The Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Public Input Process

Giving you a voice on conservation issues since 1934
History & Role of the WCC

- Created in **1934** by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission
- **A liaison** between the citizens of Wisconsin, the Natural Resources Board (NRB) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Their **purpose** is to provide an avenue for public input and exchange concerning conservation issues in Wisconsin
From Citizen Idea to Administrative Code

The WCC Public Input Process
New Resolutions proposed at county level WCC/DNR “Spring Hearings”

Each April you have the opportunity to submit your ideas as “resolutions” for public vote at the county level.

Resolutions are supported or rejected based on public votes tallied in each county.

Supported Resolutions are sent to the Conservation Congress Rules & Resolutions Committee.

Rejected Resolutions are returned to the author.
In late April, the Conservation Congress Rules & Resolutions Committee next assigns each supported resolution to one of the WCC Study Committees for further review.

WCC Study Committees meet in the fall and vote to forward, amend, or reject each resolution.

Supported Resolutions are drafted into question format & referred to the Conservation Congress Executive Council.

Rejected Resolutions are returned to the author with explanation.
The following January, the Conservation Congress Executive Council reviews each supported resolution & decides whether to recommend it be placed on the next “Spring Hearing” Questionnaire.

- **Supported Resolutions** are approved for placement on the next “Spring Hearing” Questionnaire.
- **Rejected Resolutions** are not placed on the questionnaire.
Resolution proposed as a **WCC Advisory Question** at the statewide level

Supported Resolutions are now proposed statewide as Advisory Questions on the Conservation Congress side of the April “Spring Hearing” Questionnaire.

Advisory Questions are supported or rejected based on public votes tallied in each county.

Supported Advisory Questions are forwarded to the DNR for review by staff experts.

Rejected Advisory Questions are not forwarded to the DNR for review.
Supported WCC Advisory Questions reviewed by DNR

Supported WCC Advisory Questions from the Conservation Congress side of the April “Spring Hearing” Questionnaire are next referred to DNR staff experts.

Supported WCC Advisory Questions are forwarded by the DNR to the Natural Resources Board and recommended as either (1) DNR Rule Change Questions or (2) DNR Advisory Questions.

Some Advisory Questions are **not** forwarded by the DNR based upon review.
If supported by DNR review, WCC Advisory Questions now proposed on the DNR side of the “Spring Hearings”

Supported WCC Advisory Questions are now proposed statewide as either DNR Rule Change or Advisory Questions on the DNR side of the April “Spring Hearing” Questionnaire.

DNR Rule Change & Advisory Questions are supported or rejected based on public votes tallied in each county.

Supported Rule Change & Advisory Questions are forwarded to the NRB for approval.

Rejected Rule Change & Advisory Questions are forwarded to the NRB but not recommended.
Supported DNR Rule Change & Advisory Questions now go to the NRB with recommendations
Supported DNR Rule Change Questions now go to the Wisconsin Legislature for approval.
Pending approval by the Wisconsin Legislature, what started as a Citizen Resolution is now created as rule/law.
An Example: Grassroots public input...

This proposal was voted on last year but no action was taken. As there is a significant number of second permits each year, and a equal significant number of unsuccessful applicants.

I propose:
That extra permits be offered to unsuccessful applicants on a first-come, first-service basis. This could be done either via the Internet or locally.

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20/28
12
+10
4

2/8
1/15
Citizen Resolutions bring your ideas...

Resolution Content

- The resolution must clearly define the concern that is of statewide impact or defines an unresolved concern at the local county level or district level.

- Current state statutes and law must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented if applicable.

- The resolution must suggest a solution.

- Description of further action desired for the resolution.

- Concerns must be practical, achievable, reasonable and not obviously inappropriate.
Citizen Resolutions

...and get input

Resolution Presentation

• Only the individual author or designated representative of the organization may present the resolution within the county

• No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person

• Written resolutions not meeting the criteria and/or verbal resolutions will not be accepted at the Spring Hearing and Conservation Congress Meeting
Questions?

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