

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Migratory Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS 08/03/2013 9:00am Holiday Inn Stevens Point, WI

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Chairman- Al Shook at 9:00am

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES Art Malin, Richard Alvin, Wayne Norling, Robert Reidner, Rick Koenig, Michael Lane, Alan Harrison, Ray Heidel, Alan Suchla, Tim Morgan, Taylor Hennlich, Todd Cook, Paul Gettelman, Dick Koerner, John Deuchert, Mitch Fisher, John Edelblute, Richard Swenson, Jeffery Scott, Matt Rainey, Ronald Earnest, Allen Shook, Joshua Hennlich, Logan Hennlich, Kent Van Horn – WDNR, James Christopoulos - WDNR ,

EXCUSED Todd Schaller - WDNR

UNEXCUSED None

GUESTS None

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION None

ACTION None

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION Committee mission statement was read by Chairman Shook

ACTION M/S Shook /Fisher to accept as written, approved.

E. PRESENTATION

DISCUSSION Chairman Shook presented Dick "Winnebago" Koerner and John Edelblute with plaques from the WCC recognizing there many years of service as officers on the Migratory Committee.

ACTION None required

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION None

ACTION None required

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION ITEMS & UPDATES

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION 1. Waterfowl habitat and population status report.(slide presentation by Kent, survey results put us in a Liberal season framework.)
 2. Mississippi Flyway updates. Changes for 2013 Canvasback bag limit at two birds per day up from one, Scaup daily bag limit down to 3 from 4, possession limit up from twice daily bag limit to three times daily bag limit.

ACTION None required

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

B. 2013 WATERFOWL SEASON PROPOSAL

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION Early Sept. Canada Goose season – Sept 1- 15, with a daily bag of 5 geese

ACTION M/S – Koerner/Edelblute to accept, motion passed on voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

C. 2013 WATERFOWL SEASON PROPOSAL

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION Youth Waterfowl Hunt – Sept. 14-15 daily bag limit same as regular season.

ACTION M/S – Earnest/Scott to accept, motion passed

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

D. DUCKS

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION 60 day season - Daily bag of 6 ducks, no more than: 4 mallards of which only 1 may be a hen, 3 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 2 redheads, 3 scaup, 2 pintail and 2 canvasback. In addition, 5 mergansers to include not more than two hooded mergansers. (For species not listed such as teal and ringnecks, the combined total with all other species may not exceed 6 ducks). Coot daily bag of 15. * Opening day shooting hours will begin at 9:00am.

Q/ Al Harrison- Why do we protect hen mallards?A/ Van Horn-Trying to protect wis. breeding stock.
Ray Heidel- LaCrosse County would prefer 1/2 hour before sunrise opening.

ACTION M/S - Fisher/Koerner to accept, hand vote 17 yes- 6 no, motion passed.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

E. NORTHERN ZONE

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION Northern Zone dates: Sept. 21 - Nov. 19

ACTION M/S – Koerner/Harrison to accept, motion passed on voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

F. SOUTHERN ZONE

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION Southern Zone dates: Sept. 28 -Oct. 6, Oct. 12 - Dec.1

ACTION M/S – Edelblute/Fisher to accept, motion passed on voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

G. MISSISSIPPI RIVER ZONE

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION Mississippi River Zone dates: Sept. 21 - 29, Oct. 12 - Dec.1

ACTION M/S – Heidel/Suchla to reject, hand vote 20 yes - 1 no, motion passed.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

H. ALTERNATIVE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ZONE

Mississippi River Zone dates: Sept. 21 - 29, Oct. 19 - Dec.8
+ Ray Heidel, LaCrosse county wants to hunt later into Dec.
+ Fisher, Has concerns with peak migration times, crowding and competition on the river, asked Kent for duck number survey trends on the river.
+ Morgan, birds start showing up mid oct., crowding is always an issue on the river, is in favor of LaCrosse County proposed dates.
+ Van Horn, surveys and harvest analysis show counties along the river have their highest harvest on opening weekend, peaks last week of Oct. harvest declines after last week of Oct. begining of Nov. Diver numbers peak end of Oct. begining of Nov. dabblers numbers climb to Nov. then drop off. Peak is early Nov. for duck number surveys.

DISCUSSION

ACTION

M/S – J. Hennlich/Heidel to accept, motion passed on unanimous voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

I. CANADA GEESE EXTERIOR ZONE DAILY BAG OF 2

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION North exterior zone dates Sept. 16 - Dec. 16

ACTION M/S – Harrison/Malin to accept, motion passed on voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

J. CANADA GEESE EXTERIOR ZONE DAILY BAG OF 2

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION South exterior zone dates Sept. 16 - Oct. 6, Oct. 12 - Dec. 21

ACTION M/S - J. Hennlich/Swenson to accept, motion passed on voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

K. CANADA GEESE EXTERIOR ZONE DAILY BAG 2

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION Mississippi River Subzone dates Sept. 21 - 29, Oct. 12 - Jan. 2
+ Fisher, Doesn't want goose season closed so long in subzone.
+J. Hennlich, not many fields to hunt between the railroad tracks and the river.
+ Heidel, vote at LaCrosse County meeting was to 22 -1 to run goose concurrent with duck season.

ACTION M/S - Heidel/Scott to reject, hand vote 13 yes - 4 no, motion passed

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

L. CANADA GEESE EXTERIOR ZONE DAILY BAG 2

RAY HEIDEL

DISCUSSION Mississippi River Subzone dates Sept. 21 - 29, Oct. 19 - Jan. 9

ACTION M/S - Heidel/L.Hennlich to accept new dates, motion passed on voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

M. HORICON CANADA GOOSE ZONE

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION H1 - Sept.16 - Oct. 27, daily bag of 2 6 tags per hunter

ACTION M/S - Earnest/Koerner to accept, motion passed on voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

N. HORICON CANADA GOOSE ZONE

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION H2 -Oct. 28- Dec. 16, daily bag of 2 6 tags per hunter

ACTION M/S - Gettelman/Scott to accept, motion passed on voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

O. LIGHT GEESE, BRANT & WHITE FRONTED GEESE

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION

Light geese (snow, blue and ross) and brant: Seasons same as for the Canada goose zones and subzones. Daily bag limit: 1 Brant and 20 light geese. The open season for White-Fronted geese begins on Sept. 20 for the exterior (north and south) and the Horicon zone and then follows the same dates as for Canada geese in those zones. In the Mississippi River subzone of the exterior zone White-fronted goose season does not open until sept. 25 and then follows the same dates as those for Canada geese in that subzone. Daily bag limit: 1 white-fronted goose.
+ Why Sept. 25 start date for White-fronted goose season? A- Van Horn, It is an agreed upon management plan for white-fronted geese dealing with season length.
+ Edelblute, has anyone seen a Brant in Wis.?
+ J. Hennlich knows of 2

ACTION

M/S - T. Hennlich/Rainey to accept, motion passed on voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

N. HORICON CANADA GOOSE ZONE CHANGES

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION

Horicon Zone changes - In 2012, to harvest and hunter pressure on Ontario nesting Canada geese within the Horicon Zone were evaluated. Based on input from staff, stakeholders and standing committees, modifications to the boundary line and tagging/registration procedures have been proposed, but would not take effect until 2014 license year. Shrinking the zone's northern boundary to Hwy 23 and western boundary to Hwy 73 will allow additional harvest opportunities in the areas removed while maintaining harvest controls on the areas of high harvest for the migrating geese that nested in Ontario. Changes to the Horicon permit would make the format similar to other goose permits, eliminating the application deadline/drawing and allowing hunters to acquire a permit through any license sales location. A 1-800 reporting system currently used to monitor harvest in other goose zones would simplify the regulations and provide more comparable data.
+ Swenson noticed an error in proposal and southern boundary of Hwy 23 was replaced with northern boundary of Hwy 23

ACTION

M/S - Gettelman/Scott, to accept, motion passed on voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

O. ADDITIONAL OPEN WATER HUNTING LAKES

KENT VAN HORN-WDNR

DISCUSSION

10 new lakes being forwarded for additional open water hunting opportunities:
*Beaver Dam Lake, Dodge County (excluding Rakes and Trestle Works Bays)
*Castle Rock Lake (south of railroad bridge and Cty G) Adams & Juneau Counties
* Fence Lake, Vilas county
* Grindstone Lake, Sawyer County
* North Twin Lake, Vilas County
* Lake Puckaway (the waters west of the west end of the dredge bank, excluding the waters east of the west end of the dredge bank) Marquette & Green Lake Counties
* Shawano Lake, Shawano County
*Trout Lake, Vilas County
*Lake Wisconsin (north of railroad bridge), Sauk & Columbia Counties
* Lake Wissota (south of Cty S and north of Cty X), Chippewa County

ACTION

M/S - Scott/Koenig to accept, motion passed on voice vote

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION

+ Heidel, Fred Funk dedication of northern Brice Prairie Boat Landing.
+ Scott, wants to change meeting dates to Friday nights. Shook- congress economic decision.
+Heidel supports Friday night meetings.
+ Gettelman, would like to see a 3 bird goose bag limit.
+ Suchla, Executive Committee trying to keep costs down is reason for sat. meetings.
+J. Hennlich, Frustrated that nothing is being done by the legislature on seasons for swans and sandhill cranes, prefers Sat. meetings.
+ Rainey, prefers Sat. meetings.

- +Edelblute, need to set date for Dec. meeting./Shook-has to contact Rob and Kari about a Dec. meeting date, will get back to committee ASAP.
- + Suchla, there is an Executive Committee conference call on Tues. he will ask about a Dec. meeting date.
- + Fisher, what is the status of the Sandhill Crane season?/ Van Horn - legislation is drafted, it needs to be introduced, is not high on the caucus priority list.
- +Shook, thank you to committee members, recognized youth member Logan Hennlich, will work on Dec. meeting date.

ACTION None required

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED **12:00**
SUBMITTED BY **Todd Cook - Secretary Migratory Committee**
DATE **8/3/2013**