

Public Input

Citizens like you elect fellow citizens to represent your county's natural resources concerns to the NRB, DNR and the state legislature.

Citizens have the opportunity to actively participate in the Spring Hearing process:

1. By casting their non-binding vote (*public opinion*) on proposed DNR Fish & Wildlife rules changes.
2. By casting their non-binding vote (*public opinion*) on WCC advisory questions.
3. Residents of each county, have the opportunity to run for election in the county that they reside in, if they are over 18 years of age.
4. Residents of the county elect delegates to the WCC to represent their views on all natural resource issues.
5. Attendees at the Spring Hearings have the opportunity to raise natural resource issues to the WCC through the resolution process.
6. Talk with your local county delegates to brief them on your concerns about natural resources.

How Can We Work Together?

Everyone can agree that our natural resources are important in maintaining a sustainable environment. Everyone can agree that we must preserve our natural resources for future generations. The decisions that we make today effect the future, that is why working together even when we do not agree on all issues is important.

Local citizens, clubs and organizations can work with their local delegates to identify concerns that they have regarding natural resources in their area.

Local citizens, club and organization members should participate in the Spring Hearings, not only to elect delegates but cast their opinion on proposed rule changes and advisory questions.

Do you have a concern of statewide significance? Submit it into WCC through the resolution process; you are in control of what is studied by WCC.

Contact Us

Local County Delegates

To find your local county delegate, visit dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/members/local

Executive Councilors

To find the Executive Councilor of your District, visit dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/members/excouncil

Executive Committee Members

To find your Conservation Congress Executive Committee members visit, dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/members/excommittee

Upcoming Meetings & Hearings

dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/calendar

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We represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

Democracy in Action!

Citizens, Local Conservation Clubs and Statewide Organizations Working Together to Manage Wisconsin's Greatest Asset, Our Natural Resources.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Who We Are

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) is the only “advisory body” in the state where citizens like you elect delegates to represent your interests in natural resources, both local and statewide, to the Natural Resources Board (NRB) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Our delegates believe it is important that each of us work together towards effectively managing our state’s natural resources for future generations to enjoy.

Our Mission

- To work together with citizens on a local level to gain opinions regarding management of Wisconsin’s natural resources.
- To work with local and statewide organizations regarding management and support of Wisconsin’s natural resources.
- To work with local and statewide organizations, educators and citizens regarding outdoor opportunities for youth, men and women and minorities.
- To consider the results of the DNR Spring Hearings and to assist the NRB and the DNR in unifying the results of the hearings.
- To consider citizen submitted resolutions on matters pertaining to management of natural resources.
- To request that the NRB support or oppose legislation or rule changes pertaining to natural resource management.

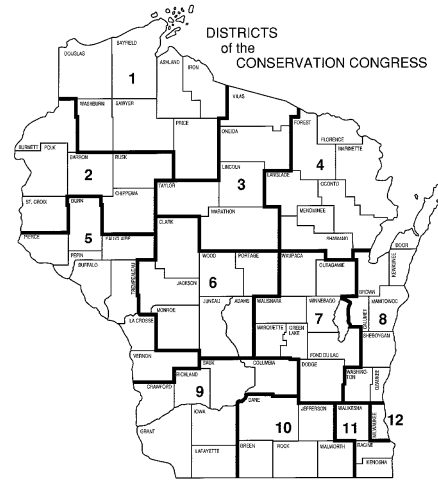
Organizational Structure

County Delegates

Each county shall have five elected delegates from each county to represent the constituents within their county on issues surrounding natural resources. These delegates listen to concerns from local citizens and local clubs and report public comments to their Executive Councilors. These delegates also serve on advisory/study committees within WCC.

Districts

The state is broken down into 12 districts.



Executive Council

The Conservation Congress has a 24 person Executive Council that is comprised of two delegates from each district who serve as Executive Councilors to represent their districts on natural resource issues.

Executive Committee

The Executive Council will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary from within the Executive Council to represent WCC on a statewide level. The Executive Committee and chairs from the various study/advisory committees advise the NRB of the opinions and concerns of their local constituents.

Advisory/Study Committees

A Conservation Congress Advisory Committee member represents their county, district and the Congress on several different Natural Resource issues. Committee members review resolutions that have passed at the county level at the Spring Hearings.

Each committee discusses and reviews the resolutions; if a resolution passes the advisory committee the resolution is then written into question format and presented to the Executive Council in January for the potential to be placed as a question on the Spring Hearing questionnaire for public input.

A listing of committees is as follows:

- Air, Waste & Water
- Awards
- Big Game
- Warm Water
- Wolf
- Fur Harvest
- Habitat
- Legislative
- Mississippi River
- Rules & Resolutions
- Public & Private Land Use
- Endangered Resources and Law Enforcement
- Forestry, Parks & Recreation
- Alternative Funding
- Bear
- CWD
- Upland Game
- Hunting with Dogs
- Great Lakes
- Migratory
- Trout
- Outdoor Heritage/Education
- Turkey

Annual Meeting Schedule

Spring

- Spring District Meetings—Each District has a meeting to review the Spring Hearing questions, gather information from county members, review procedures and gain background information on the questions.
- DNR Spring Fish & Wildlife Rules Hearing & Annual Conservation Congress County Meeting—All attendees are eligible to vote in a non-binding public opinion regarding DNR proposed regulation changes and on WCC advisory questions at the Spring Hearings. All attendees are able to submit written resolutions. Those attendees who are residents of the county are eligible to run and/or vote in the WCC delegate election.

Summer

- Conservation Congress Convention—The full delegation votes on the public’s opinion regarding the DNR Spring Hearings & WCC County meeting and discusses issues pertaining to natural resources. The Rules & Resolutions committee forwards local county resolutions onto committee for further consideration. The Executive Council meets to discuss the results of the Spring Hearings.
- The Executive Council of the Conservation Congress meets with the Natural Resources Board.

Fall

- Fall District Meetings—A time for delegates to gain information from the DNR, get to know local Department staff and each other within their District.
- Committee Meetings—Discussion of current issues pertaining to the committee, resolutions and advisory questions are deliberated on.

Winter

- Executive Council meeting to review proposed WCC Advisory questions.