

**Air, Waste and Water Study Committee Meeting  
Conference Call  
Friday, December 18, 2009 – 9 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by Committee Chairman Mike Witkiewicz.

Roll Call: Mike Witkiewicz, Jim Brakken, Dale Crisler, John Cumming, Ron Fassbender, Gene Reineking, Marc Schultz, Greg Wysocki

DNR present: Kurt Thiede, DNR/WCC Liaison; Sean Strom, Wildlife Toxicologist; Greg Pils AWW Committee Liaison

A quorum was present therefore business was conducted.

The only order of business was the second consideration of citizen resolution 160109 – Lead reduction in fishing tackle (attached).

Earlier in the week a subcommittee of the Air, Waste and Water (AWW) Committee met via conf. call to discuss a proposed rewrite of the resolution to take into account the concerns of the AWW committee from their August 2009 meeting in LaCrosse.

**A motion was made by Crisler, second by Brakken to advance the revised resolution.**

Discussion:

Reineking thought the AWW committee had suggested the removal of “sale” in the resolution to avoid the need for legislation. He suggested “use and possession” would be more appropriate.

Thiede clarified that use and possession of lead would not require legislation, but any suggestion of regulating sale and manufacture would require legislation.

Before any further discussion, Chairman Witkiewicz read the redraft resolution.

Crisler identified a few grammatical edits (noted in attached).

Brakken agreed that sale should not be included in the resolution.

Wysocki noted that if you start to get into the regulation of possession that would be a tough sell.

Brakken concurred with Wysocki.

The committee also discussed the merits of “prohibition” vs. “phase out”.

Strom suggested a clarifying edit to the term “waterfowl”. Waterfowl includes ducks and geese, but would not cover loons and other water birds that are at risk. Therefore he suggested replacing “waterfowl” with “water birds”.

The committee agreed to accept all grammatical and clarifying edits as friendly amendments to the original motion.

**An amendment was offered by Cumming, seconded by Crisler to remove “sale (and/or)” from the resolution. Passed unanimously by all committee members present.**

**Vote on the amended motion. Passed unanimously by all committee members present.**

Schultz recommended that DNR staff have data and a DNR position available to them at the Spring Hearings. Also, they should be prepared to clarify what would need to take place...rules and legislative review...for a prohibition to take place.

Also, the committee would like to have clarification prior to next years meeting what role the DNR would like the AWW committee to play in the larger lead in the environment discussion.

Cumming was concerned that there may be an economic hardship from an eventual prohibition, specifically the small cottage jig industries.

Witkiewicz commended the subcommittee and the entire AWW committee for their efforts, discussion, research, and actions. The final resolution was the byproduct of civil and informed discussions.

**A motion was made by Crisler to Adjourn, seconded by Reineking.**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Resolution 160109

Title: Lead reduction in fishing tackle

The Problem:

Lead in the environment is poisonous to wildlife. This resolution is designed to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning (Lead Toxicosis) in waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds and secondary poisoning of raptors, such as eagles and ospreys by reducing the amount of lead added to Wisconsin waters due to lost fishing tackle.

Whereas studies have shown wildlife is most likely to ingest fishing tackle measuring: less than 2.5 cm (1 inch) length and 25g (1 ounce) in weight, removing lead in fishing tackle of this size would be the most effective way of protecting wildlife.

Whereas the Federal lead shot ban for waterfowl hunting, and state restrictions on lead use in fishing tackle in MA, VT, NH, NY and ME have reduced toxicosis in waterfowl. A follow up study on the effectiveness of lead free fishing tackle in New England has shown a reduction in bird mortality. A similar ban in Wisconsin will protect our wildlife resources and migrating populations moving through our state.

Whereas inexpensive non-lead alternatives to lead sinkers and jigs are currently being manufactured and are available to retailers at a reasonable cost, transition to non-lead alternatives will not put an undue hardship on Wisconsin fisherman anglers.

Be It Resolved that the Air, Waste and Water Committee asks the Conservation Congress to recommend that the State phase out the sale (and/or) use of lead fishing tackle less than one inch in length and less than one ounce in weight for use in Wisconsin waters.

(Original resolution written by Roger and Loran Lorna Wilson, Douglas County, redrafted by the Air, Waste and Water Committee with writers concurrence)

Date \_\_\_\_\_