



Wisconsin Conservation Congress

**CWD Committee**

Notes recorded by Secretary- Tony Grabski, Iowa County Delegate

From the Conference Call

**Tuesday, December 30, 2008**

The CWD Ad Hoc Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress convened at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, December 30, 2008, by telephone conference. The CWD Committee reviewed and acted on the WI DNR's proposed 10 Year Plan for Managing CWD in WI and on other matters concerning chronic wasting disease.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Organizational Matters

7:00 PM

- A. Call to Order- Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rob Bohmann
- B. Roll Call- Committee members present were Chairman Rob Bohmann, Racine County; Secretary Tony Grabski, Iowa County; and delegates David Breunig, Lafayette County; Larry Gohlke, Marquette County; Brad Hasheider, Sauk County; James Krakofsky, Walworth County; David Poff, Waukesha County; Mike Riggle, Taylor County; Gerald Stadler, Sauk County; Randy Voegeli, Green County; Pat Werner, Richland County; and DNR liaison Alan Crossley.

Delegate John Obernberger, Marathon County was excused.

Absent were delegates Allan Brown, Chippewa County; Tom Roskopf, Washington County; and DNR Liaison Ron Preder.

Larry Gohlke was excused for a family emergency after the vote on the motion on action item 3.B.1.

2. Summary of the DNR's proposed *Plan for Managing CWD in WI: The Next 10 Years* 7:10 PM

Alan Crossley summarized the proposed 10 year CWD management plan including the goal to "Minimize the area of WI where CWD occurs and the number of infected deer in the state". The key objectives and specific management actions recommended to achieve the goal were also summarized.

3. Discussion and motions toward CWD committee position on the 10 year plan

7:30 PM

- A. Discussion-  
Alan Crossley opened the floor to questions and comments on the 10 year CWD management plan. The main points discussed were the proposed return of sharpshooters, the extended landowner season to the end of March, the early October gun hunt, and that the 10 year time line of the plan was too long. Other points made were that the document lacked authorship and supporting scientific references. Alan Crossley said that authors would be added to the document and that supporting scientific references would be supplied to those requesting them, but references would not be included as part of the final 10 year CWD Management Plan document. The results of these discussions were the 4 motions below. Individual comments are noted with motions 1-4 as appropriate.

B. Motions-

1. Tony Grabski made a motion to eliminate the use of sharpshooting by government agents and paid private contractors from the 10 year plan. Sharpshooting should be restricted to removing visibly sick or injured deer. The motion was seconded by Dave Poff, and passed unanimously by the Committee.

Tony Grabski made the following statement on sharpshooting, prior to the vote. "The use of sharpshooters was voted down 5 times by the CWD SAG and at the spring 2007 state wide Conservation Congress hearings by a vote of 2,257 against to 974 in favor. Sharpshooters are viewed as legalized poachers. Sharpshooting over bait is hypocritical when the DNR and Conservation Congress are calling for a state-wide ban on baiting. With a \$5 billion state budget deficit no funding should be wasted on this practice. Sharpshooting is counter-productive; it has hurt CWD policy more than any other measure. It should only be used in cases of visibly sick or injured deer."

The Committee discussed the motion as related to qualified citizen sharpshooters. Larry Gohlke pointed out that the committee had passed a resolution last year to allow qualified citizen sharpshooters and now was reversing itself. Rob Bohmann said that although that resolution was forwarded to the executive council, it was rejected primarily due to liability issues.

2. Tony Grabski made a motion to eliminate the January through March 31<sup>st</sup> late landowner season from the 10 year plan. The motion was seconded by Dave Poff, and passed by the Committee 8 in favor 1 against.

Gerald Stadler questioned the number of hunters and effectiveness of the late landowner season. Tony Grabski said landowners in Iowa and Sauk Counties had contacted him and would close snowmobile trails through their properties during the late season hunt if it was returned. He also pointed out that the CWD SAG had approved the season structure in place for 2008 and that it should be given 5 years without change in order to determine its effectiveness. Harvest numbers in the South Central region this year were up compared to the rest of the state and hunters were happier with the new season structure. The late season is viewed by many landowners primarily as a mechanism to facilitate sharpshooting. Pat Werner asked about license requirements for the landowner hunts and said that out of state hunters should be required to buy a regular license for these hunts and not be given the \$2 licenses. David Breunig and David Poff argued that not only was the late season unnecessary but that the October and December hunts should also be eliminated. They said that these hunts are not wanted by many hunters and the hunts decrease hunting pressure during the traditional 9 day season. David Breunig followed up the discussion to eliminate all additional landowner hunts with motion 3 below.

3. David Breunig made a motion to return to the 9 day season eliminating the early October gun hunt, December antlerless only hunt, holiday hunt, and late season January to March 31<sup>st</sup> hunt. The motion was seconded by David Poff, and passed by the Committee 5 in favor 4 against. A roll call vote was taken with David Breunig, Brad Hasheider, Jim Krakofsky, David Poff, and Randy Voegeli in favor and Tony Grabski, Mike Riggle, Gerald Stadler, and Pat Werner against.

David Breunig and David Poff argued again that not only was the late season unnecessary but that the October and December hunts should also be eliminated. They said that these hunts are not wanted by many hunters and the hunts decrease hunting pressure during the traditional 9 day season. David Breunig said that in the past hunters effectively reduced the deer herd and high kill numbers resulted from the 9 day season alone. Alan Crossley argued otherwise. He said the herd size was not effectively reduced without these additional hunts and EAB. Tony Grabski, Mike Riggle, and Pat Werner all argued that it was not reasonable to have shorter seasons in the CWD-MZ than in the rest of the state. Tony Grabski again

pointed out that the CWD SAG had approved the season structure in place for 2008 and it should be given the full 5 years to measure its effectiveness.

4. David Breunig made a motion to reject the proposed 10 Year CWD Management Plan as written. The motion was seconded by David Poff, and passed by the Committee 8 in favor 1 against.

Gerald Stadler stated that the DNR wrote in the proposed 10 year CWD management plan that survey data will be used to sell the CWD program and educate the public about CWD. Over the past six years he has been educated about CWD and has learned that it can't be eradicated or controlled. Therefore, the entire plan proposed in the document is impossible.

4. Other Business-

8:10 PM

Chair Rob Bohmann reported that the resolution drafted and approved by the CWD Committee to allow the use of magnifying scopes on muzzle loaders would be forwarded to the Executive Council.

Rob Bohmann also reported on the reply from DATCAP regarding their Response to Chronic Wasting Disease on Captive Cervid Farms in Wisconsin.

5. Adjourn

8:20 PM

Tony Grabski made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Dave Poff, and approved unanimously.

The notes from these proceedings are respectfully written and submitted by Tony Grabski, CWD Committee Secretary