

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress Ad Hoc Shooting Range Committee Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	10/25/2016	6:00 P.M.	Conference Call
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## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Harold Drake at 6:08 P.M.
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### B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Thomas Johnson, Alan Balliett, Steve Ninneman, Harold Drake, Charlie Brown, Stephen Kenesie
EXCUSED	Dennis Vanden Bloomen, Aaron Forteny
UNEXCUSED	Joe Tilton
GUESTS	Keith Warnke, DNR, Kari Zimmermann, DNR

### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Approved
ACTION	Motion to approve by C. Brown, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by S. Kenesie

### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Read Mission statement
ACTION	Motion to approve by S.Kenesie and 2 <sup>nd</sup> by C. Brown

### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	N/A
ACTION	N/A

## INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

### A. MCMILLER RANGE UPDATE

**KEITH WARNKE**

DISCUSSION	<p>The McMiller facility priority plan was e-mailed to the committee and was highlighted. Keith reported that Wern Valley Enterprises is the current contractor at McMiller. They have a 5 year agreement which runs thru 2019. Revenue has increased over the last eighteen months. The state's share of the generated revenue goes into an account that is only used for range development and upkeep at McMiller. New storage buildings for traps and clay targets are being planned. Other projects include a new sound system, electrical updates, as well as other general repairs. All projects are directed at improving safety at the range. It was also reported that they are planning a lead reclamation project. Shooting berms will be rebuilt as part of the project.</p> <p>Harold Drake asked the question about revenue. Keith answered there is about 100,000.00 visitors with a revenue of about 1.5 million dollars.</p> <p>Steve Ninneman asked the question about P.R. funding and Stephen Kenesie asked about current fees. Keith reported on Current daily and hourly rates as well as available yearly memberships. The contractor sets the price schedule with approval by the State. The current contract specifies which expense the contractor is responsible for and what are the States responsibilities.</p>
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	Alan Balliett asked about recycled brass and offered some possible solution to the current problem of getting rid of it. Drake requested a revenue report for McMiller which Keith will forward to the committee.
<b>ACTION</b>	Keith Warnke to send the attachment.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
N/A	N/A

#### B. COLUMBIA COUNTY RANGE

**KEITH WARNKE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Keith reported the range is now fully approved to build at the proposed location on King Road. Keith has e-mailed the committee a overlay of the site which was reviewed by the committee. Keith explained the lay-out of the range which will include a pistol range. The range will be similar to the existing Yellowstone range. Bidding will be done over winter with construction to begin in spring. Cost estimated at about half a million dollars. Three fourths is covered by Pittman-Roberts money and one fourth by In Kind contributions. The range will be unsupervised and will be open during daylight hours only. Alan Balliett asked about a berm between the range and King Road. Keith reported there would be a barrier.
<b>ACTION</b>	See attachment from Warnke
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
N/A	

#### C. RANGE GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

**KEITH WARNKE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Keith reported that current range grant applications are due by November 15 <sup>th</sup> . The next cycle will be in two years. He requested someone from this committee to help look over the grant applications and rank them for approval. Currently there are about 15 applications. He reported that there is \$300,000.00 available and that about \$200,000.00 in grant requests has been submitted so far this year. Funding for range grants remains fairly consistent. From year to year has a greater effect on wildlife finding because of the way the Pitman-Roberts funds are split. A list of 2015 range grant applications was reviewed. Total project funding was reported as just short of \$185,000.00. Keith reported that he has been working with the Outagamie Conservation Club and they will be part of the next grant cycle.
<b>ACTION</b>	Steve Kenesie volunteered to be part of the Grant approval committee.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
N/A	N/A

#### D. RANGE RENOVATIONS UPDATE PUBLIC/PRIVATE

**KEITH WARNKE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Keith reported that in the last year about a dozen ranges have undertaken range renovation projects. Most have been completed at this time. Harold Drake asked the question about unused funds. Keith answer was that the money not spent can be held over and used for public range funding.
<b>ACTION</b>	N/A
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
N/A	N/A

#### E. LEASING ACCESS FOR PUBLIC SHOOTING

**KEITH WARNKE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Keith reported on the current status of this program. The objective is to open access to private ranges closed to populated areas. Public hours at Lake Delton, North Bristol, and Dane County Law Enforcement range were discussed. Keith reported 3,000.00 to 3,500.00 people used Dane County over the summer. A question was asked by Steve Ninneman on what the D.N.R. paid for leasing and do clubs charge a fee? Keith answer was that the state currently pays \$40.00 per hour to lease the range. The range still has the option to charge a fee. Harold Drake asked if the department is working on leases with other ranges. Keith replied that they are not at this time.
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<b>ACTION</b>	N/A
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
N/A	N/A

**F. CURRENT RANGE ISSUES**

**KEITH WARNKE KEITH WARNKE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Keith informed us that there are three ranges that currently have noise issues. The department tries to let the clubs and local government work out the issues. The state can help by providing assistance with upgrades. The Oconto range had a safety issue with bullets leaving the property due to some back stop issues.	
<b>ACTION</b>	N/A	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
N/A	N/A	

**G. LEAD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES/RULES**

**KEITH WARNKE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	At present all active shooting ranges are considered compliant as long as they continue to operate. Keith informed us of grant money that is available to help clubs with lead issues. Recently the Cudahay Club was forced to shut down because of environmental issues related to shooting directly into Lake Michigan. Harold Drake asked the question about local clubs shooting into wetlands. Keith responded this is not an issue until the club stops shooting. They will be responsible for removing the lead at that time. Alan Balliett commented that some clubs do active lead management by adding lime to their lead fields to control the P/H of the soil.	
<b>ACTION</b>	N/A	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
N/A	N/A	

**H. ANY PROPOSED/PENDING LEGISLATION AFFECTING SHOOTING RANGES**

**KEITH WARNKE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Nothing known at this time. Harold Drake asked if there is a possible change to the definition of "waters of the U.S.A." by the E.P.A. and if it would affect ranges if implemented in the future. Keith was unable to answer at this time.	
<b>ACTION</b>	Keith will advise the committee if anything comes up	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
N/A	N/A	

**I. SHOOTING RANGE PROTECTION ACT**

**KEITH WARNKE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Keith reported the shooting Range Protection Act (895.27) was last updated three years ago to protect existing ranges and range operators from civil liability. There has been no recent change to this statute. A question was asked by Harold Drake on what happened to the list of proposed range rules that was pulled from consideration last spring? Keith reported that these rules are moving forward, The department has a public hearing scheduled at 7:00 P.M. on November 1 <sup>st</sup> at the D.N.R. office at 3911 Fish Hatchery Road to review these rules under N.R. 45.095. The list of rules was read to the committee by Keith. A discussion on alcohol consumption and use of automatic weapons. Keith reported that automatic weapons fall under Federal Government authority.	
<b>ACTION</b>	N/A	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
N/A	N/A	

**J. RULE SIMPLIFICATION****HAROLD DRAKE**

DISCUSSION	None Presented	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

**K. CITIZEN RESOLUTION 540416****HAROLD DRAKE**

DISCUSSION	<p>Harold gave an update on this resolution which was considered by this committee and failed to advance last year. He reported that the resolution was considered and passed by the Land Use Committee to the Leadership Council. After testimony by the resolution author the Leadership Council voted to move the resolution to the Spring Hearing as a question. The resolution requests a change to NR45.09 which would add all D.N.R. lands in Rock County to the list of counties where shooting is not allowed except for legal hunting activities. Charlie Brown reported that there are other public lands being shot on that have the same problems. Locally there are no public ranges and limited membership is available in private clubs.</p> <p>Steve Ninneman asked if there are any proposed range sites on D.N.R. land in Rock County. Keith Warnke stated that there are currently none. The next opportunity to start a range would be when the area Master Plan is updated/ revised. Charlie suggested that the Lima Marsh area as a possibility.</p>	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

**L. W.C.C. SHOOTING RANGE SURVEY****HAROLD DRAKE**

DISCUSSION	<p>Harold suggested the possibility of formulating a W.C.C. delegate survey on local ranges. The survey could ask questions on such things as availability, funding sources, suggested legislative/rule changes, etc. The survey would be used as a tool to steer this committee in the future. The idea was discussed and was supported by the committee members. Harold asked for ideas/suggestions of questions to be submitted to him by December 12<sup>th</sup>. He will discuss the ideas with the Leadership Council before moving forward. Keith Warnke reported that the state has a current list of ranges (public/private) state wide. He suggested that the National Shooting Sports Foundation or N.R.A. may also be helpful.</p>	
ACTION	Keith will provide the list of ranges to the committee members.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

**II. MEMBERS MATTERS**

DISCUSSION	<p><b>Tom Johnson</b>-Had a concern about resolution 160416 concerning hunter safety which he authored. This resolution was not forwarded by the Leadership Council. Keith commented on the streamlining of the process and that it is an ongoing process of change.</p> <p><b>Alan Balliett</b>- Nothing</p> <p><b>Steve Ninneman</b>- Expressed concern about more P.R. funds going to wildlife restoration and less to shooting ranges. Keith stated the wildlife funding can go up and down bit the shooting range and hunter safety finding generally holds the same.</p> <p><b>Charlie Brown</b>- Nothing</p> <p><b>Stephen Kenesie</b>- Nothing</p> <p><b>Harold Drake</b>- Nothing</p>	
ACTION	N/A	

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED	7:43 P.M.
SUBMITTED BY	Steve Ninneman/ Harold Drake
DATE	10/27/2016