

Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
Annual Convention Minutes  
The Holiday Inn  
Manitowoc, Wisconsin  
Friday, Saturday, May 10-11, 2012

Item 1: Organizational Items:

- A. The annual meeting of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress was called to order by Chair Rob Bohmann at 9:01 a.m.
- B. Roll call of counties: All 72 counties answered the roll.
- C. Adoption of rules: Motion by Waukesha; second by Milwaukee. Motion carried.
- D. Agenda Repair: No changes. Motion by Juneau, second by Waukesha. Motion carried.
- E. Pledge of allegiance.

Item 2: Welcome by Manitowoc Major Nickels.

Item 3: DNR Secretary Comments: Cathy Stepp mentioned change going on and the important relationship between the DNR and the Conservation Congress. She thanked everyone for their commitment to natural resource protection. "Couldn't have done what we have without the echoes of people who supported such initiatives as the wolf delisting." Cathy recognized wildlife professionals in the DNR including the efforts of Dr. Kroll. She stated they rely heavily on public input and look for WCC help as we work through the Dr. Kroll process. She stressed there has to be a dialogue with the public and the DNR has been doing much outreach in that regard. She thanked Congress for being there. Secretary Stepp referred to dizzying political circumstances. There are a lot of rumors about media attacks on the agency. The leadership team feels humbled by the responsibility involved. Stated: "When you are always telling the truth, you don't need to rely on talking points."

Clark: Requested the Stepp "deer story" from the 2011 gun deer season.

Washington: Question about press coverage.

Natural Resources Board comments: Jane Wiley. Said she enjoys working with Secretary Stepp. Mentioned Congress as the most representative body in the state. "Conservation through democracy is the hallmark of the Congress." Said in these tumultuous times everyone needs to step up in protection of our natural resources. Mentioned attending the Rhinelander town hall meeting with Dr. Kroll. Referred to Dr. Alt comment that we need to use restraint. Said we need to reach out to non-hunters about all the other outdoor objectives in addition to hunting. Said not everyone will embrace that. Said we need to be respectful of the opinions of others even if we don't reach all of them. Mentioned that the Congress is the liaison with the Board, not other organizations like Sierra Club, HRC, WWF. Mentioned Act 21 as having an impact although there will be some backlash against it. Need to acknowledge the land trust organizations, hikers, bikers and kayakers. Said to "let the process occur" (through the WWC process) rather than through legislature. Mentioned Sandhill Crane proposal and read a letter from someone opposed to the hunt.

Item 4: Chairman's Year in Review:

Rob Bohmann referred to the transfer of authority last year. Referred to a letter from the Governor to simplify and streamline the rules and regulations. Discussed meeting with DNR regarding Act 21 and the September Council meeting and that we decided to continued to do our job, get input and advise the NRB as we have always done in the past. Mentioned our work with Dr. Kroll and his town hall meetings. Referred to legislation, some a result of Congress involvement, some not. "Like it or not, everyone has a constitutional right to petition government." Mentioned shotgun resolution in 55 counties which is assigned to the floor of this convention tomorrow. Said that not one member of the Executive Committee supported Act 21 but we will do the best we can regardless of any limitations.

Item 5: Code of Procedures changes:

Dale Maas, secretary of Rules and Resolutions: Proposal is to amend the COP to read "If the resolution has a passing vote at the county level, it will be sent."

Motion by Door to adopt, second by Rusk.

Wood: Opposed. Cites problems at the local level.

Walworth: Support. Said resolutions are brought year after year and never get to the state.

Motion carried.

Adding two at-large positions to Executive committee.

Manitowoc: Motion to send to strategic planning.

Motion by Sheboygan to agree with motion.

Bayfield: Supports motion. Said costs would increase with the addition of two members.

Motion carried.

Item 6: Election of officers to Executive Council:

District 1: Joe Weiss, Rick Olson

District 2: Al Brown, Dave Wraychuck

District 3: Mike Riggle, Roger Sabota

District 4: Kevin Marquette, John Aschenbrenner

District 5: Mark Noll, Alan Suchla

District 6: Stan Brownell, Dave Puhl

District 7: Dale Maas, Dick Koerner

District 8: Larry Bonde, Dave Miller

District 9: Mike Rogers, Lee Fahrney

District 10: Ken Risley, Al Phelan

District 11: Robert Bohmann, Al Shook

District 12: Andrew Limmer, Josh Hennlich

Item 7: Election of Executive Committee:

Rob Bohmann, Chair

Larry Bonde, Vice-Chair

Lee Fahrney, Secretary

Item 8: Wildlife spring hearing results:

Tom Hauge, Bureau of Wildlife Management: Thanked Congress from wildlife staff for the involvement of Congress in wildlife management. Announced approval by the Board of a split season for bobcat. New guide licensing requirements will be forwarded to legislature. Pointed to intent to enter rule making regulatory cycle for 2013. Noted approval of expansion of open water hunting opportunities except for Lake Koshkonong. Legislature passed a framework for wolf harvest following delisting. Need to move process along quickly i.e., NRB must set up a scope statement at May meeting with six weeks to put rules out to the public. The goal is to have rules back to the NRB by the end of July so the application process can begin. Noted a fine line between take and protection of wolf. He recognized

Wisconsin Trappers Association and its contribution to the trapping issue. Said there is not a better trappers association in the country, including their educational issues. Mentioned a new trapping ethics video out. Discussed the CWD positive in Washburn County of a three-and-a-half-year-old doe. There have been no other positives within the area. 150 to 200 attended the Spooner Dr. Kroll meeting. Acknowledged the communication failure of the deer head being kept in a freezer for an extended period of time. Said health experts have done a genetic profile of deer. A match with other deer in the Washburn county area was established. Baiting and feeding are now banned in four counties. Announced a new Wolf River management plan with two meetings coming up. There are 20 properties in the area involved. 2012 farm bill has great impact on conservation in the state. Encouraged delegates to let legislative representatives know of the importance of the program. CRP acreage in Wisconsin is in decline. Mentioned the aging turkey management plan. Scott Walter has been holding statewide meetings. Noted the turkey harvest is 15 percent higher to this point this year. Jason Fleener will be working with several partners on grant federal funding for wetlands. Encouraged involvement in dove hunting. Opined that managing dove fields is important; currently 50 dove fields. Sunflowers are used as an attractant. Noted doves start leaving the state in September. Reported federal grant to obtain leases for Public Land Access program. 17,000 acres have been added to public land with 13 additional counties this year with much work done in southern Wisconsin (primarily Green County) within wildlife management. Mentioned outreach regarding deer management. More than 5,000 public members involved. Citizens are also able to make input on line. Mentioned the deer research project (Chris Jacques). 200 animals are currently radio collared. Learning about buck mortality and fawn mortality. Volunteers are needed some fawns have already been dropped. Reviewed transmitter data on elk. Said the population is slow to spread and population is currently at approximately 160 animals. Last year the agency did a dispersal project moving them from Clam Lake area out along the landscape which would make them more resilient. The agency has started a wing shooting program to reduce cripple rates. Wetland habitat work needs to get land acquisitions to ensure that neighboring property is not impacted, e.g. flooding. Poynette bird hatchery is very old and recently got approval to build a new facility which will begin next year.

Dodge: Point of communication. Said if wildlife and fishery positions are vacant, it would be a good idea to let county delegates know.

Waukesha: Noted that Hauge was instrumental in getting an extra zone for hunting waterfowl.

Outagamie: Referred to map. Questioned whether the CWD could have spread into Washburn County from Minnesota.

Hauge: Said nearest point was Rochester and that 100 miles would be the farthest dispersal range for whitetails.

Outagamie: Queried if it is possible that someone carried in on boots with soil.

Hauge: Could be environmental contamination from soil but is highly unlikely. He mentioned the directive to keep carcasses with you.

Buffalo: Mentioned one cranial abscess in Buffalo County. Will they be sent to landfills as well.

Pepin: Regarding wolf season, said his constituents would be disappointed with a small token harvest as more need to be taken.

Washington: Referred to deer meetings with Kroll and Alt where Alt suggested the wolf hunt should be limited to avoid backlash.

Marinette: Queried the possibility of contamination from waste products from eagles and other birds.

Hauge: Said they have looked at scavengers and they are thought to be dead end hosts.

Hauge: Said current rules in Washburn and surrounding counties would continue for at least three or four years. Said it takes 15-18 months from infection to end stage

Vilas: Queried status of Buckhorn flats.

Hauge: Said the farm has been depopulated six years. Most heavily infected site in North America. No animals have been allowed for five years by USDA. The state tried to get fence left in place but ended up buying the property and putting up a second fence. Said the state is trying to alter the landscape by changing the vegetation. Said the CWD prion is still viable up to three years.

Bohmann: Mentioned that the Congress donated two radios to the deer research project. He presented Hauge with two more radios this year. Noted the deer research project is largest ever done in Wisconsin.

Green Lake: Mentioned a news article about radio collars taking hair off the deer.

Hauge: Said they are concerned about the health of the animals and gave consideration to the weight. He is confident they are using the most up-to-date equipment. Acknowledged the problem with bucks because their neck size changes.

11:52 a.m.: Recess for Lunch

Item 9: Reconvened from lunch at 1:12 p.m.

Governor Walker: Thanked the Congress for helping with Dr. Kroll's visit. Said the report will be out in June. He wants to work with the Congress to implement recommendations. Mentioned legislation to establish Hunting Heritage Council to get more people involved in hunting, fishing and trapping. Would like to see a cross section of people involved. "We want to see it grow." Mentioned 400,000 people coming from out of state to fish. Wants to make sure state dollars will be open to citizens with broad-based access. Need to use funding set aside for shooting ranges. Thanked Congress for helping with wolf delisting process. Said we want the process to be based on scientific principles, rather than hearsay. Asked for help from the Congress as we proceed through the process. One piece of good news is the Department of Revenue has projected a \$154 million surplus and for two consecutive years has been putting money in the rainy day fund which has a balance of \$45 million. The Department of Revenue estimates are going up because personal income has gone up and job estimates are up as well. Expressed gratitude for the Congress' role as the only organization that has representation from all counties in Wisconsin.

Discussed the origins of Act 21 regarding the approval of administrative rule changes. Governor Walker said a lot of administrative rules were made by other than people who were not experts.

Manitowoc: Noted costs of wildlife management rests on the backs of hunters, fishers and trappers. With numbers going down wanted to know that revenue will be made up.

Governor Walker: Said we have to find more ways to obtain revenue. Not interested in additional tax. Said we should tie funding to use.

Kenosha: Queried how we will facilitate the adoption of his concepts within the DNR.

Governor Walker: Said some of his first meetings were with the DNR, then he went out to listening sessions. Worked with legislature on some issues and worked within the DNR on others. Report shows a need for bottom up decision-making rather than top down. Said he will want to continue the dialogue with the Congress.

Oconto: Asked if the wolf goes back on the endangered species list, what can we do in response.

Governor Walker: I expect some push back on delisting. Mentioned DNR did a good job with it. Said we need to make sure we have solid numbers based on science. Said he has worked with Congressional delegation of both Democrats and Republicans and we've gotten their support. The plan is to fight off any legal challenge.

Milwaukee: Admired Governor Walker's courage and wants to give a big thank you (applause).

Item 10: Fisheries spring hearings results.

Mike Staggs, Bureau of Fisheries Management: Introduced fisheries staff and briefed on the status of fish hatcheries. Wild Rose was recently renovated. The amount of work on this project suggests there is much to be done on other hatcheries.

Hired a company called Fish Pro to come in and evaluate our hatchery system. There are ten hatcheries in the state; also five rearing stations and three egg collection stations. They stock 6 million trout and salmon and also bass, walleye, etc. Mentioned world record for brown trout, stocked by Wild Rose Hatchery. Noted examples of hatcheries have deteriorated with problems with lead paint and deteriorating electrical systems. Some have been designated as historical sites which means they can't be torn down and rebuilt, but must be maintained. Many water systems are not protected (i.e. open water supplies rather than wells). Some are open to VHS infested waters and another gets its supply from ground water right near a gas station. Many of these facilities would not be built with today's standard and some older facilities have discharge water is not in compliance. Without renovation, some will not be sustainable and fewer fish will be produced. Great Lakes are most vulnerable. Also pointed out that not only are improvements necessary, but funds are also needed to be available to maintain them. Consultants looked at other states and made severable recommendations. A fish hatchery stamp on each fishing license is one example. Said the agency needs feedback from outdoor groups

Dodge: Asked about the Brule hatchery.

Staggs: Said three facilities have already been closed and the state doesn't have the money to keep the Brule open.

Sheboygan: Asked about Asian carp issue?

Staggs: Nothing has changed. Still abundance in lower Wisconsin, upper Mississippi and Illinois River. Concern that alewife population is not enough to support fish stocking.

Waushara: Asked about Wild Rose holding tanks.

Staggs: They are lined with rubber and no fish can be enclosed. Will be using the ponds in the future. Facility should be up to full capacity soon.

Follow up: Questioned the amount of water used. Said his well is affected.

Staggs: Said to discuss with hatchery manager.

Milwaukee: Said mussels are the reason for alewife population problems. Moving water through the hatcheries is a problem as it leads to spreading zebra mussels.

Staggs: Doing testing on possible environmental impacts. They have protocols whereby fish are treated before going out for stocking. Mentioned Lake Mills has zebra mussels.

Buffalo: Brought up issue of not being able to take minnow bait out of Mississippi to use on the river. WCC passed a resolution to allow using river harvested minnow. Agency also passed an advisory saying the same. Related that last year Mr. Staggs said we need to check with Minnesota. Asked about revisiting the issue. Suggested the law is not being complied with.

La Crosse: Can't take out carp from inland waters. Said commercial fisherman are not allowed to take carp.

Staggs: Doesn't agree that commercial fisherman can't do carp removal.

Spring Hearing Questions:

Staggs: Reviewed the problem of excessive rules, looking at determining whether a rule is necessary biologically. Made the distinction between those who fish and fishermen. Fishermen know the rules. Those who fish only fish occasionally. Said there are many reasons to do other things. Said fish biologists are talking about allowing doing away with catch and release.

Item 11: WCC Advisory Question Summary

Q40: Phase out felt soles: Motion to advance by Waukesha, second by Vilas, motion carried.

Q41: Recycling Program Funding: Motion to advance by Marquette, second by Clark, motion carried.

Q42: Wetland Management jurisdiction: Motion to reject failed. Motion by Sheboygan to advance, second by Waukesha, motion carried.

Q43: Storm Water Regulation: Motion to advance by Calumet, second by Kenosha, motion carried.

Q44: Erosion Control Management: Motion to advance by Waukesha, second by Jefferson, motion carried.

Q45: Open Burning: Motion by Manitowoc to advance, second by Dunn, motion carried.

Q46: Archers applying for antlerless permits: Motion by Waukesha to advance, second by Jefferson. Motion carried

Q47: Public/private antlerless deer system: Motion by Manitowoc to reject, second by Waukesha, motion carried.

Q48: Use of rifles in Shawano County: Motion by Door to advance, second by Shawano, motion carried.

Q49: Use of rifles in Outagamie County: Motion by Bayfield to advance, second by Kenosha, motion carried.

Q50: Northern DMU boundaries: Motion by Waukesha to advance, second by Bayfield, motion carried.

Q51: Allow trolling while position fishing: Motion by Iron to advance, second by Vilas, motion carried.

Q52: Allow sale of turkey parts: Motion by Ozaukee to advance, second by Monroe, motion carried.

Q53: Legalize cage traps for turtles: Motion by Wood to advance, second by Lafayette, motion carried.

Q54: Use of handheld lights while predator hunting: Motion by La Crosse to advance, second by Vilas.

Discussion:

Walworth Opposes.

La Crosse: Author of resolution said scanning is allowed in 33 states. Said we have a huge influx of wolves.

Marinette: Concerned about use infrared lights or other high tech equipment.

Motion carried.

Q55: Allow bow hunting at Grand River Wildlife Area: Motion by Door to advance, second by Monroe.

Discussion:

Green Lake: Opposed. Said the same question came up at the Migratory Committee and was defeated, then Parks and Recreation rewrote it and it went to the Executive Council. Other property owners are against this and the manager is against it.

Washington: Opposed. Agreed Migratory Committee did reject and local biologist was against it.

Suggested it would be disruptive.

La Crosse: Supports resolution brought by Forestry and Parks Committees. Said they passed it after looking at map and finding thousands of acres of upland habitat that was not being used by resting waterfowl. Said there was no one at the meeting to question from the maps committee saw that is not waterfowl resting area.

Door: Supports. Bow hunters would not bother waterfowl.

Walworth: Opposed. Said he was present when the author was there. Suggested a buffer zone around the water.

Motion carried.

Q56: Four-day check for Weasel Traps: Motion by Wood to advance, second by Lincoln, motion carried.

Q57: Combine Muskrat and Mink zones: Motion by Kenosha to advance, second by Oconto. Motion carried.

Q58: Increase trapping license fee: Motion by Oconto to advance, second by Washburn. Motion carried.

Q59: Spring closure for pike on Green Bay: Motion by Calumet to advance, second by Kenosha. Motion carried.

Q60: Allow crossbows during bear season: Motion by Waukesha to advance, second by Kenosha. Motion carried.

Q61: Allow crossbows during turkey season: Motion by Monroe to advance, second by Jefferson. Motion carried.

Q62: Weapon Options: Motion by Vilas to advance, second by Kenosha. Motion failed.

Q63: Transfer license to senior or disabled person: Motion by Oneida to reject, second by Brown, Discussion:

Oneida: Recommended the resolution be rejected because the wording of the question was changed after the study committee had completed its work. Motion to reject carried on paddle vote 37-35.

Sheboygan: Suggested briefing the NRB on the situation.

Q64: Make landowner turkey tags property specific: Motion by Waukesha to accept, second by Monroe.

Discussion:

Barron: Opposed. Land owner who says his land is no longer open if this is passed

Walworth: Supports.

Waushara: Supports. Said because landowners don't always hunt on their own land. Landowner preference should be used on one's own land.

Door: Said this resolution does not restrict this to one's own property.

Vernon: Questioned whether this would simplify rules. Said he doesn't know of anyone who gets this permit and then goes to public land.

Waushara: Said it's an enforcement nightmare.

Motion carried.

Q65: Creates maximum 25 mph on open water: Motion by Door to reject, second by Winnebago.

Discussion:

Walworth: Opposed to the change.

Clark: Opposed. Said speed limit by ice shanties already exists. Said people on flowages should not have to travel this slowly. Said Snowmobile Club has 27,000 members and they are opposed to the proposal.

Winnebago: Said it's unenforceable for 137,000 acres on Winnebago. Snow removal trucks need to go at least 35 miles an hour to get the job done.

Vilas: Spoke with snowmobile clubs. They want it rejected.

Motion to reject carried.

#66: Sturgeon spearing preference point: Motion by Milwaukee to advance, second by Winnebago.

Motion carried.

Q67: Use of crossbows for rough fish. Motion by Douglas to advance, second by Kenosha. Motion carried.

Q68: 50 percent concealment rule. Motion by Iowa to advance, second by Sauk. Motion carried.

Q69: Sandhill crane season: Motion by Sauk to advance, second by Waupun. Motion carried.

Q70: Exterior Canada goose season dates: Motion by Kewaunee to advance, second by Monroe.

Motion carried.

Q71: Delay start of spring crow season: Motion by La Crosse to advance, second by Oneida. Motion carried.

Q72: Canada goose tagging: Motion by Dodge to advance, second by Marquette. Motion carried.

Q73: Mecan Springs Area: Motion to advance by La Crosse, second by Brown. Motion carried.

Q74: Continuous open season for trout: Motion by Walworth to advance, second by Manitowoc.

Motion carried.

Q75: Allow motor trolling statewide: Motion by Washburn to advance, second by Walworth.

Discussion:

Vilas: Opposed.

Motion carried.

Q76: Prohibit spearing of panfish: Motion by Jefferson to advance, second by Walworth.

Discussion:

Manitowoc: Opposed. Said he got seven calls on this. Warned against taking away opportunities.

Outagamie: Opposed. Said if somebody is abusing a resource, it should be dealt with on a local level.

Forest: Said there were more spears than those with fishing gear.

Wood: Asks for clarification of question. Aschenbrenner clarifies. Motion carried.

Q77: Spearing rough fish near dams: Motion by Milwaukee to advance, second by Florence. Motion carried.

Q78: Eliminate late opening for bass in northwest Wisconsin: Motion by Douglas to advance, second by Iron. Motion carried.

Q79: Walleye Restoration on Lake Chetek: Motion by La Crosse to advance, second by St. Croix. Motion carried.

Q80: Establish 40 inch size limit for Musky: Motion by Iowa to advance, second by Washburn. Motion carried.

Q81: Reduce bass limit to 12 inches on Shawano Lake: Motion by Shawano to advance, second by St. Croix. Motion carried.

Q82: Reduced bag and increase size for pike on Caroline Pond: Motion by Shawano to advance, second by Outagamie. Motion carried.

Q83: Reduced bag limit panfish on Little Hills Lake: Motion by Walworth to advance, second by Jefferson. Motion carried.

Q84: Largemouth bass size limit on Winnebago system: Motion by La Crosse to advance, second by Pierce. Motion carried.

Q85: Largemouth bass size limit reduction Pickerel and Crane Lake. Motion by Forest to advance, second by Fond du Lac. Motion carried.

Q86: Lower bag limit crappies on Oneida Lake: Motion by Oneida to advance, second by Vilas. Motion carried.

Q87: Notification of wolf depredation: Motion by Iron to advance, second by Douglas. Motion carried.

Q88: Allow Statewide Coyote harvest during deer season: Motion by Clark to advance, second by Dodge. Motion carried.

Q89: Pittman-Roberson money for shooting ranges: Motion by Columbia to advance, second by Door. Motion Carried.

Q90: Shooting range initiative: Motion by Columbia to advance, second by Ozaukee. Motion carried.

Q91: Panfish limit: Motion by Walworth to reject, second by Monroe. Motion to reject carried.

#### Item 12: Strategic Planning Process:

Art Lersch: Briefed assembly on the proposed planning session.

##### Discussion:

Bayfield: Queried the size of the committee, how large, what roles and responsibilities.

Mentioned new delegate orientation. Said there is a poor understanding of the way to get elected to positions. Need public relations and press releases. Need to communicate better with NRB.

Calumet: Suggested an overall marketing plan will help with recruiting delegates. Need to connect with sportsmen's clubs as they don't have an understanding of how WCC works.

La Crosse: Doesn't think it is clear the difference between NRB, DNR and WCC. We have to have some clear distinctions as there is a perception of overlap among those bodies. Said we are not part of the DNR but an advisory body to the NRB.

Dodge: We need to have a way to advertise our successes. Also said alternative voting is detrimental. We would need to have a good protocol so that it doesn't get out of hand.

Dunn: Suggested generating our own website. Also said if there is something in the rules that we don't like contact the county delegation.

Clark: Committee balance needs to be addressed, e.g., the Bear Committee is loaded with dog hunters. Also said the chairman of the WCC should be elected at large.

Waushara: Said problems go back 40 years and the last 10 years we are our own worst enemy because of using the computer answer sheet at the Spring Hearings. We do not get the benefit of hearing the discussion because people fill it out and leave. Said people are gone 15-20 minutes after starting spring hearings. Said we have lost of hunters because of Deer 2000. Said we do not have the input to NRB we used to have.

Marquette: Said we need more communication. The local media don't know who the delegates are.

Fond du Lac: Concerned about social media. Said we don't do a good job of communicating, that we need to make ourselves available.

Pepin: Should consider different forms of funding. Fundraisers. Suggested a treasurer position.

Crawford: Environment should be stressed because we are not educating ourselves on flora and fauna.

Oconto: Thought there should be more media involvement since they are the key to getting the message out. Said we need to do more legislative action to get people interested.

Walworth: Said there is a lack of access in her area, even for the handicapped.

Oneida: Said we need to improve Spring Hearing attendance, need to set goals for attendance.

Wood: Said we need to work with state and local authorities to expand opportunities.

Door: Motion to support of the Strategic Planning Committee, second by La Crosse. Motion carried. Hunting recruitment and retention.

Keith Warnke: Said we are losing small game hunters, that hunters are specializing in just one species. Tend to drop out. Said it is important to act now because we still have a lot of people who can pass on the tradition. Said conservation started at the local level. Mentioned actions taken: such as LTH and the Youth Hunts. Suggests that we concentrate on other demographic groups including adults. Said we had over 100 learn to hunt experiences. Said we need to go back to local clubs and organize local programs. Noted that 90 percent involved with LTH have already engaged in hunting. Said there is much interest at the 20-30 year old demographic, also 30-40. Need to focus on families and on "locavores."

Recessed for dinner at 5:14 p.m.

Reconvened at 8:35 a.m., May 12, 2012

Roll call: Sixty-nine counties present. Absent: Langlade, Lincoln and Richland Counties.

Item 13: Chair Bohmann returned to previous day's agenda on town hall meetings during the Spring Hearings.

Dodge: Good discussion but need to do a better job of getting comments documented. Said they had several comments but only a few written comments were turned in.

Washington: Went well with 50 or 60 people. Reminded him of the "old days" when there was more discussion. Suggested a need for recording events.

Vilas: Very pleased with involvement. 20-25 people Referring to simplification effort, said that we can't make things simple.

Door: Went well. Lots of good feedback. Thought some were reluctant to write things down. Said local media were reluctant to print notification of meeting without payment.

Wood: Very little involvement. Just a few comments.

Oconto: About 20 in attendance. Difficult to get anyone to speak up. Only a handful of written comments.

Monroe: Complete silence but about a dozen written comments.

Iowa: Attendance down but as night wears on only had about 10 people left. Suggests perhaps a more wide open question to allow for grievances.

Oneida: Said if we want a town hall meeting we may have to find a way to decrease the number of questions.

Buffalo: Great idea to get people to talk. With the new way of voting we've lost that option. People often complete ballot and leave.

Washburn: Said the big reason we don't have attendance is that the public associates us with the DNR. Said we need to separate ourselves from the DNR. The less popular the DNR is the less popular we are. When they get frustrated with the DNR they think we're part of the problem.

Waushara: Said we have lost connection with our constituents. They would like to see the results of the voting. People want to go home with the feeling they have accomplished something.

La Crosse: Said the hand voting caused people to get involved. We had 45 people.

Pierce: Said the underlying theme of the town hall meeting was having one set of regulations for fishing and hunting. Said it makes no more sense than having a statewide speed limit on roads.

Florence: Cited a lack of attendance, that half of the people left. Had difficulty keeping people on task with the questions.

La Crosse: Said by going to computerized voting we lost the essence of the Spring Hearings. What attracts people is the learning that goes on with the discussion. Thinks Aldo Leopold didn't anticipate the use of computerized voting.

Sawyer: Said several people left but said they had their say on the voting and that was enough.

Lamented losing the discussion factor. Would like to see a hand vote and get immediate feedback.

Item 14: Rules and Resolutions Committee report:

Bonde reviewed the assignment of resolutions to study committees. (See Conference booklet).

Explained that three resolutions in Vilas County were initially rejected because the number of resolutions submitted by one individual was not allowed by the COP. The Executive Council overruled the decision of the R & R Committee and voted to send two of the three to the Warm Water Committee.

Resolution #640412 and 640512: Motion to adopt by Trempeleau, second by Buffalo. Motion carried.

Milwaukee: Motion to reject #s 130112, 130612, 130512, 130712 due to lack of proper format, Second by Clark.

Discussion:

Dodge: Pointed out counties are the first line of defense when there are format problems. Said the wrong format should be caught at county level.

Iowa: Believe the resolutions should go on to the committees because there are others who are out of order.

Clark: Opposed.

Motion failed.

Buffalo: Motion to send #220512 to Mississippi River Committee vice Wildlife Health and Invasive Species, second by Clark.

Grant: Supports.

Motion carried.

Oneida: Motion to send #440312 to Executive Council, second by Menominee.

Discussion:

Oneida: Said it was a safety issue and should be taken up now.

Motion failed.

Vilas: Point of order motion to challenge the decision of the chair, second by Clark. Motion failed.

County issues:

Resolution on 020112 Act 21.

Dane: Motion by adoption. Second by Door. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 15: Overview of voting the desires of the county.

Bonde: Serious implications. If no discussion and no new info will have to submit the reasons why in writing to the Executive Council. Only through a roll call vote.

Vilas: Queried if this is a COP item. Said it must be in the COP in order to make that decision.

Joe Weiss: County delegation needs to keep track of that.

Bonde: Said his report is informational only.

Kenosha: Verifies that executive committee is looking for an effort to keep county delegation accountable. Said Executive Committee is only trying to do their jobs.

Shawano: Said if the delegation votes differently it should be willing to sign their names as to the reason.

Dunn: Problem is not listening to the public because we got rid of the discussion part of the county hearings.

Item 16 Members matters:

Grant: Point of order wants minutes to reflect on Act 21 to show unanimous vote. Duly noted.

Clark: Refers to Vinehout bill. Said Congress leadership remiss that it should have urged all Congress delegates to support her bill. Said we should have booed the Governor during his appearance (Reith).

Columbia: Mentioned youth who have observed violators catch fishing illegally. Motion to advance.

Bohmann: Ruled out of order since it is not on the agenda. Said he would place it on the agenda for the May 22 Executive Council meeting.

Brown: Said with technology the discussion could be up on a screen.

Barron: Delegation is in jeopardy due to low turnout. Difficulty finding delegates, opined because of Act 21. DNR Secretary is a great public relations person. Encouraged the Congress to address sand mine issue in northwest and n. Said there is now talk about mining public land.

Dane: Had twice as many people show up in Dane county than in other counties. People came from other counties and other states. People came for specific issue. Attendance was down due to Act 21. Impact was devastating.

Buffalo: Said three years ago there were suggestions about how to keep our electronic balloting while maintaining attendance. Said we should make people wait to fill out ballot until told by county chair.

Vilas: Re study committees on hiatus. Suggested those without committee work might like to be added to another committee.

Sheboygan: Need to start to input the technology. Numerous tech advancements that could make meetings better.

Clark: Asked why Dr. Kroll didn't attend the conference. Said he believes WCC is a political organization and it should be resource management oriented.

Bohmann: Responded that Dr. Kroll had another commitment.

Washington: Said he has talked to many legislators who don't know anything about the WCC. Need to get DNR representatives more involved. Said Act 21 must be tweaked.

Wood: Suggested we use the technology we have but count the votes that night.

Racine: Asked if Dane County asks people to state their name and where they are from.

Manitowoc: Mentioned the fishing APP and the need to get up to speed on technology. Said it's not the rules and regulations that deter people, its time.

Dodge: Suggested an item to be added to the strategic plan separating us logistically from the department. Said we need to set up our own website. Suggested the strategic plan committee will be a challenge and that it won't be a panacea. Said we need to be open to new technology.

Marinette: Expressed a concern for absentee voting. Sees a discrepancy in the number of people at the spring hearings vs. the total votes.

Milwaukee: Said we don't want just young people, need older people too.

Washburn: Suggested we put this meeting on line.

Bohmann: Wisconsin Eye might be a possibility.

Waushara: Suggested any congress delegate should get a free conservation patron or sportsman license for those who attend the convention. Would have to have perfect attendance.

Bohmann: Noted that by law, every county may reimburse delegates for expenses.

Dane: Said the reason the process was changed to electronic was because of very large number in some counties. Sometimes 1000s in Dane County. Counties with small attendance are at risk of being taken over by those with other objectives. Said we need to start getting to clubs to get them involved.

Motion to adjourn by Dodge

Douglas: Re Staggs discussion on coalition of sportsman to keep Brule fish hatchery open. Asks that exec council stay involved in the discussion.

Kenosha: Disagreed with having a sportsman's license. Due to the fact that we don't want to be associated with the DNR. Suggested promoting trap shooting in high schools. Said it was going over big in Kenosha County and this activity leads to an interest in hunting.

La Crosse: Suggested getting the Conservation Congress story as part of Hunter Education Program.

Bohmann: Said we need 8,000 for strategic planning. We will get that money by doing away with overnight stays and reduce mileage from 40 to 35 per mile. Said to call chair if you need to be excused.

Item 17: Adjournment.

Motion by Dunn, second by Green Lake to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Fahrney, Secretary

Executive Committee

Wisconsin Conservation Congress