

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Wolf Study Committee Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	December 15, 2012	9:00am	Mead Wildlife Visitor Center
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chair Fahrney called the meeting to order at 9:11 am
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	L. Groskopf, S. Staver, G. Schenck, A. Popp, M. Leis, B. Bauman, S. McAuley, L. Fahrney, P. Witalison
EXCUSED	J. McNally, M. Whiteside, L. Wilson, T. Carter
UNEXCUSED	A. Loker, D. Grant
GUESTS	Adrian Wydeven, Dave MacFarland, Bill Vander Zouwen, Dave Oginski, (all DNR) Christine Browne-Nunez (UW), Macey, Maegan, Tammy & Mark Loka (WI Trapper's Assoc), Jeff Giese, Al Lobner, Don Furo Wisconsin Bear Hunter's Association

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Chair Fahrney suggested review of mission statement was completed at the last meeting
ACTION	Popp motioned, Schenck seconded approval of the agenda as suggested, M.C.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	deleted from agenda
ACTION	

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. UPDATE ON WOLF SEASON AND WOLF DEPREDATION REPORT

ADRIAN WYDEVEN

DISCUSSION	Depredations were less for farms and hunting dogs than previous years. Fifty-seven wolves have been euthanized by wildlife services, 129 landowner permits issued with 15 shot, 3 additional taken in the act of attacking. A handout on the wolf season was distributed to members. More males are being taken by hunting. Five of 22 wolves killed in vehicle collisions were collared wolves. Three of 7 known illegal kills in gun deer season were collared. A map of where wolves have been taken was distributed to members.	
ACTION	none	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

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B. WOLF POPULATION MODELING REPORT

DAVE MACFARLAND

DISCUSSION	Dave Distributed a "white paper" on recommendations for future wolf population counting and estimates to the group. Volunteer/agency counting will continue, air tracking of collars will continue on a limited basis, occupancy modeling using hunter surveys, and capture/release genetic modeling will be used in the future. The goal is to reduce the cost of wolf counting, establish methods for estimating to augment direct counting methods, and produce a reliable count. This model allows wildlife researchers to use multiple sources for data. Funding may come from Pitman Robertson funds. Discussion took place of the population carrying capacity and minimum number to sustain wolves in Wisconsin.	
ACTION	none	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
none		

C. DNR LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

DAVE OGINSKI

DISCUSSION	Dave discussed that there were very few problems during the wolf season. Two people who trapped wolves with a permit had not completed the trapper education course, and these two people will be cited.	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
none		

D. REPORT ON SOCIAL IMPACT OF WOLVES

CHRISTINE BROWNE-NUNEZ

DISCUSSION	Research on public attitudes towards wolves was presented. The attitudes of farmers, deer hunters and bear hunters were studied in surveys and focus groups over a period from 2002 until the most recent focus groups in 2012. While deer farmers were generally more tolerant of wolves, all three groups showed evidence that fewer wolves in Wisconsin might create more support for wolves in Wisconsin and the DNR wolf management program.	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
none		

E. WOLF HARVEST

MEAGAN LOKA

DISCUSSION	Report from Maegen Loka on the 6 th wolf taken in the wolf harvest, second taken by trapping method, first wolf taken in Zone 4.	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
none		

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Several members made comments about season structure and baiting.
ACTION	None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	12:24 pm – motion made by Popp, seconded by Staver, M.C.
SUBMITTED BY	Laurie Groskopf
DATE	Dec. 15, 2012