

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

MIGRATORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	8/1/2015	9:00 AM	Steven's Point, WI
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Alan Shook Chairman 9:00 AM
ROLL CALL	John Edelblute Secretary

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Guy McFarren Washburn Co., Wayne Norling Burnett Co., Robert Reidner Rusk Co., Rick Koenig Marathon Co., Micheal Lane Marathon Co., Alan Harrison Forest Co. Ray Heidel La Crosse Co., Alan Suchla Trempealeau Co., Tim Morgan Vernon Co., Eugene Muench Monroe Co., Taylor Hennlich Portage Co., Paul Gettelman Green Lake Co., Dick Koerner Winnebago Co., Gary Fontaine Brown Co., George Robinson Brown Co., John Edelblute Washington Co., Steve Gehrke Grant Co., Jeffrey Scott, Sauk Co., Eric Onsrud Green Co., Ronald Earnest Walworth Co., Alan Shook Waukesha Co. DNR Personnel Present Kent Van Horn, Tyler Finger, Tyler Strelow
EXCUSED	Richard Alvin Washburn Co., Todd Cook Dodge Co.
UNEXCUSED	John Collen Racine Co.
GUESTS	George Metrich, Carl Hirsch, Lewis Holmes, Jeff Hintz, Peter Grimm

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Chair Al Shook moved to have resolution #440315 moved to the top of the agenda when the resolutions are taken up.
ACTION	Motion to move by Paul Gettelman, 2 nd by Dick Koerner. Motion carried.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Mission Statement read by Chair Al Shook
ACTION	Adopted with no changes.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. STATUS OF DUCKS, GEESE, DOVES, AND WOODCOCK KENT VAN HORN

DISCUSSION	DUCKS 1. Wisconsin is in the top five in the number of waterfowl hunters. 2. Discussed harvest by species ratios. 3. Wisconsin mallard population is up 6% from 2014.
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	<p>4. Adoptive harvest pond counts and population levels are “off the chart” for a liberal season framework. Green Wing Teal population is the highest ever. Scaup are showing an increase.</p> <p>5. Wisconsin adult hen mallard population has decreased 11% from 1960's to 2009. Reasons could be declining CRP acres? 700,000 down to 250,000. Longer seasons since 1996?</p> <p>6. Total continental duck population estimate is 49.5 million. Highest ever, +43% over LTA.</p> <p>GEESE</p> <p>1. 1/3 of harvest occurs in the early season.</p> <p>2. The MVP population is down 30% from 2014. Local population is stable.</p> <p>3. The decline in MVP geese could be from gull predation, by reason is really unknown.</p> <p>DOVES</p> <p>1. Their population is okay.</p> <p>WOODCOCK</p> <p>1. Wisconsin is #2 in the nation for harvest. 49,000 birds. Population is okay.</p>
ACTION	A ten minute break was taken at this point. 10:10 AM to 10:20 AM. Meeting than resumed.

SEASON PROPOSALS BY DNR HANDOUT

KENT VAN HORN

<p>1. LENGTH OF SEASON AND SIX BIRD BAG.</p> <p>Motion to accept by Jeff Scott 2nd Guy McFarren Motion carried</p> <p>2. Shooting Hours ½ Hour before sunrise. Motion to reject by Dick Koerner, 2nd Paul Gettelman. Motion failed. Discussion of past openings followed. Motion to open 2015 season ½ hour before sunrise by Guy McFarren, 3rd Ron Earnest. Motion carried.</p> <p>3. Youth Hunt. Motion to accept by George Robinson, 2nd by Ron Earnest. Motion carried.</p> <p>4. North Zone Opening. Discussion followed regarding the “invasion” of hunters from the south zone to take advantage of the earlier opening in the north. Motion to accept by Al Harrison, 2nd by Taylor Hennlich. Motion carried by hand count 15 yes to 4 no.</p> <p>5. South Zone Opening. Motion to accept by Ron Earnest, 2nd by Jeff Scott. Motion carried.</p> <p>6. Mississippi River Opening. Following brief discussion, motion to accept by Ray Heidel, 2nd by Jeff Scott. Motion carried by hand count. 15 yes to 4 no</p> <p>7. Exterior Goose Season North Zone. Motion to accept by George Robinson, 2nd by Tim Morgan. Motion carried.</p> <p>8. Exterior Goose Season South Zone. Motion to accept by Paul Gettelman, 2nd by Tim Morgan. Al Shook pointed out that it is possible to have two splits in the south goose zone. Kent Van Horn supplied additional information. Motion carried 13 yes, 6 no.</p> <p>9. Mississippi River Goose Zone. Motion to accept by Ray Heidel, 2nd by Tim Morgan. Motion carried.</p> <p>10. Horicon Zone H1. Motion to accept Jeff Scott, 2nd Ron Earnest. Motion carried.</p> <p>11. Horicon Zone H2. Motion to accept y Jeff Scott, 2nd by Steve Gehrke. Motion carried.</p> <p>12. Snow/Blue Gees, Ross’ Geese, Brant, White Fronted Geese and other geese. Motion to accept by Tim Morgan, 2nd by Paul Gttleman. Motion carried.</p> <p>13. Coots and Moorhens 15 bird bag. Motion to accept Paul Gettelman, 2nd by Tim Morgan. Motion carried.</p>	ACTION	
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<p>14. Sora & Virginia Rails 25 bird bag. Motion to accept by Ray Heidel, 2nd by Tim Morgan. Motion carried.</p> <p>15. Snipe 8 bird bag. Motion to accept by Tim Morgan, 2nd Rick Koenig. Motion carried.</p> <p>At this point Chairman Shook read off the list of the previously approved seasons. Kent Van Horn pointed out an error on the handout. The dove season closes November 29th, not the 20th.</p> <p>Kent Van Horn updated the potential for a Sandhill Crane Season. The Spring Hearing votes in 2015 were 2255 yes, 1554 no. In 2012 the vote was 2259 yes, 1279 no. The flyway council approved a quota based hunt for our flyway. Each state would handle individually. Because it is a quota based hunt, our State legislature would have to approve a hunt. There has been no legislative action to date. Chairman Shook urged the committee members to contact their legislatures in this regard. Kent Van Horn pointed out that Sandhill Cranes have been hunted in the central flyway for years and no Whooping Cranes have been shot accidentally.</p>		

B. CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION AUTHORS

<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p>Resolution #440315 Waterfowl Blind Restriction read by author George Metrich. Kent Van Horn explained why the rule exists regarding open water hunting. Committee discussion followed. Motion to reject by George Robinson, 2nd by Paul Gettelman. Motion to reject carried.</p> <p>Resolution #010515 Revise Waterfowl Baiting Rule read by author Lewis Holmes. Kent Van Horn explained that this is a federal rule and the state cannot change it. It could only be changed at the federal level. Motion to reject by Alan Harrison, 2nd by Ron Earnest. Motion to reject carried.</p> <p>Lunch Break Here. 12:10 PM to 12:35 PM</p> <p>Resolution #370415 1:00 PM Closure Mead Wildlife Area. Author Carl Hirsch read his resolution. Kent Van Horn presented DNR staff survey data that supports the 1:00 PM closure. Committee discussion followed. Motion to advance by Mike Lane, 2nd by Guy McFarren. Motion to advance carried 15 yes, 3 no.</p> <p>Resolution #370515. Reject Proposed 16 Day 1:00 PM Closure in McMillian Marsh. Author Carl Hirsch read his resolution. Kent Van Horn said the proposal does not exist. Motion to reject by Paul Gettelman, 2nd by Tim Morgan. Motion carried.</p> <p>Resolution #680315 Removal of Blinds from Public Waters. Author Jeff Hintz read his resolution. Committee discussion followed. This would take legislative action to change. Motion to advance by Paul Gettelman, 2nd Tim Morgan. Motion to advance carried.</p> <p>Resolution #110315. Remove Moorhens and Rails as Legal Game Species. Author Peter Grimm read his resolution. Kent Van Horn pointed out that they are a legal game species per federal law. There is a very low harvest in Wisconsin. About 100 rails and a 1000 Moorhens. Motion to reject by Paul Gettelman, 2nd by Ron Earnest. Motion to reject carried.</p> <p>Resolution #320415. Open Season At ½ Hour Before Sunrise. Author William Netzer was not present. Motion to postpone to the 2016 agenda by Alan Harrison, 2nd by Tim Morgan. Motion carried.</p> <p>Resolution #520515. Canada Goose Punch Card System. Author Thomas Joerndt was not present. Kent Van Horn stated that hunters are following the rule, only 32 violations per year. Motion to advance by Alan Harrison. Motion failed due to no second. Motion to reject by Tim Morgan, 2nd by Taylor Hennlich. Motion carried.</p>
<p>ACTION</p>	<p>Questions for Executive Council Review for Resolutions #680315 and 370415 will need to be composed.</p>

COMMITTEE CHAIR OR COMMITTEE SECRETARY	DECEMBER 2015

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Ray Heidel said that the rail road tracks issue along the Mississippi River keeps coming up. Gary Fontaine said a sea duck hunt keeps coming up. No other committee member had an issue to bring up.</p> <p>FEDERAL WATERFOWL REGULATION SCHEDULE FOR 2016.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. June 2015. USFWS-SRC Non regulatory meeting. 2. September 1, 2015. 2016 AHM & Recommendations. 3. September 15, 2015. Flyways have conference calls on 2016 season recommendations. In the future there will be face to face meetings. 4. October 28-29, 2015 USFWS-SRC 2016 Regulatory Meeting. 5. December 10, 2015. Proposed 2016 season framework. 6. February 25, 2016. Final 2016 season framework. 7. March 2016. State public input hearings on migratory bird seasons. 8. 8. April 2016. NRB meeting on migratory bird seasons. 9. April 29, 2016. State selection paperwork is due to USFWS. <p>Other matters: Duck zones to be reviewed again in 2016 by USFWS. Zones to be submitted to USFWS by May 1, 2016 by ad hoc committee.</p>
ACTION	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion to adjourn at 1:53 PM by Paul Gettelman, 2nd Jeff Scott. Meeting adjourned.
SUBMITTED BY	John W. Edelblute
DATE	August 5, 2015