

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Big Game Study Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	August 18, 2012	9 AM	Comfort Inn, Plover WI
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Co- Chairman Al Phelan called meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Al had Marlin Laidlaw make an announcement about a Buck & Bear Book available to be put in schools. Marlin had copies available for Committee members if they wanted to take to their schools.
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Jerry Merryfield, Alan Horvath, Alan Gerber, James Morning, Roger Sabota, Mike Riggle, Tony Janecek – Secretary, Arold Ninneman, Jerry Aulik, Mark Noll – Co Chairman, Pearl Holmstadt, William Yingst, Stan Brownell, Marlin Laidlaw, Allen Jacobson, Larry Gohlke, Doug Seidl, Wright Allen, David Pagel, Terri Roehrig, Larry Bonde, Joe Caputo, Al Phelan – Co Chairman, Charlie Brown, Kevin Wallenfang – WDNR Liaison, Mark Burmesch – WDNR Liaison, Kevin Mickelberg – WDNR Liaison
EXCUSED	David Hraychuck, Larrie Hazen, Martin Hass
UNEXCUSED	None
GUESTS	Mike Watt WDNR Deer Research Project Leader, Brian Glenzinski WDNR CWD Program Coordinator, Greg Kazmierski WDNR Board Member, Lee Fahrney WCC Chair Wolf Committee, Ben Loma resolution presenter, Jerald Quimby resolution presenter

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Al asked if we would like to move up the handling of resolutions for authors present
ACTION	.Motion was made by Jerry Merryfield with second by Arold Ninneman to do this. Motion passed unanimously however both authors chose to not have their resolution heard earlier.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	"The Mission of the Big Game Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by blending the social and biological concerns of hunters, citizens and the Department of Natural Resources to provide successful management of Wisconsin's big game animals addresses the interests of all parties."
ACTION	Chairman Al asked & received no changes to the mission statement. Motion by Roger Sabota with second by Jim Morning to leave as is. Motion passed unanimously.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. DEER RESEARCH UPDATE

MIKE WATT BUREAU OF SCIENCE
SERVICE, WDNR

Mike noted the project was started two years ago. He wanted to thank all those who supported this project, the crew of 28 & all the volunteers that helped catch fawns. The research was being done on fawn recruitment & adult deer survival. These studies were done in the North near Winter WI & in the Eastern Farmland near Clintonville WI.

FAWN RECRUITMENT – Understanding factors that are limiting recruitment

To find the fawns they used transmitters drop by does or the opportunist method of “just looking” for the fawns with a large group of volunteers. They ear tagged the fawns, monitor their weight, hoof growth, behavior, GPS location, umbilicus condition & were radio collared. At the mortality sites they took photos, GPS location, field necropsy & looked for predator keys like scat, tracks, carcass disposition, etc

Fawn Capture Results – North Forest

2011	2012
• 36 fawns captured	32 captures
• 30 radio collared	30 collared
(17 male, 13 female)	(16 male, 14 females)

Fawn Capture Results – Eastern Farmland

2011	2012
• 68 captured	76 captured
• 48 collared	46 collared
(26 male, 22 female)	(26 male, 20 female)

Fawn Mortality Summary – Summer 2011 (only one year of data)

North Forest – 60% mortality (18/30)	Eastern Farmland – 27% (13/48)
• 89% predator (16)	13% predation (4)
• 11% unknown (2)	8% unknown (1)
	46% natural causes other than predation
	(6) 15% road kill (2)

Fawn Predation Summary – Summer 2011

Northern Forest	Eastern Farmland
• 16 Predation Events	4 Predation Events
- 31% bear (5)	25% bear (1)
- 25% bobcat (4)	50% coyote (2)
- 6% coyote (1)	25% unknown (1)
- 6% unknown (1)	
- 31% unknown predator (5)	

End – of – Year Fawn Mortality Summary 2011

Northern Forest	Eastern Farmland
• 73% mortality (22/30)	37% mortality (18/48)
- 16 predation (73%)	6 predation (32%) (4 or 67% coyotes)
- 3 harvest (14%)	6 natural causes (32%)
- 3 unknown (14%)	3 road kill (15%)
	2 harvest related (11%)
	2 unknown (11%)

Fawn Mortality Summary – Summer 2012

Northern Forest	Eastern Farmland
• 33% mortality (10/30)	22% mortality (10/46)
- 8 predation (80%)	6 predation (60%)
➤ 3 coyote (38%)	4 coyotes (67%)
➤ 2 bear (25%)	1 unknown (canid) (17%)
➤ 3 unknown (38%)	1 unknown predator (17%)
- 1 road kill	4 natural causes (40%)

DISCUSSION

	<p>ADULT SURVIVAL – Collect data to improve population estimates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods – Winter Adult Capture (2011 – 2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - helicopter net-gunning - box traps - netted cage traps - drop nets - darting • monitor survival & movement of deer weekly <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Capture Results – Northern Forest</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">2011 – 204 deer</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">2012 – 111 deer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* 78 bucks</td> <td>* 42 bucks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* 126 does</td> <td>* 69 does</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Capture Results – Eastern Farmland</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">2011 – 134 deer</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">2012 – 107 deer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* 55 bucks</td> <td>* 59 bucks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* 79 does</td> <td>* 48 does</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adults “on air” 57 bucks & 51 does</td> <td>Adults “on air” 82 bucks & 43 does</td> </tr> </table> <p>Adult Capture Summary – Total 828 captured (556 captures plus 272 recaptures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 - 33 captured related mortalities (6.2%) • 2012 – 7 captured mortalities (2.4%) <p>Looking Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • daily fawn telemetry ends August 31 • currently recruiting crew leaders to start September 1st • proposing December capture • considering 3rd fawn capture season <p>When Mike was asked what was the biggest surprise from this research study he stated it was the effect of weather. Mike also noted volunteers will be needed for help with field work, fund raising, trapping, handling & tracking deer this winter or with spring fawn capture.</p> <p>Mike also talked about the possibility of capturing deer with the use of darting drugs starting December 12, 2012. He said they generally like to drug adult bucks for safe handling. He said the drug has a 7 to 30 day withdrawal & there was some concern doing this during the bow season. Al Phelan asked how this is reviewed locally? Mike said they have not done this but plan to do.</p>	2011 – 204 deer	2012 – 111 deer	* 78 bucks	* 42 bucks	* 126 does	* 69 does	2011 – 134 deer	2012 – 107 deer	* 55 bucks	* 59 bucks	* 79 does	* 48 does	Adults “on air” 57 bucks & 51 does	Adults “on air” 82 bucks & 43 does
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ACTION	<p>Motion was made by Joe Caputo with second by Marlin Laidlaw to accept the concept of drugging deer in December asking the Executive Committee to review after receiving a one page document explaining the issues from Mike Wattt. Motion passed with one opposing.</p> <p>A motion was made by Larry Bonde with second by Tony Janecek to support the continuing of this deer research (fawn capture, etc.) from Pittman Robinson Funds. Motion passed unanimously.</p>														
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE														
Motion #1 – Mike Watt & WCC Executive Committee Motion #2 – WCC Executive Committee															

B. CWD SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

**BRIAN GLENZINSKI, CWD
PROGRAM COORDINATOR,
WDNR**

DISCUSSION	<p>Brian stated there were 4872 deer samples taken with 238 positives in the CWD Zone. He said there were 453 samples taken out of the zone with one positive. He discussed CWD sampling areas for 2012. He noted they now have a hunter service for testing CWD statewide with turn around time of 21 days. In the Washburn response plan they tested 62 deer & did not find any additional CWD in these deer. He said the Department has a new Sick Deer Reporting System & discussed the shooting of “sick deer” by landowners. He recommended going to the Departments web site KnowCWD. com.</p>
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	<p>Advisory Proposal for Urine-Based Scents per Brian Glenzinski</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prions have been found in urine • product loosely regulated • noted there are other ways to use urine • use of scents by landowners needed to be based with reduce risk to the environment <p>A discussion was held involving the use of 4 wheelers in the CDW Zones then tracking this dirt into other areas of the state.</p>	
ACTION	<p>A motion was made by Mike Riggle with second by Jerry Merryfield to have the Department develop advisory "best management practices" documents to prevent the spread of CWD via 4 wheelers, baiting, feeding etc. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Under member matters Joe Caputo made a motion to eliminate the October antlerless season in the CWD Zone with second by Larry Bonde. Joe noted in 2009 Spring Hearing Question #64 passed in 72 counties with a statewide vote of 5513 in favor of eliminating & 1321 opposed. Motion passed.</p>	
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. DEER UPDATE

KEVIN WALLENFANG, BIG GAME SPECIALIST, WDNR

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 Deer Season Final Harvest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - archery 90,200 - gun 257,000 <p>Kevin noted this past winter had a low severity index & the fawn production was good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 Deer Season Framework & Outlook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - similar to 2011 - 50 buck plus antlerless quota units (up from 28 in 2011) - 44 herd control units (down from 64 in 2011) - 6 regular units (down from 8 in 2011) - 22 CWD units (little to no change) - October 4 day antlerless hunt in CWD units is questionable <p>Kevin talked about the 36 deer hunter forums held in 2012. He said 1200 attended with the highest attendance in the North with format for a communication plan & to share information. Kevin noted there was a new On-Line Form to talk to the DNR. Kevin felt the 2012 permit levels were realistic & noted the deer quotas were set by DNR personnel from the specific DMU's. He noted that Cathy Stepp administration was sensitive to what we want to do & wanted hunting to be fun. Kevin said he was willing to come & talk to any local group & is also available to talk via the telephone (1-608-261-7589) .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of Deer Legislation / Rule Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - allow coyote hunting during gun deer season (in Trustee package) • Proposed 2012 Big Game DNR Spring Hearing Rule Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - allow use of rifles in all of Shawano & Outagamie Counties (recommended for 2013) - northern DMU boundary changes (included in Trustee package) - cross bow use during bear season (no action required) - eliminate state park DMU designation - simplify disability deer hunt requirements - permanent fix to the Apostle Island October muzzleloader hunt 	
DISCUSSION		
ACTION		
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

D. LE UPDATES

MARK BURMESCH & KEVIN MICKLEBERG, WDNR LAW ENFORCEMENT

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - talked about warden accountability - gave feed back line on wardens business cards - presently weathering storm of retirements (37 vacancies) - 11 wardens in training (training takes 2 years) - can only hire 10 to 15 wardens at a time - hired a recruiting specialist - have a new training director - COPS Program (Concern Of Police Survivors) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ wardens work with kids & Mom's throughout the country ➤ 300 come to Wisconsin ➤ wardens were taking them fishing, using bows, BB guns, boating, etc.
ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

E. CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS

**MARK NOLL, CO-CHAIRMAN WCC
BIG GAME COMMITTEE**

DISCUSSION & ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 110212 – Create a more traditional 9-day season for muzzleloaders Motion to reject by Jerry Merryfield with second by Joe Caputo. In discussion it was noted it goes against simplifying seasons. Motion to reject passed unanimously. • Resolution 160512 – End December antlerless season Motion to accept by Al Horvath with second by Jerry Merryfield. In discussion it was noted it is not needed to control the herd. Motion to accept passed 14 yes, 6 no. • Resolution 210312 – Create separate license & change date for muzzleloader season Motion to reject by Jerry Merryfield with second by Joe Caputo. In discussion it was pointed out it goes against simplifying seasons. Motion to reject passed unanimously • Resolution 440112 – Only allow 1 or 2 bonus permits to a hunter outside the CWD Zone Author Ben Loma was present to discuss. Motion to reject by Larry Bonde with second by Tony Janecek. In discussion it was pointed out by Kevin Wallenfang that 89% of deer hunters shoot one deer or less. Motion to reject passed 11 yes, 9 no. • Resolution 540212 – Return to buck-only gun & bow deer hunting seasons Motion to reject by Marlin Laidlaw with second by Allen Jacobson. Motion to reject passed. • Resolution 680412 – Free crossbow stamp & registration stub to capture weapon of harvest. Motion to reject by Jerry Aulik with second by Arold Ninneman. Motion to reject passed. • Resolution 690312 – Simplification of deer hunting season Author Jerald Quimby was present to discuss. Motion to accept by Marlin Laidlaw with second by Charlie Brown. In discussion it was noted it would be difficult to tell handicap & youth hunters they can not have a special season. Motion to accept was rejected 6 yes, 15 no.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

F. REVIEW OF DR. KROLL'S REPORT ON WHITETAIL MANAGEMENT IN WISCONSIN

**KEVIN WALLENFANG, BIG GAME
SPECIALIST, WDNR**

DISCUSSION	Kevin Wallenfang discussed the report noting the DMAP (Deer Management Assistant Program) recommendation had no blue print to implement. He noted they are just digging into the report looking at what they can start doing quickly, costs of doing activities in report & said the rule process may require legislation. He said the Department met and are at a point trying to figure out what's next & where to go with this time consuming project. He pointed out more direction is needed, action groups will be formed, that there are a lot of questions & how is WCC involved. He said they are plowing new
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ground & they need ideas on how to proceed.

Larry Bonde talked about the great opportunity we now have. He noted the WCC has the opportunity to help shape the deer program. He talked about the stakeholders meeting, how the public wants to see something fast & how the WCC should get going now. He recommended adjusting DMAP & calling it something new for our own thing in Wisconsin. He also said we could look at managing deer by counties, bring farmers together etc. He feels there is a high opportunity but also some hurdles. He asked this committee to give the Executive Council direction.

Joe Caputo said he agrees 100% with Larry's comments. He feels we need to move forward but can not forget the past noting the report belongs to the people in localized areas.

Al Phelan said DMAP is a great opportunity. He noted that hunters are more educated about deer & there is room for all to learn.

Bill Yingst agreed with 99% of what Larry Bonde stated but thought we should not change the DMAP term.

Stan Brownell agrees with the report. He feels the WCC must take the lead but with caution & the DNR Board must be in charge.

Jerry Merryfield agreed with Larry Bonde's comments & with the report. He said youth is not on the WCC & thinks we need to try to interest young involvement. He also felt baiting & feeding issues must be moved forward, have a separate private / private tag system & that communication is critical to move forward.

Marlin Laidlaw said we need to address private / public land issues.

Al Horvath said he is confused with the goals the Department has for deer. He talked about the social carry capacity & noted the need for a clear idea what the DNR goals are. He said we need to work forward on trust, not opposite goals.

Mike Riggle felt the majority of hunters are clueless like rejecting clear cuts. He feels this is a golden opportunity but is not sure we have the capability, rather facilitators. He said we need to be careful in our positions on issues in that they may change with new information. He felt things will change & we should do things sooner than later. He recommended having a Kroll report meeting with local deer managers

Rob Bohmann said our job is to facilitate at the county & state level, advise the DNR Board & to move forward. He is looking for the Big Game Committee to support Dr. Kroll's report.

Greg Kazmierski said he has asked the Board to put group together to advise the Board & feels we need the Board from the start.

Terri Roehrig said she agrees with the comments about the report. She feels we need a change in attitude of hunters, have some structure & educate along the way to guide them.

Lee Fahrney said DMAP should be stuck with & we should decide to lead or follow. He feels this committee can start the ball rolling.

Roger Sabota said it has been popular to damn the DNR such that we now started to build that bridge. He feels there is a new attitude in the DNR.

Allen Jacobson asked what is DMAP (Deer Management Assistant Program)? He noted the WCC represents sportsman not the people.

Kevin Wallenfang recommended the committee talk to other states about DMAP. He noted it was created in the South to work with local landowners. He said other DMAP states agree it is the best public relations tool. He feels the key is local contacts & more people involved giving data. It is boots on the ground, one on one contact & interaction with landowners & Department managers. He recommends picking a couple of people to get started.

Mark Noll stated he is proud the WCC was mentioned in the report .He feels the Congress delegates know what is going on in the counties. He noted someone must make the decision of more or less deer

Joe Caputo asked if DMAP worked for trophy deer? Kevin Wallenfang said in southern states it does

	<p>work even with there longer seasons & greater buck permits. Joe noted that the key is education of a woodland type program.</p> <p>Mark Noll noted Dr. Kroll says pick the low hanging fruit. Mark recommends selecting pilot areas to get DMAP working.</p> <p>Rob Bohmann stated everything must be implemented & we need sustainability.</p>
ACTION	Motion was made by Larry Bonde with second by Marlin Laidlaw to give the Executive Committee the authority to go to the Board endorsing the Dr. Kroll Report. Mark Noll asked at what point do the people get a shot at this? It was noted at public comments per Act 21.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Mike Riggle – noted the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee on are the web site</p> <p>Marlin Laidlaw – noted the Ag Damage Committee should take in account that deer have value & this value should be taken in consideration before paying crop damage.</p> <p>Larry Bonde – noted per Robert Rules calling the question does not end the discussion.</p> <p>Dave Pagel – noted in mine about banning baiting / feeding for disability hunters. He wants to move forward with the deer hunt</p> <p>Allen Jacobson – wants to proceed with an elk hunt in 2013</p> <p>Tony Janecek – made a motion with second by Joe Caputo to limit the buying of bonus antlerless permits, outside the CWD Zone, per recommendation in Kroll report . Motion to accept passed</p> <p>Rob Bohmann – thanked everyone for their time & input</p>
ACTION	Joe Caputo made a motion to eliminate the October antlerless season in the CWD Zone with second by Larry Bonde. Joe noted in 2009 Spring Hearing Question #64 passed in 72 counties with a statewide vote of 5513 in favor of eliminating & 1321 opposed. Motion passed.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	4:17 PM
SUBMITTED BY	Tony Janecek
DATE	August 22, 2012