using a combination of an archer and firearm deer license during one license year. Deer shall be tagged as described in this paragraph using a bonus buck deer carcass tag or sticker which will be supplied by the department following in-person registration of the antlerless deer and shall be transported in accordance with s. NR 10.105 (2). In 2014, each buck authorization sticker earned during a 2013 deer hunting season authorizes the harvest of an additional buck deer in a unit or subunit in the southern farmland zone. In 2014, these additional bucks may be tagged with any 2014 deer carcass tag and the buck authorization sticker earned in 2013 must be affixed to the validated 2014 deer carcass tag. Bonus buck carcass tags or stickers earned in the 2014 hunting season may or may not be valid in 2015.~~

The motion to approve amendment K-5 carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT T-1

Dr. Thomas MOVED to amend the department's recommendations with Amendment T-1 to restore the requirement to estimate deer populations using the sex-age-kill model until a determination is made that alternative methods of estimating deer populations are providing comparable information, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg.

Analysis

Board order WM-24-13(E) repeals the requirement that the department to use a specific method of estimating deer populations, referred to as the sex-age-kill model. The rule does allow the department to continue using the sex-age-kill and other population models.

This amendment restores the requirement to estimate deer populations using the sex-age-kill model until a determination is made that alternative methods of estimating deer populations are providing comparable information.

In SECTION 28, page 20, at (5) (a) 1., after word “populations”, insert the following new sentences, “In 2014 and continuing until the department determines that evaluation of the metrics are providing information that is comparable, the department shall utilize the sex-age-kill method for calculating deer densities. The sex-age-kill method uses the following quantitative data for each deer management unit: proportion of yearling bucks in the harvest, proportion of yearling does in the harvest, proportion of males and females at birth, the number of fawns seen per doe during the summer, the proportion of total buck mortality due to hunting harvest, and the harvest by sex as registered during the hunting seasons. The department is not limited to use of the sex-age-kill (SAK) method. The department may make a determination that alternative methods of population evaluation are comparable, which shall become effective in lieu of or in addition to the sex-age-kill method after approval by the Natural Resources Board, and upon issuance of an order and publication in the official state newspaper.”

Note: A determination under this subd. does not prevent continued utilization of the sex-age-kill method as the department determines is valuable or necessary.”

Chair Cole clarified that this amendment requires the department to obtain Board approval if it wants to move away from SAK.

The motion to approve amendment T-1 carried unanimously.

Mr. Kazmieski MOVED to approve the original motion as amended, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg.

Mr. Bruins stated that this is an exciting thing to be happening to Wisconsin. He applauded everyone who had an effort in putting this proposal in front of the Board.

Mr. Zimmer added that more support from hunters is needed. Science Services staff has a role to play: we need the best and most reliable information to make the best decision making take place.

Mr. Hilgenberg challenged the department to make sure the county committee system has the tools to do their job. This is another huge job responsibility for the county biologist/wildlife expert.

Mr. Kazmierski thanked Eric Lobner and everyone involved. This was not an easy undertaking. We need to reach out to the hunting community to step up to the plate now. Keep it moving.

Secretary Stepp thanked Dr. Kroll and all those involved.

The original motion as amended carried unanimously.

3.C. Scope Statements

- 3.C.1. Request approval of the Statement of Scope for Board Order FH-34-13 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 20 related to trolling regulations on inland waters of Wisconsin

Ms. Wiley MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Zimmer of department's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Cole moved the meeting to agenda item 6.

6. Department Secretary's Matters

6.A. Retirement Resolutions

6.A.1. Michael Folgert

6.A.2. Mark Giesfeldt

6.A.3. James Pearson

Secretary Stepp presented Mark Giesfeldt with his retirement plaque.

Mr. Giesfeldt stated he was blessed to work with such amazing people in this organization and in his program. DNR is a special place.

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval, seconded by Mr. Zimmer of the retirement resolutions. The motion carried unanimously.

6.B. Donations

- 6.B.1. Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. will donate \$68,000 (a Bobcat Tool Cat valued at \$59,400 and an additional cash donation of \$8,600) to be used to help maintain the Badger State Trail throughout the year for hikers, bicyclists, and snowmobilers

Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED approval of the department's recommendations and to acknowledge the donation, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bruins questioned whether the donor is an implement dealer and requested that an article be drafted on this donation. [Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. is an engineering firm.]

Secretary Stepp stated that the department would follow-up with an article.

Secretary Stepp then reported to the Board on the MacKenzie Center and the Natural Heritage Annual Report. **(Handout)**

Chair Cole then moved the meeting to agenda item 5.

5. Information Items

5.A. Air, Waste, Water, and Enforcement

None

5.B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife

5.B.1. State, County, and Managed Forest Law Timber Sale Status (PowerPoint)

Discussion followed on whether a private landowner in MFL can add deer habitat to their plan, whether the department has a centralized map that gives age structure of private and public forests, and the growth/renewal ratios on public lands as well as on private lands.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

7. Board Members' Matters

7.A. Review of Natural Resources Board Advisory Questions for the 2014 Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings

Ms. Wiley submitted the following question:

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

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

In 2006 and 2008, Conservation Congress spring meeting attendees voted in favor of banning baiting for deer hunting by 56% and 54%. Another question in 2006, which proposed banning both baiting and feeding just 10 days prior to and during the traditional 9-day firearm season, had a greater level of support with 62% voting in favor. This same question was asked in 2011, and had roughly the same

level of support, 63%. These votes have not led to changes, other than banning baiting and feeding of deer in counties or adjacent counties where deer have tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). Currently, baiting and feeding of deer is prohibited in 35 counties because of their close proximity to CWD positive deer. Banning baiting and feeding of deer in counties where it is currently allowed may encourage deer movement during shooting hours and result in a more even distribution of deer available to hunters on both public and private lands.

Baiting and feeding would still be allowed at other times of the year. This compromise would still allow those who believe they need to hunt with bait to do so during most of the archery and some firearm seasons. This compromise is not ideal for reducing disease transmission risks associated with baiting and feeding, however, it would result in less deer feed being placed on the landscape at a time of the year when much food is currently placed.

The DNR is not able to modify deer baiting and feeding regulations by administrative rule, except for adding Counties where it is banned because of CWD positive deer. Otherwise, changes to deer baiting and feeding regulations must be made in state statute by the legislature.

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

YES_____ NO_____

Mr. Zimmer submitted the following questions:

Questions 1 and 2: Simplifying hunting and fishing stamp requirements.

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

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

If this concept were enacted, all hunters would purchase a single stamp, which would support habitat work, and with the purchase of an appropriate license, authorize any type of hunting. All anglers would need to purchase a single stamp,

to support fisheries & habitat work, and with the purchase of an appropriate license, would authorize any type of fishing. Exemptions for young people, mentored hunters, and participants in educational events would be maintained.

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

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

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

1. To simplify regulations and the licensing process, do you support establishing a single hunting stamp which would be purchased by all hunters but would be less expensive, earmarking funds for waterfowl/wetland, pheasants/grassland, and turkey management purposes as in the past and allowing any additional funds to be available for forest management and hunter recruitment?

1. YES _____ NO _____

2. To simplify regulations and the licensing process, do you support establishing a single fishing stamp which would be purchased by all anglers but would be less expensive, earmarking funds for inland trout habitat and Great Lakes trout and salmon propagation, as in the past and allowing additional funds to be available for inland lake habitat management/stocking and combating aquatic invasive species?

2. YES _____ NO _____

Discussion followed on the tradition of stamp collecting, whether the department holds contests for artists to design the stamps, and whether winning artists receive a cash prize. Recent participation in these contests has diminished.

Chair Cole suggested that prior to the spring hearings, Mr. Zimmer work with staff to obtain background information and history on the stamp culture.

Mr. Kazmierski submitted the following question:

Legalizing the harvest of white and albino deer in Wisconsin

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

In the wild, white fur and markings place these animals at a selective disadvantage because they lack the typical protective coloration and are more visible, making them easier for predators. These animals often have other recessive traits and physical maladies such as poor eyesight in albinos, because of their pink eyes.

These recessive genetic conditions are quite rare (estimated at less than one percent under natural conditions) and the phenomenon is often localized in a specific area. From a strictly biological perspective, there is no reason to protect white deer.

It is currently illegal to harvest albino or white deer in Wisconsin outside of the CWD zones. At the January meeting of the Natural Resources Board, the Board took action to reinstate protection of white deer in the CWD zones. This change will be in effect for the 2014 deer hunting season, so in 2014 it will be illegal to harvest white and albino deer statewide. Piebald deer are not protected.

-
1. Would you favor legalizing the harvest of white and albino deer statewide? 3. YES____ NO____
-

Mr. Hilgenberg noted his intent to submit an advisory question related to blinds and tree stands north of Highway 64 and requested assistance from staff. [After discussing with staff, he rescinded his intent to submit an advisory question.]

Board Members Matters:

Dr. Thomas requested an update on North Lake public access.

Mr. Hilgenberg reported on the forestry conference he attended in Boulder Junction and thanked Paul DeLong and his team. They visited three sites and heard from loggers and mill owners. He appreciated the opportunity to see how the private sector works with the state.

Mr. Kazmierski thanked the Forestry Division as well for the invitation. He then noted potential problems on the horizon with cross bow safety. He asked department staff to work on curriculum on cross bow handling and safety that could be incorporated into the hunter safety program before Fall 2014.

Chair Cole stated he will discuss adding a possible field demonstration to the 2014 out-state tour schedule with staff.

Mr. Zimmer echoed appreciation for the forestry tour. He also thanked department staff and those that worked on the Governor's Forestry Summit. They all did a great job.

7.B. Election of Officers

Chair Cole opened nominations for officers.

Dr. Thomas MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer to continue with the current slate of officers for the Natural Resources Board.

Dr. Thomas MOVED, seconded by Mr. Zimmer that nominations for officer be closed. The motion to re-elect Preston Cole as Board Chair, Terry Hilgenberg as Vice-Chair, and Greg Kazmierski as Secretary carried unanimously.

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

JANUARY 22, 2014

The Natural Resources Board and Department of Natural Resources are committed to serving people with disabilities. If you need Board information in an alternative format, please contact:

Natural Resources Board Liaison: Laurie Ross at 608-267-7420 or
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