



Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
 Relevancy Committee

Meeting Minutes

**WCC Meeting Minutes**

Form 8300-026 (R 08/23)

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<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	11/09/2023	7:00pm	Zoom
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**I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by	Terri Roehrig at 7:02 PM
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**B. ROLL CALL**

ATTENDEES	Paul Reith, Mary Ellen O'Brien, Brian Haydin, Justin Loehrke, Larry Bonde, Mike Riggle, Terri Roehrig
EXCUSED	
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Department: Kari Lee Zimmerman, Scott Loomans; Public: Jean Voss, Amy Mueller

**C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR**

DISCUSSION SUMMARY	None
COMMITTEE ACTION	Motion to approve agenda by Larry Bonde, second by Brian Haydin. Motion approved.

**D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT**

DISCUSSION SUMMARY	N/A
COMMITTEE ACTION	N/A

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

COMMENTOR (NAME; AFFILIATION, IF APPLICABLE)	N/A
TOPIC OF COMMENT	N/A

**II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS**

A. 2024 Spring Hearings - Framing them out

[PRESENTER]

<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
<b>DISCUSSION SUMMARY</b>	<p>A. Kari shared the recommendations from meeting between Sec Payne, department personnel and Rob Bohman.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Hold Spring Hearings/Open Houses simultaneously in each county statewide (second Monday in April)</li> <li>o Continue to utilize online option for gathering input, but incorporate hardcopies at in person events for those who would rather do that</li> <li>o Continue to provide program updates at the events and continue to engage expanded staff participation (ie. Include parks and forestry staff where they feel it is useful to participate).</li> <li>o Allow WCC to determine when they'd like to see the elections held (maybe in between program updates and discussion on Spring Hearing questions?)</li> <li>o Suggested schedule (6:30 pm- 9 pm):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Program updates (60 minutes).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Delegate elections (10 to 30 minutes).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spring hearing questions, citizen resolutions and, as time allows general questions for department staff (60 minutes).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mingle with department staff as time permits</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Sec. Payne was clear that the WCC needs to step up and own their part of the Spring Hearings. DNR will support the WCC, but ultimately the County resolutions, compiling data, and delegate voting is owned by the WCC. It will be a collaborative effort</p>	
<b>COMMITTEE ACTION</b>	No action needed	
<b>FOLLOW UP ACTION &amp; PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)</b>		<b>DEADLINE (if applicable)</b>

**B. Identifying needs to achieve completion of the events**

[PRESENTER]

<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] <b>OR</b> <input type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
<b>DISCUSSION SUMMARY</b>	<p>A. Options for hard copies and compiling data                  What does that look like? How do we compile? Who will do this? Will not get next day results. We will need to manage expectations of when results will be available.</p> <p>Discussion included using hand raises. However, due to legal reasons, hand raising has been removed as an option. We do need to offer online input and some other form of input for the night of in person. There is a risk that people will submit online and come to the Spring Hearings and submit in the other format. There is no stop gap we can put in place to prevent this from happening. And this was a risk in previous years as well. Historically, the online input was designed to be 3-day. In 2019, we did the paper ballots and had a 3rd party tabulated those results at a significant cost to the DNR and WCC.</p> <p>Discussion included having different options for different counties and that was removed as well as it is too many options to manage. And we need to ensure the integrity of the input is not jeopardized and put at risk. We have challenging relationships in some counties and members of the public may not feel comfortable giving their input in person. Need to ensure the Chair or the Warden tabulates a summary and includes an attendance sheet and sends to Kari.</p> <p>Discussion included that the WCC and a DNR staff member must double count the input to ensure we don't miss anything and risk data integrity. Members of the committee shared they would be willing to stay after to count votes and agreement that this needs to be clearly stated as a role and responsibility of the delegates - this is what they signed up for. Some committee members don't think we'll have a problem with counting. Most people come to the hearings as they want to be heard. People will trust the process - let's not worry about the counting. Kari shared that she fields lots of calls about the counting process and the feedback doesn't get back to the delegates.</p> <p>Communicating expectations to the delegates and the public about the counting process will be critical so there is no confusion.</p> <p>Focus on the county resolutions and tabulation - what is the WCC's issues with collecting data? The most contentious part of the hearing is the resolution process. There is alot of lead time on statewide questions and not alot of lead time on resolutions. Whatever the method of counting, what will give us the best confidence.</p> <p>Environmental questions were discussed and the fact that the department has not put those types of questions on statewide ballot. Mary Ellen has been very engaged with department environmental personnel and we are hopeful that there will be changes this year. There are other methods to get change made as it relates to Environmental and get it elevated. The WCC is an excellent tool for the public to use to elevate those environmental concerns.</p> <p>A recommendation was discussed that delegate elections be at 7:00 pm and that more department staff be in attendance. Forestry and Parks did a great job last year and we would like to see more of that. Also discussed going back to second Monday in April. Would the department be able to accommodate the presentations in all counties? Kari shared that the department would prefer to go back to one night and they can make it happen. Fisheries in particular because they are doing surveys.</p>	
<b>COMMITTEE ACTION</b>		
<b>FOLLOW UP ACTION &amp; PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)</b>		<b>DEADLINE (if applicable)</b>

C. Resolutions and Resolution Process

All

CHECK ONE	<input checked="" type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] OR <input type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	<p>If we take in person resolutions, we miss delegate elections and there is no time for review and revision because some people will show up a 6:59 pm with their resolution. In person discussion is where the good stuff comes up. It's the discussion. We don't want to diminish the discussions of the resolutions and is key to give the author feedback so we should have the author present. The online input causes problems as we are not getting the discussions.</p> <p>Getting the resolutions approved through the review process has been working out very well for both the WCC and the authors prior to the Spring Hearings. The authors are very appreciative of the support from the WCC reviewers and the committees have cleaner, to the point quality resolutions.</p> <p>The committee discussed having both options:                      1. Reviewed and approved ahead of time                      2. Night of submission and reviewed and approved by chair - This was not a favorable option as many committee members feel we will have people showing up and putting resolutions through the night of in multiple counties. Resolutions ultimately could just get shot down in committee. The committee discussed that we can't have it both ways and logistically it would be challenging to manage. Discussion also included that having resolutions available ahead of the Spring Hearings has made it easier to manage the process. Committee further discussed that all resolutions go through the review process and the approved resolutions are present online and can be presented in person at the county Spring hearing.</p> <p>The committee agreed that further communication with the authors about their resolutions and the steps/expectations is desperately needed. Many authors are mis-informed about the process and what they need to be doing once it gains approval in their county. We need to be real with the authors about the expectations of what happens next.</p> <p>A motion to keep the 72 hour online input timeframe was made by Paul Reith and second by Brian Haydin but was rescinded. Discussion included:                      Larry Bonde wanted more time to follow up with some folks because they had issue with the time frame. The 72 hours was the recommendation of the online input committee back in 2019 and was supported by the floor of the congress. It doesn't hurt the process and allows people time to give input and WCC didn't want it to be restrictive. Some of the online input committee members that are also on this committee indicated there was no argument of the amount of time. Discussion about looking at data and when people are submitting their input. There were initially lots of concerns and we have had no signs of anyone influencing the system. The 72 hour also allowed us to ensure the integrity of the system without too many people hitting the system at one time.</p> <p>Timing of when to start the online input was discussed. Previously it coincided with the start of Spring Hearings. Some discussion about allowing it over the weekend to allow people time to complete.</p> <p>Discussion about the need to share any of our recommendations PRIOR to the January DLC Meeting since we need to get their buy in and if they shoot this down, we are going to be up against the clock like we were last year. Agreement to forward our minutes and a summary to the DLC after our next meeting and ask for input to be sent to Terri and Kari.</p> <p>Additional communication will be required as well to our delegates and the public.</p> <p>Terri Discussed the</p>
COMMITTEE ACTION	<p>Paul Reith made motion to continue the online resolution review process. Second by Larry Bonde, Motion passed.                      Paul Reith made motion to return Spring Hearings/Open House/Department Presentations/Delegate elections to 2nd Monday in April. Second by Mike Riggle. Motion Passed.                      Kari to review the previous years online input submission and provide data to the committee so they can make an informed decision.</p>
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)	DEADLINE (if applicable)

**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

DISCUSSION SUMMARY	No Members Matters from Committee Members
COMMITTEE ACTION	N/A

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED	<b>Motion to Adjourn by Larry Bonde at 8:56 pm. Second by Justin Loehrke, Motion Carried</b>
SUBMITTED BY	<b>Terri Roehrig</b>
DATE	<b>11/12/2023</b>

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	<b>Terri Roehrig</b>
DATE*	<b>11/12/2023</b>
<b>*Must be approved within 14 days of meeting</b>	