

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## BEAR COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes



|                   |                  |         |                                |
|-------------------|------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| ORDER OF BUSINESS | December 8, 2012 | 9:30 AM | Mead Wildlife Education Center |
|-------------------|------------------|---------|--------------------------------|

#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

|                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY | Chairman Mike Rogers at 9:33 AM |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|

##### B. ROLL CALL

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| ATTENDEES | Mike Rogers, Al Lobner, Ralph Fritsch, Will Minette, Scott Strook, Bud Walker, Bruce Prentice, Scott Plocar, E Tom Muench, Al Flannery, Robb Kaminskis, Terry Olson, Denny Jones, Gary Mabie, Mike Pfankuch, Dale Detempel, Mike Murphy, Russell Hitz, Kevin Wallenfang, Dave Oginski |
| EXCUSED   | Daniel Vacho  |
| UNEXCUSED | None  |
| GUESTS    | Robert Knorr, Arlyn Splitt, Rich Kirchmeyer, Brad Koele, Larry Osegard, Colleen Runey   |

##### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

|            |      |
|------------|------|
| DISCUSSION | none |
| ACTION     | none |

##### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| DISCUSSION | <p>The Bear Committee of the Conservation Congress mission is to ensure that we maintain a population of black bear in WI that allows the citizens the ability to harvest a percentage of that population each year but leave an ample amount of mature bears to continue the breeding process.</p> <p>We also want to promote all legal methods for hunting the black bear which include;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Training season for hounds</li> <li>2) Hunting with aid of hounds</li> <li>3) Use of hounds and bait</li> <li>4) Ability to use bait</li> <li>5) Other methods</li> </ol> <p>The charge of the committee is to help make it possible that everyone that hunts the black bear has a chance to have an enjoyable and maybe a successful hunt and that the future of the black bear in WI remains a noble and well sought after animal.</p> |
| ACTION     | Motion by Murphy to accept as written second by Hitz, passed unanimously  |

##### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

|            |      |
|------------|------|
| DISCUSSION | none |
| ACTION     | none |

#### II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

##### A. CREATE HARVEST ZONE SOUTH OF US 10

MARK NOLL

## RESOLUTION 060112

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| DISCUSSION            | Letter read from author Mark Noll. Kevin Wallenfang reported that there may be a significant increase in permits issued for Zone C this year and success rates for this zone are already significantly lower than in other units. |
| ACTION                | Motion to reject by Murphy second by Pfankuch motion passed.  |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE  |
|                       |   |

### B. EARLIER HARVEST IN ZONE C RESOLUTION 100212 & 720112

LARRY OSEGARD

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| DISCUSSION            | There were several comments and questions regarding this resolution such as if success rates go up it will decrease available permits in the future and lengthen time in between receiving a permit. There is also opposition by the tribes due to safety reasons with an August hunt. There were also comments that some people in the southern portions of Zone C would like to see more bears on the landscape. |
| ACTION                | Motion to reject by Murphy, second by Hitz, motion passed by a 10-6 hand vote  |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE   |
|                       |  |

### C. TRANSFER CLASS A HARVEST PERMIT RESOLUTION 510112

RICH KIRCHMEYER

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| DISCUSSION            | Amendment of Paragraph 3 of Resolution 51-01-12 to read: Where as: We should have the capability to transfer a Class A Bear Harvest Permit to any present armed forces member or past Purple Heart Recipient for a once in a lifetime transfer. |
| ACTION                | Motion to accept with amendment by Murphy second by Hitz, motion passed unanimously. Author Rich Kirchmeyer supported amendment as adopted.   |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE  |
|                       |   |

### D. HARVEST GOALS

**Zone A:** Motion by Murphy second by Hitz to support department harvest goal of 1150 for Zone A. Motion passed with Bruce Prentice dissenting due to concerns of the high ratio of sows harvested this year.

**Zone B:** Motion by Murphy second by Hitz to support department harvest goal of 450 for Zone B. Motion passed however there are differing views of the population in that zone from those members on the east side versus the west side of this zone.

**Zone C:** Motion by Lobner second by Hitz to support department harvest goal of 1200 for Zone C. Motion passed with Mike Murphy dissenting.

**Zone D:** Motion by Murphy second by Hitz to support department harvest goal of 1200 for Zone D. Motion passed with Bruce Prentice dissenting again due to concerns of the high ratio of sows being harvested in this area.

### E. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Big Game Biologist, Kevin Wallenfang, gave the 2012 bear harvest summary along with proposed harvest quotas/permits.

Brad Koele reported on damage/nuisance shooting harvest permits as well as APHIS trapping activities. Warden Dave Oginski gave a report on 2012 law enforcement trends.

Kevin Wallenfang gave an update on the current Learn To Bear Hunt Program and at that time there was a motion by Rob Kaminskis and a second by Terry Olsen to suspend the Class A Learn to Hunt Bear Program for the 2013 season. Motion passed.

### III. MEMBERS MATTERS

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>DISCUSSION</b> | <p>Bruce Prentice commented that the trend seems to be to eliminate back tags however he feels we should continue to promote their use as an aid to law enforcement for trespassing.</p> <p>A few members commented that the Mead was a nice place to have the meetings and Saturdays allowed for more time to conduct business.</p> <p>Al Lobner commented that at this time there is no money set aside to conduct the next tetracycline study and he feels we should combine the cost of applications and Class B licenses for everyone and earmark the additional funds beyond the cost of applications to be used for bear research and bear management.</p> <p>Mike Rogers commented that the department should no longer support the use of Ag Damage Tags for bears.</p> |
| <b>ACTION</b>     | <p>A motion by Al Lobner and seconded by Mike Murphy was made to have Mike Rogers work with the Department to implement an Administrative Code change to combine the application fee and Class B Bear License Permit for all applicants. All additional funds beyond the application costs are to be earmarked for bear research and bear management. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mike Murphy made a motion and Mike Rogers seconded to have Mike Rogers work with the Department to eliminate Bear Ag Damage Shooting Permits and have the department promote Class A Harvest Permit Holders to utilize their tags to aid in Bear Ag Damage Control. Motion passed.</p>   |

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b> | <b>2:17 PM</b>          |
| <b>SUBMITTED BY</b>      | <b>Al Lobner</b>        |
| <b>DATE</b>              | <b>December 8, 2012</b> |