

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Executive Council
Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	January 4-5, 2013	9:30 a.m.	Stoney Creek Inn Wausau, Wisconsin
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chair Rob Bohmann
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Joe Weiss, Rick Olson, Dale Maas, Dick Koerner, Dave Miller, Larry Bonde, Lee Fahrney, Mike Rogers, Ken Risley, Al Phelan, Al Shook, Rob Bohmann, Andrew Limmer, Josh Hennlich, Stan Brownell, John Aschenbrenner, Mark Noll, Al Suchla, Dave Hraychuck, Mike Riggle, Dave Puhl, Kevin Marquette, Roger Sabota, Al Brown
EXCUSED	N/A
UNEXCUSED	N/A
GUESTS	None

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

D. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

DISCUSSION	Bohmann requested his update be moved to Saturday
ACTION	Motion by Shook to approve, Second by Miller. Motion carried.

E. WCC LIAISON REPORT

DISCUSSION	Kari mentioned Deer and Turkey Expo April 5-7. Will need volunteers to set up and staff.
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. DNR UPDATES

DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Law Enforcement: Mark Burmesch reported in place of Randy Stark. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were approx. 29,000 first time or returning licenses purchased Number of licenses sold to 10 and 11-year olds was up 10 percent. Number of licenses sold to females was up 10 percent. Much positive feedback on social media use by hunters and the department.
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- Rate of hunting incidents was 1.1 incidents per 100,000 hunters.
- Wardens responded to 3,637 calls for service not including Hot Line.
- Citations/arrests totaled 994 (down slightly). 1,627 verbal warnings.
- Wardens were involved with 14 search and rescue operations during gun deer season.
- Wardens registered 613 deer in the field.

2. Fisheries: Mike Staggs

- Licensed anglers down 10 percent as of 2011
- Expenditures down 14 percent
- Non-resident fishing days up 77percent, second in the nation behind Florida.
- Jan 19 and 20 will be first free weekend ice fishing (WCC priority item)
- Discount for first time license applicants.
- Emphasis on what people want
- Registration simplifications make information easier to find, e.g. fishing app
- We now have a full roster of biologists statewide.
- Trout review includes second round of public meetings to introduce proposals,
- Alewife populations continue to decline, noted Lake Huron population bottomed out and salmon fishing collapsed.
- Said there will be a chart for Driftless Area with data on water quality, access, etc. Said there will be nine public meetings in March.
- Ron Bruch is working on education and outreach. Said he wants the WCC to be involved with outreach.
- Bohmann noted that we have individuals assigned to be involved with stakeholder groups. Fahrney asked about the trout review timeline and urged WCC delegates involvement in March public meetings.
- Aschenbrenner said we are late in getting panfish rules in place. Questioned waiting until 2015-2017.
- Olson would like to see measureable goals with regard to working the WCC.
- Ron can send a copy of what they have right now.
- Mike noted dams prevent spawning and a lack of reproduction of salmon.

3. Wildlife: Tom Hauge.

- Said Wisconsin is doing well on NAWCA grants.
- Draft of turkey management plan will be ready by early spring.
- Third highest turkey brood count since 1987.
- Slide in CRP acres in the state.
- Expects reduction in funding for wildlife programs.
- Said 420 schools offering Archery in the Schools program.
- Noted improved access to state properties and improved signage.
- We have 300 acres of dikes for water control.
- Noted CWD positive in Portage, Juneau counties.
- DNR is now using a weighted surveillance strategy looking at edge areas. Taxidermists now collecting samples.
- Reported Alligator Creek game farm in Portage County had a positive for CWD. Adams County was a "surprise." One outside of zone in Grant County.
- Discussed the EHD outbreak. Only one prior to this (in Iowa County), noseums (midges) are the cause.

	<p>Miller: Said the public is looking for feedback on results of fawn study. He is getting questions at Cabelas, where he works part time. Query about when Kroll report be acted on. Eric Lobner is in charge of moving Kroll recommendations along. 2014 before we get some of the recommendations. Will go to NRB in Feb. to provide update on CWD surveillance plan. Puhl asked about regulation changes in the new areas e.g. Juneau County. Said Kroll recommended a more passive approach Weiss: He is a member of a 10-member CWD Citizens Advisory Committee in Barron County. Said the group negotiated with city of Shell Lake to shoot deer within the city limits. Said people want to hear from citizens rather than the state. Brown: Expressed concerns with VPAP, said people are going on other people's land and that some land enrolled in the program is not good habitat. Rogers: Said we need to take a look at bobcat quotas. Riggle: Suggests that random CWD samples be put in a solution that could be held indefinitely and when an outbreak occurs they could go to the samples. Suggests that boots, 4-wheelers of people from up north be washed off before going back up north. Shook: Queried total deer killed from EHD. Hauge: approximately 360 reported.</p>	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: N/A	DEADLINE: N/A	

B. 2013 DNR SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS/PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

DISCUSSION	<p>1. Fisheries: Kate Strom Hiorns (See attached) 2. Wildlife : Scott Loomans (See attached)</p>	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: N/A	DEADLINE: N/A	

C. Citizen Resolution #130612: Attract broader range of citizens to WCC

DISCUSSION	<p>Chair Bohmann explained the resolution had been missed previously and that it needed to be taken up now so that, if passed, it could be included in the spring hearing questionnaire.</p>	
ACTION	<p>Motion to reject by Limmer, second by Maas. Motion carried.</p>	

- D. DNR Secretary Remarks:** Secretary Stepp commented on the successful deer hunt; increase involvement of young people and women. The department is looking at more expeditious ways of handling rule making; and, implementing the recommendations of the Kroll report.
- E. Licensing Opportunities:** Diane Brookbank and Susan Cook: Discussed ways of revamping licensing protocols to make them more efficient and user friendly.
- F. Proposed WCC advisory questions:**
 - 510112 Transfer Class A Bear Harvest Permit: Advanced as amended.
 - 160512 End the December antlerless deer season: Advanced.
 - 570212 et.al. Remove back tag requirements: Advanced.
 - 160312 Expand the definition of artificial lights allowed for predator hunting: Advanced
 - 040212 Allow trapping on NPS lands along Namekagan/St. Croix Advanced.
 - Extend muskrat season to March 31: Advanced.

Statewide bobcat season: Advanced.
Simplify trapping season framework: Advanced.
370412 Closing Zone C to bear dog training: Advanced.
110112 Increase non-resident deer license fees: Advanced.
250112 Non-motorized boat registration: Advanced.
360112 Sports license change: Advanced.
580212 Multi-level trail pass: Rejected.
580312 Armed Forces Legislation Advanced.
720212 Hunting feral pigs Advanced.
440111 Transfer of license Advanced.
Waterfowl hunting concealment rule: Advanced.
220512 Minnow harvest regulations: Advanced.
620112 Allow 14-15 year olds to participate in youth hunts: Advanced.
520112 Allow 16-17 year olds to participate in youth hunts: Advanced.
Eliminate Inland Trout and Great Lakes stamp for 16- 17-year olds. Advanced.
520212 Eliminate hunting stamp requirements for youth: Advanced.
140112 Pheasant hunting season opening time change to 9:00 a.m.: Advanced.
640512 Bluegill bag limits on Allequash Lakes: Advanced.
370512 Reduce crappie size and bag limit on Lake Wausau: Advanced.
610312 Reduce bag limit for bluegills on Chequamegon waters: Advanced.
610212 Change walleye size and bag limit on Spirit Lake and North Spirit Lake: Advanced.
290212 Increase musky size limit on Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages: Advanced.
450112 Size and bag limit change for northern pike on Winnebago system: Advanced.
160712 Introduce year-round coyote hunting: Advanced.
490212 Walleye slot limits: Rejected.
Regulation change addressing panfish overharvest: Advanced.
Hunting & trapping in state parks: Advanced.

G. WCC Strategic Plan Final Report: Art Lersch, community development agent presented Strategic Plan.

Plan brings a new way of thinking about the organization. Organizations that don't plan can become extinct. Plan will help the WCC as it moves forward.

The focus is on things that are important to the organization.

Important question: What did the WCC do to make something happen, e.g., legislation, rule changes?

He emphasised on the Code of Procedures as the way to implement changes.

Change in mission statement is a reflection of a more action-based approach. Stems from a desire to educate the public about what he organization does.

Did not do a stakeholder analysis Questioned if this should be done in the future?

How do we improve the org. structure?

How do we market ourselves to the public?

The committee discussed eliminating some committees.

The outreach committee is the logical place to become involved in public relations.

They suggested having a WCC delegate on each county land conservation committee.

Need to make known who the delegates are in each county.

Strengthen local ties.

On line polling for the spring hearings; trade-off is citizens might not come to the spring hearings. Also opens us up to losing control of the organization.

He mentioned the transfer of funds to meet the requirements of the committee.

Nothing is set in stone: Some strategies might work, others not. Need to be reviewed constantly.

This is Plan A, but need to be looking forward to plan B in the future.

Executive Council should be the primary overseer of the plan. Make sure updates are provided and are on the agenda. Some committees should take the lead on implementing strategies.

Phelan: Queried how to relate to non-consumptive groups, individuals some of which are anti-hunting, trapping.

Maas: Need to involve more than the hook and bullet crowd. Need to engage other environmental groups. We need to polish our image.

Frisch: Need to involve other sportsmen's groups. Make it known our purpose and mission.

Noll: Need to look at how to get people involved in the discussion.

Olson: Should emphasize responsible use of natural resources.

Bonde: Should emphasize the future and keep in mind that the past is gone.

Weiss: Need to tap into social media, example: Set up a blog.

Maas: Days of having face to face debates has waned. Need to keep in mind that we are a year-round organization Part of the plan is through new technology. We need to give our delegates support. Need to follow up. Need to blow our own horn. Need to keep talking to people. Need to get the county delegations working on things year around.

Limmer: Emphasize internet and social media.

Koerner: Need to see the names of the committee members.

Riggle: Need on-line polling. We may be underestimating the social media.

Riggle: Emphasizes that on line polling does not extend to on-line voting, but to taking input on line.

Bohmann: Wants to wait until May to adopt.

Maas: Would like to vote on it.

Riggle wants to press forward, since it takes time to get changes made to Code of Procedures.

Olson: Motion to vote on the plan today, second by Bonde.

Brownell: Voices faith in what they did.

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bonde to approve the plan, second by Sabota.

Rogers: Expressed concern for getting the COP changes done.

Maas: Wanted a straw poll of members of the council who have looked at the plan. We are putting the steps in place to continue. He wants to put a hard copy plan in their (delegates) hands at the spring meetings.

Motion carried.

H. Code of Procedure Changes:

Addition to Section VII Subset A-D: Motion to approve by Limmer, second by Maas.

Discussion:

Puhl: Do we involve the author, chair, secretary? Said sometimes the author is not there.

Fahrney: Queried definition of "involve.", advise the author, ask for his/her ok, input, etc.

Bonde: Expressed concern over the writing of the resolutions. Things that are not accurate. Should include liaisons to make sure the info is lawful and accurate.

Phelan: Many questions are not well-written. Question should reflect the intent of resolution.

Maas: If its inaccurate, it shouldn't get this far. The committee's responsibility to make sure it's accurate.

Phelan: Said there is some opinion written as fact.

Shook: Said it should be rejected if inaccurate.

Olson: Should notify the author.

Bohmann: Said the question can be rejected, and rewritten. Once it's rejected it is no longer the property of the author, but the committee, when it gets to council it's the property of the council.

Noll: Asked if we change it, what is the impact on the local group? Also noted that to change something it has to be taken up under member matters.

Bohmann: Said it doesn't have to wait.

Maas: The proposal came up as a result of a complaint about the way a question was worded and the author was not involved in the change. Author should be involved and keep the trail going back to the author.

Shook: The idea is important, not the specifics. Some of the fluff might be done away with. Make a motion to reject, then restate it in a new question.

Bonde: Said we need to be responsive to our customers.

Motion failed

Maas: Asked what we should do now.

Bohmann: Take it up tomorrow.

Change to Section VII, subset G. of COP: Motion by Maas to accept, second by Limmer.

Weiss: Is the author out of the loop?

Bohmann: No longer property of the author.

Riggle: Referred to Strategic Planning. Tracking the resolution is important. Said it has to do with a whole chain of accountability.

Weiss: Said we can't leave out the author.

Shook: It's the idea that is important. If the idea is still there, then the author will have to accept it.

Motion carried.

I. Simplification Ad Hoc Committee Report: Miller

Majority of input on deer hunting is already found in the Kroll report.

Puhl: Suggested having the report at spring hearings?

Put the summary in the questionnaire.

Olson: Said people want a biological basis for decisions.

Maas: Do we have the possibility to put the numbers to it (quantify).

Riggle: Need to quantify

Risley: Said it is difficult to quantify at the local level.

J. Study Committee Reports: Various committee chairs reported on specific resolutions.

580212: Multi-level trail pass Much discussion about need for such a pass.

Bonde: Already have a five-day trail pass.

040212: Trapping on NPS land: Discussion on wording, e.g., fishing is referenced.

080112: Reduce price of fish and game license for those over 65:

Aschenbrenner: Said seniors often have more money than younger people.

Riggle: Agrees.

Miller: Wants senior discount and increase out-of-state license.

Bonde: The numbers aren't right.

Rogers: In favor.

Miller: Iowa charges \$400 plus \$100 for a doe tag.

Shook: is in favor.

Brownell: In favor.

Noll: Opposed.

Bohmann: Noted legislation will be proposed.

K. Summary of Surveys:

III. Member Matters:

Brownell: Said he was pleased that the department was making an effort to work with the Congress

Puhl: Said he was grateful for having two days to cover Council business.

Aschenbrenner: Expressed concern about losing people if they are not allowed to serve on committee of choice.

Suchla: Would like to see the authors of all resolutions come to study committee meeting.

Bohmann noted that it is the responsibility of the county chair to only accept resolutions that comply with the guidelines.

Hennlich: Has concern about turning away resolutions from people with whom we might disagree.

Olson: Noted this was excellent meeting. He sees improvement in fisheries bureau.

Noll: Agreed that two day meeting was a good idea. He's concerned with tenure, i.e., same people being on a committee for too long a period of time.

Brown: Felt it was a good meeting. He's concerned that good people are leaving because they can get more done with other local organizations.

Hraychuck: Complimented those who worked on Strategic Plan.

Weiss: Noted that term limits were not in the Strategic Plan.

Shook: Thanked everyone for their hard work. He moved to reconsider the game license, second by Koerner. Motion carried.

Koerner: Said the 250 word limit for spring hearings questions should include DNR questions.

Maas: Moved reconsideration Code of Procedure change that failed (Section VII Subset A-D), second by Weiss. Motion carried. He mentioned the correspondence he received on legality of citizen resolutions and passing issues under "member's matters." The committee chairs need training. Said there is a conflict between mission statements of Great Lakes and Warm Water.

Limmer: Announced resignation from WCC. He has taken a job in Illinois.

Miller: Thanks to all.

Risley: Thanked Strategic Plan committee. Need to get feedback to those who attend county meetings. He received positive feedback on town hall meetings.

Phelan: Noted cooperation between the Congress and DNR e.g. eliminating EAB.

Sabota: Related concern among deer hunters up north about deer populations. He urged policies to build the herd, especially with regard to predator control.

Riggle: Said term limits are not an issue. Believes some people will quit but doesn't see that as a bad thing. Mentioned need for outreach and publicity.

Fahrney: Conservation Chronicle deadline is Jan. 31. Need articles and the names and contact information for article for "Women of the Congress."

Bohmann: Thanked everyone for their help.

IV. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Weiss, second by Puhl. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Submitted by Lee Fahrney

Jan. 27, 2013