

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Executive Council Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS 10 -11 Jan 9:00 a.m. Stony Creek Inn
 2014

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Rob Bohmann at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES WEISS, OLSON, BROWN, LARSON, WIELOCH, LOMA, ELLINGSON, ACSHENBRENNER, SMABY, SUCHL
 A, BROWNELL, MAAS, SPLITT, MILLER, BONDE, FAHRNEY, ROGERS, RISLEY, PHELAN, SHOOK, KUHR,
 BOHMANN, HENNLICH

EXCUSED PUHL

UNEXCUSED N/A

GUESTS KARI-LEE ZIMMERMANN, ADAM LINDSEY, NUMEROUS DNR EMPLOYEES

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION ITEM II B – Mike Staggs will present

ACTION Agenda approved by voice vote

D. CHAIRMANS UPDATE

DISCUSSION Rob – would like to see a couple more committees established (total of 20 or so) to enable more delegates to be assigned to a committee. Committee members be sure to report what transpired at their meeting to the WCC delegates. BONDE- Discussion of Strategic Plan – compromise, role of two new exec committee positions, communication, restructuring of districts (no action yet), YCC started (questions still on roles and responsibilities, length of terms etc.) WCC involvement with implementing Kroll Report, Fisheries involvement with WCC coordinated by Ron Bruch, powerpoint developed for use to advertise WCC, brochures available too, WCC info added to DNR reg books etc.

DISCUSSION ROB – committees be sure to get questions and minutes to Kari ASAP. New policy is within 30 days of your meeting or you will not be reimbursed for your expenses. Establish a training day in June for committee chairs etc. Review committee assignment forms. Fill out at the Spring District meetings. Hand in at convention so all delegates know when they leave the convention, what committee they will serve on. Next 3 conventions will be held at the Stony Creek Inn. Districts will rotate hosting the event. Deer and Turkey expo needs more participation. Pheasant fest next month in Milwaukee. Passes available for exec council members. YCC needs representatives from every district. Work with your delegates. This year will be our 80th convention. Maas will work on gun board.

DISCUSSION WCC Liason report – KARI- get your info in on time and date for Spring meetings. will post NLT 1 Feb. PDF travel voucher now available on-line. PDQ's should be available soon on -line. Voting machines have been purchased for use during spring hearings. CD/DVD available to play at district meetings for delegate training.

DISCUSSION ROB- DNR committee membership for delegates will be reassigned each year at the convention.

ACTION

INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

DISCUSSION LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE WILL BE COVERED TOMMORROW

DISCUSSION FISHERIES UPDATE – Mke Staggs

ACTION Angler retention – stable numbers. Population grows but number of anglers remains the same. Trends in participation of younger generation not increasing. Being with friends and family is the most

important reason for participating. Free fishing weekends in summer and winter. Web info available for reg and lake specific info. Walleyes are the most important game fish. 60% dissatisfied with size, 73% dissatisfied with numbers. Spearing is NOT the reason for decline. Poor reproduction is the culprit. 84% of harvest is naturally reproduced. Wisconsin Walleye Initiative has begun. 440,401 large fingerlings stocked in 100 lakes. 80% of total fish harvest in Wis. Is panfish. Panfish Management plan in progress to address concerns. Trout regulation review is underway. What is the goal? How do we get there? Working with Trout Study Committee (Joanna Griffin is new liaison to study committee). Money available for obtaining easements on streams and lakes. 100 stream miles is the goal. Pick focus areas, do generic appraisal.

WILDLIFE UPDATE – Tom Hauge

DMAP coordinator is Bob Nack. Elk population stable. Looking to expand Clam Lake herd and establish another herd in the Black River area. Possible Elk hunt this fall 2014. Dependent on calves this spring. Waterfowl trends steady in last decade. New wetland habitat specialist (Jason Fleener). NAWCA grants/projects ongoing in state. Federal dollars shrinking. Young Forest Initiative trying to get "off the ground". Ramp up timber harvest in mature forests with help from partners. Wild turkey Management plan in progress. Turkey hunter access program started in eastern part of state. Sharp tail grouse habitat critical. Farm bill issues – CRP acres decreasing. Wisconsin "Bird City" program discussion (Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative)- connect urban population with the outdoors. Youth Expo involvement ongoing. Voluntary Public Access program. Turkey Hunting Access Program. Incorporating new technology GPS monitoring of bear traps. Conservation Infrastructure improvements (improve access to state lands, roads, parking lots etc.). 2013 drought response. CWD monitoring/testing ongoing. Furbearer management education ongoing. New web page available on furbearers, 19 biologists hired.

Lunch Break ; reconvened at 13:04 p.m.

DNR SECRETARY UPDATE- Cathy Stepp

Walleye Initiative is a huge endeavor. Questions concerning managing on the "science " side of things. Important to manage the people who are our partners. Not acceptable to "dump data" on our customers. Must explain "why" and reasons that make sense. Use social media to engage the public.. Get more info available to the public. Public Lands Access book available now on – line.

INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

2014 DNR Spring Hearing Questions

MIKE STAGGS, TOM HAUGE,

FISHERIES-

2 Questions relating to Catch and Release Fishing Seasons. Question on Sturgeon Catch and Release on Minnesota Boundary Waters. Question on Season Opener and Mother's Day Weekend. Question on Temporary Length Limit Exemptions for Catch -hold-and release Bass Tournaments. Question on Increasing the Size of the Trophy Bass Regulation From 18" to 20". Questions on Preferred Regulatory Option for Improving Fish Size Structure. Multiple questions on Panfish Management. Multiple questions referring to trout (catch and release and season structure). Final question WILL BE A RULE PROPOSAL for this year dealing with "Allowing Trolling Statewide".

DISCUSSION

WILDLIFE -

Question 1 and 2 – Modifications to the Permit Preference System for Bear, Bobcat, Fisher, Otter, Wolf, Elk, Sharp-tailed Grouse and Turkeys. Question 3 – Transfers of Limited Draw Hunting and Trapping Permits. Question 4 – Allow the Use of Foot Cable Restraints for Harvesting Furbearers.

ACTION

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

DISCUSSION

THIEDE, BRUCH, ETC.

CHERISH WISCONSIN – THIEDE Outdoor fund, signed by the Governor, to establish an endowment fund for habitat management on state land. Natural Resource Foundation is our "partner". People can donate through license fees. Spin off up to 5% per year from fund to use on various projects.

FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP INIATIVE - RON BRUCH

Discussion on the formation of a Fisheries Advisory Council (working with the WCC to create and facilitate a statewide stakeholder group) that would advise the Fisheries Management Board on statewide fisheries management and regulation issues. WCC would have at least two members on the council.

MACKENZIE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER: CITIZEN RESOLUTION 110113

Motion to REMOVE FROM TABLE by SHOOK, second by MAAS
discussion

Motion to REJECT by MAAS, second by MILLER Motion CARRIES by voice vote

TUNDRA SWAN SEASON: CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS 050112, 200412, 630112, 670612, 680112

Motion to REMOVE FROM TABLE by HENNLICH, second by MAAS
discussion

Motion to ADVANCE by SHOOK, second by HENNLICH
discussion

Friendly amendment by BONDE to remove "we have" in 2nd sentence paragraph 2
vote on motion as amended to advance. Motion CARRIES by voice vote.

REMOVE YELLOW PERCH AS LAKE MICHIGAN COMMERCIAL SPECIES : CITIZEN RESOLUTION 410113

Motion to REJECT by MILLER, second by BONDE

discussion - Yellow Perch are currently not harvested commercially and have not been since 1997. Question is a
mute point as the season is closed.

Motion CARRIES by voice vote

PROPOSED WCC ADVISORY QUESTIONS

FUR HARVEST-

9. Elimination of trapping hour restrictions (050113, 310113) – motion to ADVANCE by HENNLICH, second by MAAS.
Motion CARRIES by voice

10. Remove otter and fisher permit application fee from patron license benefits (360113)

Motion to REJECT by SHOOK, second by PHELAN. Motion CARRIES by voice.

11. Trapper Education requirements for landowners (540113).

Motion to ADVANCE with suggested changes on screen by BONDE, second by MAAS.

Motion CARRIES by voice

12. Trapper education requirements (540113)

Motion to ADVANCE by MAAS, second by SHOOK. Motion FAILS.

Motion to SEND BACK TO FUR HARVEST by BONDE, second by BROWNELL. Motion CARRIES.

13. Wisconsin Mentored Trappers License (060313, 140113, 180113, 320113,360213, 430113, 540213,
620113, 720113, 1401130.

Motion to REJECT by SHOOK, second by HENNLICH. Motion CARRIES.

Discussion by SHOOK to bring question 13 back tomorrow in revised form under Members Matters.

14. Hunting with lights for varmits, predators, and raccoon (290113)

Motion to REJECT by OLSON, second by LARSON. Motion CARRIES

WOLF -

35. Wolf Trapper Education (500113). Motion to ADVANCE by BROWNELL, second by ROGERS. Friendly
amendment by BONDE to re-word. Motion CARRIES with suggested changes.

DEER AND ELK-

1. Wanton Waste of Big Game Animals (060213). Motion to ADVANCE by PHELAN,
second by SHOOK. Motion FAILS. Motion to REJECT by OLSON, second by HENNLICH. Motion CARRIES.

2. Antler Point Restrictions in Barron and Polk Counties (030213, 490513). Motion to
ADVANCE by PHELAN, second by LARSON. Motion FAILS.

3. Archery Antlerless Tags in Regular Units (450113). Motion to REJECT by SHOOK,
second by SPLITT. Motion CARRIES.

4. Provide Additional Deer Registration Process Opportunities (680113). Motion to
REJECT by SHOOK, second by WEILOCH. Motion FAILS. Motion to ADVANCE by FAHRNEY, second by LARSON.
Motion CARRIES.

5. White Deer Protection in CWD Zones (570213). Motion to ADVANCE by SHOOK,
second by PHELAN. Motion CARRIES.

DISCUSSION BY ED HARVEY ON RE-WRITE OF FUR HARVEST RESOLUTION FOR TOMMORROW.

Dinner Break: 17:30. re-convene 18:30.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY -

6. Terrestrial Invasive Plants (440213). Motion to REJECT by MILLER, second by SHOOK. Motion
CARRIES.

7. Education on Managing Lead at Shooting Ranges (040313). Motion to ADVANCE by SHOOK, second
by SMABY. Friendly amendment by BONDE to amend to question format on screen. Motion CARRIES.

8. Climate Change Education (500313). Motion to REJECT by FAHRNEY, second by MILLER. Motion
CARRIES.

GREAT LAKES -

15. Re-instate Northern Pike Ice Spearing on WI/MI Boundary Waters (150113, 380113). Motion to
REJECT by Aschenbrenner, second by BONDE. Motion CARRIES.

LAND USE -

16. Adequate Free Access to Waterways (710413). Motion to ADVANCE by SHOOK, second by LOMA.
Motion CARRIES.

17. Open all Wisconsin Department of Transportation Mitigation Lands. Motion to refer back to Land Use
Committee by BOHMANN, second by PHELAN. Motion CARRIES.

LEGISLATIVE -

18. Establish a Senior Resident Conservation Patron License (200113). Motion to ADVANCE by
MILLER, second by SHOOK. Motion CARRIES.

19. Give Authority to Wardens to Enforce Trespass Laws Related to Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Activities (570113). Motion to REJECT by PHELAN, second by ELLINGSON. Motion CARRIES.

20. Increase Fines for Dogs Running at Large (710213). Motion to REJECT by RISLEY, second by ROGERS. Motion CARRIES.

21. Raising Non – Resident Fishing License Fees (710113). Motion to REJECT by BONDE, second by ASCHENBRENNER. Motion CARRIES.

22. Retrieval of Hunting Dogs from Property Without Landowner Permission (230113, 250113, 330113, 540313). Motion to ADVANCE by ROGERS, second by LARSON. Friendly amendment by BONDE to change wording slightly. Friendly amendment by FAHRNEY to exclude "domestic animals" and replace with "Hunting dog". Motion CARRIES with amendments.

23. Treat Minor Children of Military Personnel as Residents (470213). Motion to REJECT by BONDE, second by MAAS. Motion CARRIES.

MIGRATORY -

24. Mallard Hen Limit . Motion to ADVANCE by SHOOK, second by HENNLICH. Motion CARRIES. MISSISSIPPI -

25. Protective Slot Limit for Mississippi River Walleye Harvest (120113). Motion to ADVANCE by SMABY was retracted. Motion to ADVANCE 2ND PART by BONDE, second by SMABY. Motion CARRIES.

26. Darkhouse Spearing on WI/MINN Boundary Waters (150213, 310213, 320413, 380213). Motion to REJECT by BONDE, second by ASCHENBRENNER. Motion CARRIES.

OUTDOOR HERITAGE -

27. Prevent non-resident novice hunters from applying for LTH (440113). Motion to ADVANCE by OLSON, second by SMABY. Amended by Kari with rewording on screen. Motion CARRIES with proposed changes.

28. Shooting Program for Youth and Parents/mentors. Motion to REJECT AND SEND BACK TO OUTDOOR HERITAGE by HENNLICH, second by SHOOK. Motion CARRIES

OUTREACH and PUBLIC RELATIONS -

29. Support for the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo. Motion to ADVANCE by MAAS, second by SHOOK. Motion CARRIES

TROUT -

30. Increase WI Inland Waters Trout Stamp Fee. Motion to ADVANCE by BONDE, second by KUHR. Amended by BONDE to add wording on screen. Motion CARRIES.

DISCUSSION BY MIKE RIGGLE CONCERNING WOLF COMMITTEE UPDATE.

Adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Re covene Sat. a.m. At 7:30

WARM WATER -

31. Reduce Bluegill Bag Limit on Otter Lake, Chippewa County (090113). Motion to ADVANCE by BROWN, second by OLSON. Motion CARRIES.

32. Eliminate the Size Limit on Northern Pike on Lake Alpine, Waushara County (700113). Motion to ADVANCE by WEISS, second by OLSON. Motion CARRIES.

33. Reduce Daily Bag Limit and Institute a 10" Minimum size Limit on Crappies on Palmer and Tenderfoot Lakes, Vilas County (640513). Motion to ADVANCE by LOMA, second by BONDE. Motion CARRIES.

34. Streamlining Local Fish Rule Changes (040113). Motion to ADVANCE by OLSON, second by WEISS. Motion CARRIES.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL -

36. 2ND Amendment and Gun Control. Motion to REJECT by BONDE, second by ROGERS. Motion CARRIES.

(37.) Transferring of License or Permits. Motion to ADVANCE by MAAS, second by PHELAN. Amendments include re-wording on screen. Motion CARRIES BY HAND COUNT.

Resolution to Support Statewide Harvest of White Deer. Motion by BONDE to ADVANCE., second by SMABY. Motion FAILS.

Resolution by PHELAN regarding statewide motor trolling. NO ACTION TAKEN. INFO ONLY.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

CODE OF PROCEDURES CHANGES, STUDY COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Changes to COP: all motions are to ADVANCE
5A – BONDE, second ELLINGSON. CARRIES
8 - BONDE, second LARSON. CARRIES
7C-17 – BONDE, second FAHRNEY. CARRIES
7D – BONDE, second MAAS. CARRIES with amendment by BONDE
7E – BONDE, second LARSON. CARRIES
7I – BONDE, second HENNLICH. CARRIES
8B – BONDE, second FAHRNEY. CARRIES. PHELAN amends to include "displays".
ASCHEBRENNER amends to include displays at hearings.
10-E-5 – BONDE, second SMABY. CARRIES
14C – BONDE, second SMABY. CARRIES
STUDY COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENTS

DISCUSSION
Environmental Study Comm. Amended. Motion to send back to committee by BONDE, second by FAHRNEY. Motion CARRIES.
Fur Harvest amended. Motion to ADOPT by MAAS, second by SMABY. Motion CARRIES.
Land Use amended. Motion to REJECT by BONDE, second by ROGERS. Motion CARRIES. Leave Statement as is.
Outreach and Public Relations amendment. Motion to ADOPT by MAAS, second by LOMA. Motion CARRIES.
Upland Game amendment. Motion to ADOPT by WEILOCH, second by RISLEY. Motion CARRIES.
STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS
Bear – Mike Rogers
Deer and Elk – Al Phelan
Great Lakes – Dale Maas.
Outreach and Public Relations – motion by FAHRNEY to send COP recommendations to Rules and Resolutions. Second by BONDE. Motion CARRIES
Rules and Resolutions – Motion by BONDE to create ad hoc shooting range committee. Second by MAAS. Motion CARRIES.
Trout – No action taken
Upland Game – Motion to change the name to "Turkey and Upland Game" by RISLEY. Second by MAAS. Motion CARRIES

ACTION

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

II. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION
BROWN – appoint qualified committee secretary's
LARSON – commend DNR on adding Frac sand mining oversight
OLSON – new land use secretary needed.
MILLER – to politically correct when appointing committee members
SMABY – unexcused committee attendance discussion
ASCHEBRENNER – Bow hunters rights have expanded
ELLINGSON – Elk herd and iron mine discussion
WEILOCH – untruths in resolutions, lack of personal responsibility, hunters safety on-line prevents one on one exposure.
LOMA – nameplates at meetings. Introduce resolution concerning terrestrial invasive plants. Motion to reconsider this resolution by MAAS, second by LARSON. Motion to ADVANCE by LOMA, second by LARSON. Motion CARRIES.
HENNLICH – Migratory committee tabled issues due to personal agendas.
KUHR – resolve more at committee level. Too many resolutions rejected.
SHOOK – Motion to reconsider question 13, second by PHELAN. Motion CARRIES. Motion to ACCEPT resolution as re written on screen, second by MILLER. Motion CARRIES.
Resolutions continue to get through the system even in improper format.
PHELAN – Motion to request executive committee reauthorize animal "AG DAMAGE" committee, second by ROGERS. Motion CARRIES
RISLEY – request more district 10 representation on wolf committee.
SPLITT – concern for rejection of so many resolutions.
MAAS – district level training, election of delegates be monitored by reliable people (wardens or other uninterested parties), concerns over selling previously purchased stewardship lands.
BROWNELL – require authors to attend committee meetings. Police ourselves to respect others.
SUCHLA – Where is sandhill crane legislation going?
FAHRNEY – issue of rejecting questions. Improve vetting system.

WEISS – poor attendance at warm water meeting. Need better vetting of committee members when assigning.

BONDE – Motion to reconsider and add definition of “white deer” by SHOOK, second by PHELAN. Motion CARRIES. Motion to add definition by BONDE, second by ROGERS. Motion CARRIES

BOHMANN – add “motorized recreational vehicle” committee. Write questions in proper format and submit to Kari within 30 days of committee meeting.

INTRODUCE TODD SCHALLER (New Chief Warden)

18 wardens hired in 2013. boots on the ground in Mar-April this year. 13 more hired starting 13 Jan. 14 in training.

Get dates and times to Kari this week reference district spring meetings.

District 2 will “host” convention this year.

District 4 next year

District 11 and 12 the following.

III. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED **10:50:00 AM**
SUBMITTED BY **Joe Weiss, Secretary WCC**
DATE **01/18/14**