

Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
Upland Game Committee  
August 9, 2008

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Ken Risley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Roll Call - Present: Ken Risley, Dave Miller, Otto Bowe, Dave Breunig, Ron Buchmann, Jim Burmeister, Dale Ebert, Mike Gould, Todd Kapp, Jim Kriska, Dave Natter, John Obernberger, Larry Peterson, Roger Reas, Wayne Schmidt, Scott Sedivy, Don Thompson, Ken Vertein, Larry Ziltener. Excused: Mark Hinz, Paul Shaurette, Wayne Towne, Mark Weber, Mike Whiteside, Bob Wilberscheid, Armond Zastrow.
3. Mission Statement:

Discussion was held on what the Upland Game Committee's mission statement should read. Motion was made by Jim Burmeister and seconded by Wayne Schmidt to keep the existing mission statement since it was broad enough to handle future changes in game programs. Todd Kapp moved to modify motion to add the statement "as it relates to upland game" at the end of the first sentence. Seconded by Scott Sedivy motion to modify the motion carried 16 yes, 0 no. Then the original motion carried 16 yes, 0 no.

Mission Statement reads as follows: Review items relating to boundaries, depredation, harvest, zones, population modeling, harvest goals and permitting, licensing, tagging, rehabilitation and habitat, private and public lands use, restoration and research projects, and other issues of statewide conservation or environmental concern as it relates to upland game. This committee reviews other matters, as appropriate, assigned by the chair or the Executive Committee or the Executive Council. This committee will work with the Department Wildlife Bureau and provide meeting minutes to the Congress Liaison or Assistant and they will provide them to the Executive Council of the Conservation Congress and to the Land Management, Recreation and Fisheries/Wildlife Committee of the Natural Resources Board.

4. Informational Update:

Upland Game Status Reports:

- \* Ruffed Grouse - 7% increase in spring counts statewide
  - Brood survey up compared to previous year
- \* Pheasants - Down 31% from last year
  - Severe winter
  - Habitat loss
- \* Quail - Continues downward

## Informational Update - Page 2

Pheasant Stamp Expenditures: Pheasant stamp money is increasing from other years. \$6mm since 1993.

40% for non-game farm uses, mostly habitat.

60% for game farm costs.

National Pheasant Plan Proposal (all 50 states): Wisconsin will follow up with a rewrite of our pheasant management plan.

Farm Bill: 2008 Farm Bill did result in some loss of CRP land but it is still better than no program.

39.2mm acres reduced to 32mm acres.

Wisconsin 600m reduced to 400m.

A new program within CRP called "SAFE" (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) will be a benefit to Wisconsin. This is a more targeted program just for wildlife.

Game Farm: 52,000 birds for stocking.

Program has a good future.

Will maintain at the level or above.

Dave Breunig made a motion for the committee to write a letter to Hauge recommending that the state maintain the game farm program at current level. Seconded by Don Thompson. Motion passed 16 yes, 0 no.

Jim Burmeister moved to send a letter to Hauge recommending not to have the early doe hunt on the same weekend as opening of pheasant season. Seconded by Wayne Schmidt. Motion carried 16 yes, 0 no.

## 5. Resolutions:

Resolution 150808: Wisconsin DNR Day Old Chick Program - rule revision: Motion was made by Wayne Schmidt to move the resolution forward with the addition of "after notifying land owner", seconded by Jim Burmeister. Resolution author was present and agreed with the modification.

Resolution 150808 to read as "The club agrees to release all of the pheasants reared under this program on land open to pheasant hunting after notifying land owner. The club expressly agrees that no birds will be released on land that is posted no hunting or land on which the occupant or owner restricts pheasant hunting."

Jim Burmeister added that this resolution pertains to department policy within the day old chick program and not a statutory proposal.

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Resolution 600508: The atlatl and dart as a small game hunting tool. Leonard Riemersma gave a short presentation on the use of the atlatl and dart. Jim Burmeister moved to pass the resolution forward, seconded by Wayne Schmidt. Moved carried 15 yes, 0 no.

Resolution 600508 to read as Be it resolved, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Sheboygan County on April 14, 2008. Recommend that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation, by introducing to the state legislature, rule changes that would allow the use of an atlatl and dart for small game hunting purposes.

Members Matters;

Motion by Todd Kapp to combine the pheasant & turkey stamp into a habitat stamp required by all small game hunters and all non-resident hunters both big game & small game. Seconded by Dave Miller. Discussion was held that this funding would be used to help all upland game birds, not just pheasants and turkeys and the price should be somewhere between the price of a pheasant stamp & a turkey stamp. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.