

Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
Executive Council Meeting  
Minutes  
Lake Geneva Wi.  
May 06, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Chr. Edgar Harvey at 3:00 P.M. Sec. Kirchmeyer took the roll call those being present were Richard Kirchmeyer, Joe Weiss, Al Brown, Ray Smith, Mike Riggle, Roger Sabota, Arold Ninneman, Mark Noll, Marc Schultz, Stan Brownll, Dave Puhl, Dale Mass, Dick Koerner, Edgar Harvey, Lee Farney, Mike Rogers, Ken Risley, Al Phelan, Al Shook, Robert Bohmann, JoAnn Kuharske, and Jim Wrolstad. Those excused were Wade Jeske and John Edelblute.

There were no agenda repairs or additions.

Vice Chr. Rob Bohmann reviewed the results of the WCC spring hearing questions. There were no questions or comments from the council on his report.

Dick Koerner Sec. of the Rules and Resolutions comm. gave a report from the committee meeting where they had assigned spring hearing resolutions introduced by the public to WCC committees. There were 206 resolutions presented, 95 passed in their counties, 44 failed, 63 were duplicates and 23 were rejected because of improper form. Chr. Harvey asked if there were any corrections or modifications that the council would like to make to the report.

Bohmann made a motion that Res. # 150210 which was referred to the Legislative comm. be handled by the Ex. Council. A 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Farney.

Chr. Harvey asked why the resolution should go to the Ex. Council and not to a comm. Why have committees if we deal with resolutions here in the Ex.Council, we are then by passing an important piece of our business we deal with each year.

Kari- Resolutions that come in frequently want to by pass committees because they think they have a better chance of passing in the council.

Chr. Harvey- We need to work on the way committees do or do not act on some resolutions properly and why they were not forwarded to the following years spring hearings.

Puhl- Chairmans and Sec need to receive more information from someone who makes a motion to reject a resolution in their committee and the Sec has to make sure those reasons are recorded in the minutes. We don't need someone to make a motion just to reject, we need reason why they want the resolution rejected.

Shook- The legislators are not in session now so there is no need to move forward with this resolution so fast and bypass the committee/committees. MOTION FAILED

Mass made a motion that resolution #s 130710, 370110, and 650210 be forwarded to appropriate committees instead of the Ex. Council. 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Puhl.

Puhl- Thought that resolutions should go to committees and not to the floor of the congress at the annual meeting or to the Ex. Council.

Koerner clarified on how the committee had originally acted on res. # 130710 and why it had been referred to the Ex.Council.

Mass amended his original motion adding that the resolutions should go to the appropriate committee (bear). 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Shook.

Kari commented that there was a lot of discussion on this resolution in the committee.

Puhl amended the motion that the resolution also go to the Hunting with Dogs committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Risley

Shook- There can be problems when a resolution is sent to 2 committees.

Kirchmeyer- Thinks this resolution should go to the Hunting with Dogs committee because it deals with a hound problem not a bear problem.

#### MOTION TO AMEND FAILED

Mass made a motion to amend that the resolution only go to the Hunting with Dogs committee. Shook made the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion.

Weiss- Why not go to the floor of the congress you get immediate results?

Riggle- Rules and Resolutions committee should not send any resolutions to the floor of the congress they should all go to appropriate committees. MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #370110 A motion was made by Mass to forward this resolution to the Hunting with Dogs committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Shook. MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #650310 A motion was made by Mass to forward this resolution to the Turkey committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Shook. MOTION CARRIED.

Mass commented that maybe we should adopt a policy that all resolutions should go to the appropriate committee unless there is no time to go through the formal process because of legislative action being taken before that particular committee has a chance to meet.

Resolution # 550110 Shook made a motion that this resolution go to the Legislative committee. Puhl made the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution # 590310 The Ex. Council thought that this was a local issue and should be dealt with locally.

Resolution #710610 Bohmann made a motion that this resolution should not go to Endangered Resources/Law Enforcement committee but should go to the Legislative committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Puhl.

Shook disagreed with the motion. MOTION FAILED

Next on the agenda was an update on the Deer 2000 Review committee regarding deer research projects. We did not discuss this agenda item being as there will be a presentation tomorrow by Keith Warnke from the DNR to the whole delegation.

Agenda items 2d and 2e are questions that came out of Public and Private Lands committee that did not allow the 2 authors the capability to address the Ex. Council in Jan. (the reason the authors did not get invited is because the sec. of the committee did not turn in the minutes and questions until 2 days before the Ex.Council meeting, so there was no time to invite such authors)

Chr. Harvey asked if the 2 authors would like to be present at this meeting to present their questions and also in 2 weeks when the Ex. Council meets again.

A motion was made by Noll to put the 2 questions on the agenda for the next Ex. Council meeting for action. A 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Schultz.

The 2 authors that were present gave their reasons why their questions should be supported by the Ex.Council and forwarded to the 2011 spring hearings. The 2 authors were Larry Vanderhoof (metal detectors on state lands Res. # 700110) and Mike Henke (color coded trespass signs Res. #130210)

Mass- Doesn't think that it should be mandatory for private land owners to conform to such a rule.

Author said that it wasn't meant to be mandatory for private landowners.

Kurharske- Would you post it on your house door or on the property?

Author replied it could be posted on either depending if the the owner lived on the property or away from the property that was in question, also the sign could list which species could be hunted and which could not be hunted on the property.

Koerner –Who would pay for the expense of such signs?

Author- The landowner would have the expense.

Puhl- Would this take legislative action if made mandatory? Yes.

Shook commented that hunters may bring their own signs and put them up on property that looks good to hunt especially on properties that a green sign could be used which states no permission is needed to hunt. MOTION CARRIED.

Gloria McCutcheon, DNR SE Director addressed the Ex. Council.

DNR Spring Fisheries Rules Hearing Results; Mike Staggs (Joe Hennese)

Question #24 Motor in trolling Ashland Co. DNR NOT ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #25 Motor trolling in Iron Co. DNR NOT ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #26 Motor trolling in Price Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question # 27 Motor trolling in Sawyer Co. DNR NOT ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question # 28 St Croix River catch and released sturgeon season. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #29 Chippewa Flowage ice fishing & panfish reg. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #30 Chippewa Flowage ice fishing & panfish reg. (amended from 10 daily bag limit to 25 daily bag limit) DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #31 Bass harvest reg. in Wisconsin/Michigan boundary waters. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question # 32 Walleye & Bass reg. Bear Lake, Barron Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question # 33 Walleye & Bass reg. Horseshoe Lake, Barron Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question # 34 Walleye & Bass reg. Lower Turtle Lake Barron Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #35 Walleye & Bass reg. Upper Turtle Lake, Barron Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #36 Walleye & Bass reg. Lake Owen, Bayfield Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #37 Walleye & Bass reg. Big MacKenzie Lake, Burnett Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #38 Walleye & Bass reg. Big Butternut Lake, Polk Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #39 Walleye & Bass reg. Half Moon Lake, Polk Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #40 Walleye & Bass reg. Pipe Lake, Polk Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question # 41 Walleye & Bass reg. Ward Lake, Polk Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #42 Walleye & Bass reg. Island Chain, Rusk Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question# 43 Walleye & Bass reg. Chippewa Flowage, Sawyer Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question # 44 Walleye & Bass reg. Nelson Lake, Sawyer Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question #45 Walleye & Bass reg. Sissabagama Lake Sawyer Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question # 46 Walleye & Bass reg. Whitefish Lake, Sawyer Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question # 47 Walleye & Bass reg. Middle McKenzie Lake, Washburn Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question # 48 Walleye & Bass re. Long Lake, Washburn Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question #49 walleye & Bass reg. Nancy Lake, Washburn Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question #50 Lake Mentonga Walleye reg. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question # 51 Seven Mile Lake Walleye reg. DNR ADCVANCING TO NRB.  
Question # 52 Wolf River Trout reg. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question # 53 Eliminate Fish Refuge in Iron Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question # 54 Oconto River night fishing prohibition. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question # 55 Three Lakes Chain walleye reg. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question #56 Eliminate fish refuges Sawyer Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question #57 Little St. Germain musky reg. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question # 58 Big Muskego Lake pike reg. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question # 59 Waupaca River trout reg. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.  
Question # 60 Marion Pond bass & pike reg. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Questions and Comments to DNR Fisheries Personnel:

Weiss- Chairs of committees should contact authors on whether or not their resolution/question made it to the EX. Council. (this is already in our code of procedures and should already being done by either the Chair or Secretary of a committee)

Noll- Suggested that the resolution number that is assigned to a resolution should stay with that particular resolution all the way through the process so an author can be contacted either by a WCC Chair/Sec or DNR personnel on the standing of such resolution at any time.

Kari at the present time the DNR doest' know who the authors are of questions that are advanced to them.

Puhl- DNR needs to contact authors on the status of a resolution/question why they are advancing or what action they are taking on it or why they are rejecting it.

Kirchmeyer What happened to the free ice fishing weekend question that passed the spring hearings in 2009. (needs legis. action to implement)

DNR. Sec. Matt Frank addressed the WCC. Ex.Council  
Comments

Had a very successful sturgeon spearing season on Lake Winnebago in 2010.  
Stewardship rules-Lots of feed back from interested parties and will use that information to use on the final proposal to be forwarded to the NRB and legislators.  
Wolves- DNR has been dealing with this issue for many years and now has joined forces with Minnesota and hoping that Michigan also joins to delist wolves permanently.  
Lawyer of the year Tim Andryk from the Wisconsin DNR helped a great deal in the necessary paper work. We don't want the wolves on the endangered species list and we want the state to have full management capabilities.  
Asian Carp- In Feb the DNR met with other Federal agencies to discuss the problem of the spreading of Asian Carp in the Great Lakes and else where. Wisconsin wanted the locks closed that go into Lake Michigan but the Feds would not support this. There is evidence of DNA above the locks but no carp have been found so far. The Wis. DNR wants a second barrier installed which they hope the Corps of Engineers will do soon, the state will be making sure this does happen. Sen. Feingold proposed that the locks be closed.  
Deer- Lots of time is going to be spent on deer research. We need to look at the short comings of the SAK formula and problems that were identified in the last audit of the SAK. We need to involve hunters more in the new research that is going to take place in the future.  
Endangered Resources –New License plate additional cost is \$40.00 of which \$25.00 goes to managing endangered resources.  
1<sup>st</sup> ever Hunting Heritage Conference held in Wausau this last Feb. We are trying to look at the big picture and trying to recruit more youth into the outdoors sports and the hunting heritage we all know.  
2008 Farm Bill- Promoting a volunteer private land access program.  
Budget- We are in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of a 2 year budget cycle and things look okay. We are trying to fill some vacancies that have been open for some time now. 11-12 warden recruits in the warden recruit class of 2010 they will be placed in the field some time in 2011. There are some key positions in the fisheries, wildlife, and law enforcement that need to be filled. Going to post the position that Kurt held next week.

Questions/comments asked to Sec Frank.

Chr. Harvey- Thanked Kari for all the work she has done for the WCC alone since the leaving of Kurt.  
Koerner – Thanked the Sec for asking for the help of the hunters on the surveys and research being done by the DNR.(will help with the image problem they now have)  
Puhl- What kind of time line is in the future for the Stewardship proposal?  
Sec Frank-Hopefully could be done in a couple of months.  
Puhl- Many counties are waiting to see what kind of funds will be available.  
Farney- Could a moratorium be put on any more land purchases by the NRB until the stewardship bill passes?  
Sec. Franks- Some time land owners put stipulations on how lands purchased can or cannot be used.  
Farney- The WCC has been given the task of forming a Youth Conservation Congress can we count on help and support from the DNR? (Hopefully feasible by 2010-2011)

Sec. Frank- The DNR will help in any way it can to help promote youth involvement in the outdoors.

Weiss- The closing of DNR service centers has really made it difficult to be able to contact local fisheries/wildlife personnel.

Sec. Frank- We want people to be able to contact fisheries/wildlife personnel and get questions answered and also questions on seasons, licenses, and permits but because of budget cuts we had to cut some where and we didn't want to jeopardize our natural resources.

Bohmann- What about the proposed national wildlife refuge?

Sec. Frank. There is a possibility of establishing a national wildlife refuge in SE Wisconsin and into Ill. A feasibility study already has been started. There are other established refuges already in the area. The area may not end up being as large as proposed and could possibly be divided into 3 major smaller areas.

Brown- He supports what the state is presently doing now in trying to delist the wolves and this has been in the long time coming, should have happened years ago. He is also that it will take much more time than we expect to get wolves permanently delisted.

Wondered if PR monies would be used to studies?

Sec. Frank- We have to be careful on how we spend PR money we need to get approval of the Joint Finance Comm. to be able to spend money.

#### Scott Loomans DNR Wildlife Questions Spring Hearing Results

Question #1 Allow the use of atlats for small game hunting DNR NOT ADVANCING TO NRB. (Now needs legis. to be able to use this weapon.)

Question #2 Increase the penalty for violating animal damage abatement program requirements. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #3 Allow the use of colony traps for muskrats. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #4 Establish a single, consistent raccoon season opener for residents and non-residents. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #5 Allow participation in the youth deer hunting season by 16 & 17 year olds. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #6 Allow participation in the youth turkey hunting season by 16 – 17 year olds. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #7 Clarify the definition of “novice participant” for learn to hunt programs. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #8 Allow the use of scopes on muzzle loading fire arms. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #9 Withdrawn by DNR.

Question #10 Transportation of deer carcasses from CWD zone & deer and elk from other states. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB. (now a law, have to process before leaving CWD zone if done by hunter, if not can be brought to a licensed processing plant or licensed taxidermist.)

Question #11 Junior fire arm hunting lisc. Includes an antlerless deer carcass tag. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #12 Allow dividing deer, bear, & elk into 5 parts prior to registration. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #13 Establish single, consistent opening day for fox/coyote hunting/trapping. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #14 Allow firearm deer hunting at Nelson Dewey state park Grant Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question # 15 Establish turkey hunting seasons & zones at Hartmann Creek State Park Waupaca Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #16 Allow muzzleloader deer hunting at Big Bay State Park in Bayfield Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #17 Allow deer hunting on newly acquired lands at Buck horn State Park in Juneau Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question # 18 Eliminate the 2:00 o'clock pheasant closure at Scuppermong River Waukesha Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #19 Establish turkey hunting season & zone at Straight Lake State Park in Polk Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #20 Eliminate the Rock Prairie Canada Goose management subzone area in Rock Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #21 Eliminate the Burnett Co. Canada Goose Management subzone in Burnett Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question #22 Establish spring turkey hunting at Glacial Heritage Area State Parks in Jefferson Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

Question # 23 establish turkey hunting seasons at Glacial heritage Area State Parks in Jefferson Co. DNR ADVANCING TO NRB.

#### Chief Warden Randy Starks Comments;

There have been some big over bagging of fish citations written since the game fish opener.

23 Vacancies in warden force now. When fully staffed there should be 206 wardens spread throughout the state. 35 more wardens are eligible for retirement by 2012. New warden recruit class had 850 applicants, 137 took written exam, 90 participated in personnel interviews, and looking at hiring 13 from that group. They will start at the academy on June 20<sup>th</sup> and hopefully will be stationed sometime in Feb.

There are 10 LTE water guard positions throughout the state right now all of them are not filled but to have them filled shortly.

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Hunting Heritage Conference held in Feb with 116 mentors participating. We have received \$15,000.00 from a grant from the National Shooting Sports Foundation to be able to hold another conference this next winter. We will also use some of this grant to do some studies on retention of youth and promote our outdoor heritage. There were 14,000 mentored hunters in 2009.

There has been an increase in the growing of marijuana on state lands over the past few years which is causing some problems and may end up endangering some hunters if they come upon an active site.

New invasive species law in affect which says you must take all vegetation off of the boat, trailer, and pulling vehicle before leaving a boat landing.

There has been an increase in people taking or inhibitting the natural process of natures babies.

## Member Matters

Noll- Some organizations are enemies of the WCC. The HRC is defiantly an enemy of ours. They would rather go directly to the legislators than go through time proven accepted method of the spring hearing process. They take any opportunity they can to deface the WCC.

Weiss- What can we do to stop the ability or the way people are circulating resolutions throughout the state for the spring hearings?

Chr. Harvey- Only the original author will be invited to a committee meeting to promote his/her resolution. This practice could work against us if a resolution is introduced in enough counties the legislators or an organization can say that it was a legal hearing and forward such recommendation or as evidence to the legislators. The out reach committee which was formed awhile ago will be reactivated and deal with this problem.

Kuharske stated that local clubs are used to promote such resolutions.

Farney- Promoted Youth Conservation Congress.

Rogers- Thanked the WCC and help in defeating the Turkey Bill. He also doesn't like how the Bear Bill even though it had no public support at the spring hearings still has moved forward.

Brownell- We need to put more faith in what a committee decides whether to forward or no to forward a question to the spring hearing.

Puhl-What is happening with the appointment/hiring of the WCC liaison? What exactly are the duties of a Committee liaison? The turkey committee has too many delegates from one area. Can an author of an resolution call for the committee to take a hand vote?

Chr. Harvey No

Ninneman- Jeske had health problems, he will be back after he recovers.

Shook- Have trust in what a committee recommends. Can we have on all agendas the DNR tax exempt number so delegates don't have problems with being charged tax.

Kari- When motels/hotels are booked they are given the tax free number along with the list of delegates who will be staying at the facility so there shouldn't be a problem.

Koerner -Passed

Mass- Stated that at the county deer meetings the DNR doesn't listen and people are not showing up because they are frustrated with the attitude of the DNR. All chair's/sec. need to make sure they are fulfilling their duties in such positions making sure minutes are taken properly and approved, authors are invited to committee meetings, and are notified of the out come of their resolutions.

Sabota- Doesn't like how some organizations bypass the WCC and go to the legislators. Make sure we all follow our code of procedures.

Riggle Hopes that the Big Game Committee of the WCC takes a leadership role in the deer surveys and research that is going to take place this upcoming year. At this point in time it seems the congress is just a participant not a leader.

Brown- The WCC need s a PR director to help promote the WCC and the spring hearings.

Smith- Would like to see the convention held closer to the middle of the state.

Phelan made a motion for the WCC Ex. Council ask that the DNR commit themselves to the implementation of a rule to allow archery hunting during the fire arms season. 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Riggle. MOTION CARRIED

Risley –Passed

Schultz- We need to keep on with our efforts to stop the spread of invasive species. Some one needs to check out the locations of where some spring hearings are held because some facilities do not have very comfortable seating for the citizens.

Kirchmeyer- What happened to the free ice fishing weekend? We do have a youth picked for the WCC LTH Bear permit.

Motion to adjourn at 6:45 P.M. was made by Puhl 2nd to the motion was made by Ninneman. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by;  
Richard Kirchmeyer WCC Sec.