

Conservation Congress Awards Committee

Saturday, March 14, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center, Stevens Point

Committee Members present: Ron Roettger (chair), Frank Reith (co-chair) James Cahill (secretary), Darriol Sterckx, Don Liebmann, Steve Staver, Ron Weber, Richard Wayne, Al Hrudka

Committee Members absent: Roger Reas, Gene Knoll

DNR liaisons present: Barbara Wolf

Roettger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Announcements

Regarding committee leadership - Roettger announced that he would not be running for re-election as a representative to the Conservation Congress in April, and so would not be on the Awards Committee after this year. He will attend the May statewide and make the presentations to the award winners. Frank Reith stepped up to take on the co-chair position and will take over the chair position in the next year. Roettger also recognized and thanked Jim Cahill for his assistance as secretary and Barbara Wolf for her contributions as the DNR liaison to the Awards Committee.

Roettger welcomed new committee member Darriol Sterckx. Introductions were made by other committee members.

Approval of the Awards Committee Mission Statement - Roettger reviewed the Awards Committee Mission Statement, and invited anyone with comments to suggest changes. Minor changes made. The Mission Statement will read:

The mission of the Awards Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to recognize the outstanding conservation clubs, organizations, sportsmen and sportswomen, and outstanding outdoor educators of Wisconsin, as they are deserving, and with hopes that it will encourage efforts of others to do the same. These annual recognition awards include, but are not limited to:

- Educator of the Year
- Outstanding local Conservation Club
- Outstanding achievement by local Conservation Clubs
- Statewide Conservation Organization
- Recognition of Conservation Congress delegates for their length of service

The committee is charged with setting criteria for the awards, seeking nominations, reviewing nominations, selecting winners for these awards and notifying everyone of the presentation. The chair of this committee will present the awards at the statewide meeting of the Conservation Congress.

Motion made by Frank Reith to approve and adopt the Mission Statement, second by Darriol Sterckx, voice vote unanimous in favor to approve.

Awards selection - Roettger handed out the nomination forms for the awards and explained the procedure. All committee members read and evaluated the nominees for the awards. Roettger has already reviewed the nominations and he will be the deciding vote in case of a tie. After he read the nominations, he added one organization that was nominated as a local club to the list of statewide conservation organizations. The committee agreed with his assessment.

- There were 3 nominees for the State Conservation Organization
- 6 individuals were nominated for Educator of the Year
- 11 clubs were nominated as Outstanding Local Conservation Clubs

After committee members finished reviewing the nomination papers, their scores were tabulated and the following clubs are the award recipients (see table.) **The Prairie Enthusiasts** was chosen as the Statewide Conservation Organization of the Year. Educator of the Year is **Dave Tupa** of Egg Harbor, an instructor at Gibraltar High School.

Local Conservation Club (# of members)	County	# of points
<i>Outstanding Local Conservation Club</i>		
Willow River Rod and Gun Club (372)	St. Croix	544
<i>Outstanding Achievement by Local Conservation Clubs</i>		
Outdoors Forever (300)	Juneau	540
Stanley Sportsman's Club (245)	Chippewa	509
Jackson County Wildlife Fund (325)	Jackson	476

Roettger will send letters notifying all of the award winners. Wolf will create the certificates and send the certificates to Roettger. Roettger will put together a summary of each club's accomplishments. Thiede will take care of ordering the carving for the Educator and Statewide Organization.

Wolf will forward the minutes to Roettger and, when approved by him, minutes will be sent to Kurt Thiede. A copy will be sent to the committee members.

Other business – Rick Wayne asked that the committee forward a nomination for Fisheries Employee of the Year (an award given by Executive Council). He gave a summary of Brian J. Brecka's accomplishments with the Reel Kids Club. Brecka is a fisheries biologist in Alma who has been involved in Reel Kids for about 15 years, 30-50 children a year ages 9-18 participate. They hold fishing days, monthly meetings and a 3-day campout. He runs a catch-photo-release fishing contest. His supervisor is Ron Benjamin.

Motion made by Ron Roettger to forward Brecka's name to the Executive Council, second by Cahill.

Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming events:

Conservation Congress statewide is May 7-9, 2009 in LaCrosse.

Awards Committee meeting in 2010 is Saturday, March 13 at Schmeeckle Reserve Visitors Center.