

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Great Lakes Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	10/10/2015	9:30am	Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center, 2419 Northpoint Drive, Stevens Point, WI
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Dale Maas at 9:30am
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Committee Members: David Sorenson, Al Marotz, Alfred House, Nick Schertz, Tom Thrill, Tyrone Larson, Dale Maas, David Tupa, Don Anderson, Tom Kleiman, James Baumgart, John, Blumreich, Eugene Altwies. DNR Staff: Darren Kuhn (Law Enforcement), Brad Eggold (Fisheries Biologist).
EXCUSED	John Collen, Tony Grabski, David Zielke
UNEXCUSED	Thomas Johnson, Jim Wierzba: Motion and second to remove unexcused from committee. Unanimously approved.
GUESTS	Two guests in support of resolution 410215.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	Motion and second to approve current mission statement. No discussion. Unanimous Approval

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. RESOLUTION 050515 - EARLY SEASON WALLEYE

JON VERSTEGEN

DISCUSSION	Motion and second to Advance. Resolution read by Dale Maas. Author explained background of the problem in De Pere with some fishermen snagging fish during the spring walleye run. The resolution proposes to move the line farther downstream from the Riverwalk area where anglers can fish, in an effort to expand the current protection area for spawning walleyes. Law enforcement is not supportive of taking away opportunities for shore fishermen and law enforcement can handle illegal fishing activity in the area. DNR Fisheries state that there is actually an increase in walleye numbers in this river system fishery and the current closed fishing area is sufficient to protect spawning fish. Fishermen currently "self-police" and discourage any kind of illegal fishing activity. Several committee members raised good arguments to not expand the closed area and good arguments about not limiting the time allowed for fishing. Most committee members discouraged closing the Riverwalk area.
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ACTION	<p>Motion to advance failed. Motion and second to reject resolution, (unanimous to reject resolution). Motion and second to address the problem by introducing a proposal for a nighttime fishing prohibition in the area. 10 yes, 2 no, 1 abstained Motion and second to draft a question from the committee. Motion carried. Question with background developed and approved by committee.</p>	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

B. RESOLUTION 410215 - SPORT FISHING MONEY USED FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING

NONE

DISCUSSION	<p>Motion and second to advance resolution. It was stated by Brad that DNR interpretation of the law is different than the author's interpretation of the law. Committee members brought up the long history of this issue as well as the historical statewide public vote, overwhelmingly supporting that sport dollars should not be used to support the commercial fishing industry in the state of Wisconsin. The citizens of Wisconsin have spoken and have sent the message to the DNR and State legislators that the people do not want to support commercial fishing with sport fishing dollars. Citizens in attendance at the meeting provided additional support for the resolution. This committee has taken a stance on this issue and has supported it in the past. This committee has done everything in its power to support the defunding of commercial fishing by the use of sport fishing dollars. Any further progress on this issue will need to come from law makers. Legislators need to be convinced to introduce a bill that will change the state statutes in order to change the current law.</p>	
ACTION	<p>Motion to advance failed. Motion and second to affirm our previous position to not fund commercial fishing with sport fishing money, encouraging the DNR and Legislators to work together to find a solution to this problem. Motion unanimously passed.</p>	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

C. DNR FISHERIES REPORT

BRAD EGGOLD

DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taking minnows – The risks of spreading disease and invasive species continues to be a concern during the transport of minnows. 2. Pen Aquiculture - Environmental, Ecosystem concerns. 3. Mass Marking Salmon – Predator prey ratio work continues. Biomass of chinook to biomass of alewife used to guide stocking numbers. Goal - looking for a ratio of about 0.05 to 1. We are at 0.065 to 1 now. Strawberry Creek data of 3-year old chinook health index of 7-9 kg is target goal. At 7.5kg now. 30% reduction to fit in with predator prey and kg index. Acoustic and trawl surveys estimate alewives at around 20K tons. Good year class of perch in 2015, good bloater chub year class. All chinook stocks over the past few years have coded wire tags resulting in data that shows natural reproduction has been averaging about 55%. Good data is coming in over the past 3 years from the program showing great success. 4. Bloater Chub – Chub harvest numbers are significantly down (near zero) in spite of a high quota. Trawl data supports the near absence of chubs in the lake. 5. Lake Michigan Whitefish – Numbers of whitefish in the bay are relatively stable or growing. Whitefish stocks are significantly down on the lake side. A quota change may be 3 years out, reacting slowly to the decline of fish in the lake. 6. Lake Superior. Lake trout restoration tribal/state negotiations continue. Tribal catch of lake trout in Wisconsin waters accounts for more than 80% of the total catch, but quota and size limits are only imposed on sport fishermen. There seems to be a lack of enforcement with tribal fishing practices, leading to extremely difficult challenges with the restoration efforts of lake trout. 7. Exploration and research on perch strains for stocking continues. 	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

D. DNR 2015 LAW ENFORCEMENT

DARREN KUHN

DISCUSSION	LE Update: Staffing is in short numbers in NE Wisconsin.
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ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	None	
ACTION	None	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion and second to adjourn approved at 1:20pm	
SUBMITTED BY	David Tupa	
DATE	10/10/2015	