

490215

# Citizen Resolution #

490215



Hearing Officer completion)

(For

## Implement online voting for spring WCC hearings

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

The vision of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) is to strengthen and enhance our ability to gather and convey the wisdom and influence of Wisconsin citizens in the formation of natural resource policy, research, education, and conservation. But the established process for gathering the opinions of Wisconsin citizens is outdated. Only a minute proportion of Wisconsin citizens attend the WCC spring hearings each April. Only 7,053 of Wisconsin's 5.7 million citizens (~0.12%) attended the 2014 spring hearings to vote on important natural resource management questions. Many reasons have been given by natural resource enthusiasts for not attending, including work obligations, children at home, and distance to the hearings. Technological advances readily available today could be implemented to allow a much greater proportion of Wisconsin citizens the opportunity to participate in the Congress' vital work. Any citizen in Wisconsin can obtain a Wisconsin DNR Customer ID. This ID could be collected from citizens attending the spring hearings in person, and used as the basis for online voting to avoid any potential for an individual to vote multiple times.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that to dramatically increase the opportunity for Wisconsin citizens to participate in the WCC spring hearing process, the Congress shall work with the DNR to implement an online system, using Wisconsin DNR Customer IDs for identification, that will allow Wisconsin citizens the opportunity to vote in WCC Spring Hearings for a one-week period each spring. WCC delegate elections and citizen resolutions will remain in person at the spring hearings.

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