

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## Turkey & Upland Committee

### Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	August 20, 2016	9:30 AM	Grand Lodge Waterpark Resort Rothschild, WI
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#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Ken Risley at 9:32 AM
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##### B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	16 of 26 members plus 6 guests = 21total
EXCUSED	7 - Reas, Bowe, Wilbersscheid, Anderso, Thomas, Kenesire, Neiduski
UNEXCUSED	3 – Barthol, Wood, Labs,
GUESTS	6 – Brian Dhuey, Sean Neverman, Warren H. Schmidt, Mark Wietecha, Craig Golembieski, Lee Fahrney

##### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	<p>Motion, Larson - 2<sup>nd</sup> Hoeffs - to move Item B. 8. Update of Wisconsin turkey research to be prior to Citizens resolutions.</p> <p>. Chairman Risley presented a letter from Greg Wurz in support of "One turkey tag valid for entire season (April – May) (590316)"</p> <p>Chairman Risley instituted a minute of silence memorial for Dave Miller</p>
ACTION	vote carried

##### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Motion Hoeffs to approve the mission statement
ACTION	vote carried

##### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	<p>DNR Liaison Brian Dhuey presented his report on surveys conducted by the DNR. The surveys are funded by turkey stamp money and are available on the DNR website under big game and then upland. The DNR turkey committee considered eliminating the drawing for fall permits. This would necessitate either a bag limit or a harvest limit with a bag limit being the preferred method.</p> <p>Surveys on the spring season zone structure showed support for the present system with a 2 to 1 margin of hunters either strongly agreeing or agreeing.</p> <p>Hunters supported the current season framework by a 75% margin.</p> <p>A. Citizen resolutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warren H. Schmidt, stated reasons in support of a regular season that starts in April and ends in May. Anyone with a tag should be able to hunt the entire season. There are plenty of turkeys, Youth and landowners would be positively affected.</li> </ol> <p>A motion to support the resolution was made by Pete Hellios.</p> <p>Discussion by: Koch, Winn, Hoeffs, guest Roger Greenwood, Zielke, Wieloch, Tyrolt, and more spoke in opposition. Reasons of safety, quality of the hunt, public land, hunter interference, availability of leftover permits and decreased revenue as some reasons for opposition.</p>
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	<p>The motion to support was defeated by a unanimous vote.  A motion to reject the resolution was made by Dave Zielke. The motion passed by a unanimous vote</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Reject

## II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

### A. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION AND UPDATES

**MARK WIETecha**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DNR Liaison, Mark Wietecha, reported that the DNR turkey committee increased the 65 thousand fall permits by 600.</li> <li>2. The spring permit numbers were 213,672 issued.  The spring hunt was very successful with a harvest of 45,501 birds. This was an increase of 11% from 2015. A success rate of 21.3% with 83% of the birds' harvested being adult toms. Preliminary brood reports are good.</li> <li>3. Research on what drives turkey populations as to habitat, food and other factors is being done. A site map showing turkey densities in northern Wisconsin was shown.   Over bagging by some hunters was discussed with 96% of hunters harvesting 1 or 0 birds.   Dave Zielke stated that turkey populations are down in central Wisconsin following an ice storm several years ago.   Richard Krawze told of a flock of 17 turkeys being reduced by 14 birds, probably killed by bobcats  .  Arlyn Splitt questioned fishers predating turkey eggs and small turkeys.</li> <li>4. Sharp-tail Grouse  The DNR committee has reduced the 2016 permits to be issued from 100 to 25. Most of the birds harvested were from the same geographic area.</li> <li>5. Farm Bill  There has been a decline in CRP land from 400 thousand acres to 200 thousand acres. This decline is due to high commodity prices. The next farm bill will be passed in 2018.</li> <li>6. Ruffed grouse  Populations are increasing in central and northern regions. There is a 1% statewide increase.</li> <li>7. Pheasant  Decisions on the old and new hatcheries are ongoing. 1,000 birds of the 75 thousand reared died from E. coli poisoning The pheasant population is trending down due to habitat decline. Small game hunter numbers decrease by 1 to 2 percent per year. Youth who previously started hunting small game now start with big game.</li> <li>8. Sharp-tail Grouse  The DNR committee has reduced the 2016 permits to be issued from 100 to 25. Most of the birds harvested were from the same geographic area.</li> <li>9. Craig Golembieski, the Bayfield team leader, reported on public forest management. Timber sales and management on the Chequamegon national forest should make Chequamegon the best for small game hunting. Job shadowing is a worthwhile practice and should be encouraged. Oak regeneration is very difficult due to browse and invasive species.   Richard Krawze stated that Wisconsin leads all states in timber harvest on the Nicolet national Forest. We burn more forests than we harvest.</li> </ol>
	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

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### B. CONGRESS UPDATE

LEE FAHRNEY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Lee Fahrney reported on the new Conservation Congress organization. The District Leadership Council has replaced the Executive council. Next year's annual meeting (2017) will be held in Oshkosh, The following year (2018) in Eau Claire and (2019) in Appleton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Youth Conservation Congress is encountering some legal problems.</li> <li>• We should try to recruit younger delegates.</li> </ul>
<b>ACTION</b>	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

### C. LAW ENFORCEMENT

SEAN NEVERMAN

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>1. Law enforcement Sean Neverman, DNR warden, reported that the new computer program has made tracking violations difficult. There was one turkey hunting incident involving a hunter shooting at a wounded turkey and not realizing that the victim was chasing the bird. The shooting resulted in a fatality. Failure to register birds is the most common violation. This has increased significantly since e registration was implemented. The current statistics are not adjusted for noncompliance</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

### III. MEMBERS MATTERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dave Larsen discussed that there should be more flexibility in voluntary public access grants.</li> <li>• Jeff Winn, questioned liability when opening land to public</li> <li>• Marcell Wieloch suggested that hunter safety graduates should take a refresher course.</li> <li>• Jason Leis said the congress should promote the young forest preservation program.</li> <li>• Richard Krawze stated that MFL changes allowing leasing closed property is a mistake.</li> <li>• Peter Hellios questioned fire suppression.</li> <li>• John Hoeffs said hunter safety graduates should be certified every 10 years. This could be done on line.</li> <li>• Clarence Koch reported on the status of legislation naming the wild turkey as the "State Game Bird".</li> <li>• Arlyn Splitt encouraged the committee members to fill out the committee evaluation form.</li> <li>• Ken Risley suggested that the 4 rules of hunter safety should be stressed during "sight in days".</li> </ul>
<b>ACTION</b>	none

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>12:19 PM</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Clarence Koch</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>8-24-2016</b>