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DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF LEGAL SERVICES

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Migratory Study Committee
Holiday Inn + Convention Center
Stevens Point, WI
Friday, December 2 2011 7:00 PM

1. Organizational Matters

A. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dick Koerner at 7:00 PM

B Roll Call was taken by Dick Koerner in the excused absense of our Secretary Mitch Fisher

Committee members Present, Dick Koerner John Edelblute, Herb Theisen, Jerry Merryfield Roger Hanson, Todd Cook, Al Marotz, Guy McFarren, James Dailey, Paul Gettelman Ray Heidel, Richard Becker, Rick Koenig Andrew Limmer, Chuck Boley, Jeff Scott, Al Suchla, Tim Morgan, Ronald Earnest Noel Dolde

Committee members Excused: Mitch Fisher, Al Shook, Brad Wagner

Committee members Unexcused, Craig Conroy ~~Brad Wagner~~

DNR personal Present: Kent VanHorn - migratory Game Bird Ecologist, James Christopoulos, assistant Ecologist and Todd Schaller, DNR Liaison

C. Mission Statement was read to the group

D. Public Comments. we had 3 authors of resolutions present, John Shillinglaw on resolution 700211, Will Minette on resolution 350211, and Paul Madden on res. 520811 All 3 resolutions were advanced

2, Department Informational Items
A- Kent VanHorn had a power point presentation

- 2011 Waterfowl Season Report
  Duck Hunting pressure about the same
  Water Levels mostly lower across the State
  most biologists reported about the same or slightly lower number of ducks compared to 2010 and a normal year

- Canada Goose pressure light
- Season dates provided good overall hunting opportunity -
- Wood Ducks #1 Mallard #2 BW Teal #3

- Review of new reg - No problem on Miss River Zone with boundry changes, season dates/splits
  Collins Zone Eliminated - no feed back

- Mississippi Flyway Updates
  Flyway council will meet in Feb. 2012 to review data and issues

- Proposed DNR Rule Changes and Proposed Legislation
  This is the end of the 5 year stable season of 55 days 2 bird bag.
  Possible outcomes, 3 bird bag on MVP Geese

- 2011 DNR Migratory Committee
  Related Rule Proposals Status
  Review Horicon Zone Changes
- The harvest by county
- The MVP harvest within & around zone
- Hunter Pressure
- Flyway Issues - Sea Duck Proposal
- Open Water Hunting Expansion
- 2012 Spring Hearing Advisory Que.
- possible open water hunting on 13 lakes with a hearing on each lake

Legislative Actions

- Act 21
- Disabled concealment exemption
- AB 311
- Several issues raised by legislators that would normally be rule changes

B. Law Enforcement Updates from Warden, Todd Schaller

The 2011 Waterfowl Season had some hunter conflicts

- They had 4 waterfowl shooting events
- Only 2 citations for not tagging Hor. Goose

3 Discussion and action Items

A. Resolutions.

- There were 10 resolutions – 6 were advanced and 4 were rejected

Res. 70 0211 - Allow Fall Fishing and boating at Mecan Springs (Currently Designated Goose Refuge) DNR should open to any other uses

Motion to advance by Guy McFarren
2nd Noel Dolde
motion to advance carried unam.
* author was present

Res. 060311 - Delay Start to Spring Crow Season
Ray Heidel motion to advance.
2nd by Jerry Merryfield
Vote on motion to advance carries

Res 060111 Removal of Brownheaded Cowbirds from Federally Protected List
Noel Dolde motion to Reject
2nd by Ron Earnest -
Vote on the motion to Reject carries

Res 060211 State/Feds Collaboration to Enable Control Measures of Cowbirds
We took both Cowbird questions as one
Motion to Reject by Noel Dolde
2nd by Ron Earnest
Vote on the motion to Reject - carries

Res. 350211 Eliminate the 50% Concealment Requirement for waterfowl Hunting

★ Will Minette is the author
There was alot of discussion on this

Ray Heidel motion to advance 350211
2nd by Jeff Scott
Discussion
Kent Van Horn said the Objective is to maintain an open water refuge area good for waterfowl and waterfowl hunting

Warden Todd Schaller said its now Easier for enforcement

Andrew Limmer said distance is better

Will Minette (author) said on flowages there is no emergent vegetation along the edge - it eliminates shoreline hunting areas. authors issue isn't what is presented in the question (access INTO vegetation for older hunters) but rather what happens on flowages when the water is down and there is no vegetation that would provide 50% Concealment

Ray Heidel - we need to reopen this discussion for some clarification

John Edelblute - current regs address your issue

Roger Hanson said the new rule works much better on Green Bay no concealment rule leaves the situation open to hunter conflicts Someone setting up out from an existing hunter - change will increase user conflict

Tim Morgan, raised the issue with the Miss River drawdown and no vegetation left

Jim Dailey - early in the season all vegetation is blown down - problem!

Noel Dolde - we just modified this rule - we havint given it enough time to see how well it works - allow it to work a couple more years

Kent Vanthorn provides suggestions for changes to wording which could be incorporated before the Spring hearings to address this concern, (author approves)
Suggested wording "are you in favor of a rule change that requires

hunters to hunt near shore but not be concealed by 50% vegetation

John Edelblute co-chair called for a hand vote - 11 in favor as amended, 5 opposed, 5 abstain motion to accept carries

Res. 490211 Close Waterfowl Season during the 9 day Deer gun Season" - Reopen after

Motion by James Dailey to Reject
2nd by Paul Gettelman
Kent VanHorn said he will bring up the issue during normal rules process
Vote on the motion to Reject carried

Res. 490111 Restore the Opening Date of Exterior Goose Zone to Sept. 16

Motion by Dick Koerner to advance
2nd by James Dailey
Kent VanHorn said the DNR will probably do this anyway
Motion to Advance carried

Res. 520811 Revision of Tagging Requirements for Geese in the Horicon Zone
Motion by Paul Gettelman to advance
2nd by Tim Morgan
Discussion - The author was present and read his resolution
Current regulations require that Canada Geese be immediately tagged with a validated tag before being moved or carried from the spot where they fell in the Horicon Zone - The intent of the rule is to insure proper and legal validation and placement of the Harvest tag - This regulation may put the hunter in a potentially dangerous situation if the goose falls on a road or waterway - Insert words location of Kill
Motion to advance carried

Res. 550111 Sandhill Crane Season
Motion by Guy McFarren to advance
2nd by Ron Earnest
Kent VanHorn suggests modifying to match needed legal parameters - "Are you in favor of the Cons Congress asking the legislature to authorize the WDNR to have a Crane Season

Sandhill Crane Continued
Motion to advance carried unanimously

Res 240211 - Allow Bowhunting on the closed area of Grand River Wildlife Area
Motion by Noel Dolde to reject
2nd by Todd Cook
Paul Gettelman said he talked to property owners, wildlife manager and hunters with most being opposed to this Resolution
motion to Reject carried
Note - GRM manager and the author of the resolution discussed this. The manager said he agrees with some of the authors concerns but would not support opening the Closed Area at Grand River for bow hunting prior to the deer gun season. Only 10% of Public land in closed area - current lines follow boundaries

B. Other Business
- Open Water Ad-hoc Committee Results and Next Steps

Open Water Hunting Expansion

- Evaluated 130 largest lakes based on agreed criteria - Narrowed down to 13 potential locations w/ad hoc committee

- Conducted local meetings to get feedback on proposal before recommending to NRB for spring hearing questionnaire

- Provide lake associations time for review

- Fall rules meeting OK

- Act 21 will add extra year to process

- Advisory Spring Hearing questions on each individual Lake

- Governor's Charge for Regulation Simplification

John Edelblute said its not a big issue with hunters - no one is complaining.

- Member matters - Ray Heidel said the Sea duck season should include Lake Superior

Motion Andrew Limmer 2nd Roger Hanson

to adjourn. motion carried
meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM

Respectfuly submitted

acting Secretary Dick Koerner