

Bear Committee Meeting in Stevens Point on December 4th, 2009

Meeting Called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Richard Kirchmeyer

Roll Call: **Present:** Chair Rich Kirchmeyer, Secretary Jo Ann Kuharske, Wright Allen, Anthony Dallman, Dale Detampel, Allan Flannery, Russell Hitz, Dennis Jones, Robert Kaminskis, Robert Knorr, Kenneth Kocheaver, Alan Lobner, Dave Lois, Gary Mabie, Jim Morning, Michael Murhpy, Larry Osegard, Scott Plocar, Bruce Prentice, Daniel Seipel, Scott Strook, Leroy Wiesner, DNR Liasons Keith Warnke and Tim Ebert . **Excused:** Rick Fruit, Eugene Muench, and William Schommer. Also Present: WCC Chairman Ed Harvey, Rep. Ann Hraychuck, WCC Liaison Kurt Thiede, Pat Quaintance, Corky Meyer, Bob Miller, Ms. Miller, Arlan Split, Matt Hanson, Ken Durham, Karl Shottell, and Mike Gappa

Mike Gappa: Former DNR wildlife manager and current Wisconsin Bear Hunters Board of Directors member - People are concerned with Dog training in Zone C are concerned that dogs are running the bear out of their home territory. A similar concern is being raised in Michigan. They are going to put collars on Bears track them to see if there are really problems.

Bear Bill: The Bill (AB 371)

The was a hearing held in Madison on the Bear Bill in August. There were many bear hunters attending. This bill has 5 components.

1. All Class B permit holders are not required to wear a back tag during training or harvest seasons.
2. The person in possession of a Class A permit can have a back up shooter over the age of 16
3. Training during the harvest season in Zone A, B, D. without possessing a Class A harvest permit. This would allow you to be able to train your hounds without possessing a Class A permit,
4. Youth 16 and younger don't need to have a Class B to participate in the training of hounds.
5. Free training weekend,(no Class B permit) which would not occur during the hunting season.

Warden Pat Quaintance stated that it is very difficult already to determine who has the harvest permit and who is running the hounds. The intent of the law is to not have training going on during the kill season. The law is almost impossible to enforce the way it is currently written.

There is controversy surrounding this but the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Assoc. feels this serves the greater good.

Chr. Ed Harvey: Ed gave us an update on the letter to the Natural Resources Board that we don't want a 16 day season next year. See Handout B

Rep. Ann Hraychuck: Thanked everyone for their hard work and support. She likes to receive feedback from hunters.

Email:

Repaired Agenda from being out of sequence.

Mission Statement

Bear Committee of Conservation Congress

The Bear Committee of the Conservation Congress mission is to ensure that we maintain a population of black bear in WI that allows the citizens the ability to harvest a percentage of that population each year but leave an ample amount of mature bears to continue the breeding process.

We also want to promote all legal methods for hunting the black bear, which include:

1. Training season for hounds
2. Hunting with aid of hounds
3. Use of hounds and bait
4. Ability to use bait
5. Other methods

The charge of the committee is to help make it possible that everyone that hunts the black bear has a chance to have an enjoyable and maybe a successful hunt and that the future of the black bear in WI remains a noble and well sought after animal.

Al Lobner Motion to accept Mission statement as presented. Seconded by Anthony Dallman
All in favor.

Keith Warnke

The Bear committee met on Nov 10th 2009. The first Table, handout C, gives bear harvest by zone since 1986. This year's preliminary harvest numbers include the 41 tribal harvested bears. Handout D and E are line and bar graphs that display data. Handout E shows how hard we are hitting the female population. In recent years it appears we have harvested more females, no concerns though.

Handout F: Success rate of hunters

Handout G: Success rate of the four zones.

Handout H: This is the table we use to establish our goals. The over 100% success rate in Zone A1 is the result of Zone A permit holders ability to hunt in Zone A1.

Handout L: Prehunt Population figures for each zone.

Keith Warnke presented the draft of a wildlife draft issue brief. Handout M. This is the preliminary 2010 recommendation from the DNR for harvest permits and harvest quotas. Zone A A 2,000 bear harvest goal with 3,150 permits issued– up from a quota of 1,700 and 2,580 harvest permits in 2009 Russ Hintz. Motion to accept Seconded by Gary Mabie. Keith is not sure how many preference points people are going to need to get a tag.

Motion carried with 2 in opposition Mike Murphy and Al Lobner

Zone B. A harvest quota of 1075 bear, which equates to 1,140 permits, in 2009 there were 1,300 permits issued and a harvest quota of 1075.

Tony Dallman motion to accept and Scott Plocar seconded. Al Flannery commented that the size of the bear is better. The hunters in Zone B are seeing lots of bear. The bear are being seen in the towns and cities. He felt the population should be lower. Motion carried

Opposed Al Flannery, Mike Murphy, and Al Lobner

Zone C: A 860-harvest goal is being set with 2,430 permits being issued. In 2009 860 was the harvest goal with 2,200 permits issued.

Russ Hitz motion to accept with Jim Morning seconded.

Al Flannery questioned why you are adding more permits to C and not B is because the success rate is lower in C. Keith stated that the 3-year average success rate is used to determine recommended quota level. Since success is a lot lower in zone C so we need more permits to harvest our desired harvest goal. Al believes that it seems that the DNR wants to kill off more bears in zone C.

Mike Murhpy: Who is establishing the population of 1,200? You are going to do to the bear population what you have done to the deer population. Keith stated that we do need to reevaluate the bear population. Mike Gappa stated there is good habitat in zone C we don't need to eliminate the population in Zone C. Mike Murphy is concerned that we are over harvesting the bear.

Russ Hitz: I disagree with Mike. Chip, Dunn, Eau Claire counties are going nuts with Bear. In the last 2 weeks 30 bear have been seen in less than a 20-mile radius.

Jim Morning: I disagree with Mike M. There are a lot of bears. They are getting run over by the combines right now. In Chippuea County we have to many. I would like to see Hwy 64 be the line across the state to use with hunting with dogs. Jim believes the quota should be raised.
Motion carried Opposed Mike Murphy, Al Lobner

Zone D: Remember this used to be A1. 2010 harvest permits would be 1,570, this means a harvest goal of 1,100. In 2009 1,230 permits were issued with a quota of 950.
Motion by Russ Hintz with a second by Leroy Weisner. No discussion Opposed Mike Murphy

Keith reported on Aphis: Corn came into the milk stage late this year. Complaints were 1,290 compared to 1,380 in 2008. Wildlife services trapped 590 bears down from 728. 14 Bears were euthanized, 10 due to human health concerns. Landowner cost share agreement this year, first Bear free, then split the cost from then on. It did not impact the calls. 4 people took advantage of the landowner cost share. Wildlife Biologist did not issue any shooting permits for Bear damage. This is a nuciance cost share. Bears removed because of crop damage—
255 nuisance
82-property damage
253 crops, livestock, and apiary

Bear car kill data. Rich passed a document around with the data for reported car/bear accidents for each county. It will become handout N.

Tim Ebert, WCC Warden

LTH Bear : 46 Learn to hunt permits. 32-34 bears were harvested. The new 10 to 11 year old age will really change the Learn to hunt participation.

Biggest complaint issues are dogs trespassing on private lands. Sheriffs are issuing tickets. There did not seem to be any issues with the increase in number of permits.

Are they going to issue a larger number of permits for the learn-to-hunt? In the learn-to-hunt program you have to have 2 years or less of any hunting experience to be able to participate. Corky asked us if we are interested in getting a change in the definition in the language of a novice hunter. The point of this was the drop in the age to 10, which changes the participation. In the mentored/transferred permit hunt they have to buy a license. Corky is concerned that we are eliminating a large pool of hunters from the sport by restricting a person to have 2 years or less of hunting experience.

Mike Gappa is filling in for Karl Malcolm from UWM. Karl is in China doing a study on stress with their Bear population.

Mike talked about the study with collaring young male bears and see how they travel. Some traveled great distances. They followed river corridors. The males ranged more than the females. The young bears take 1 to 2 years to settle down in an area. This study is going to go on for another two years. Karl was very appreciative with the submission of hair samples. He received over 2,000 hair samples. He was very grateful about the amount of samples received from hunters. He is in China studying the stress bears are going through with more and more infiltration of humans intruding on their habitat. He is trying to make a comparison with our bears and the bears in China. He is able to see this in the hormone in the hair that marks the level of stress. When the stress level is too high it is related to population. That is what he is trying to learn in this study. In April of 2011 the Tetracycline study will be starting again. A rib sample will again be asked to be taken from harvested bear to test for the Tetracycline. There would not be available results from the study until the 2013 harvest quotas and permit levels are to be set.

Resolution 040309 Class B Youth Bear Hunting

Handout O The original author Corky Meyer was there to present his resolution Mike Murphy motion to accept, seconded by Russ Hintz Unanimously accepted. This will be forwarded to the executive council and is being asked to be forwarded to the spring hearing.

LTH Gary Mabie and his son Dave mentored the Congress Learn-to-Hunt permit.

Leroy Weisner mentored a youth that had a received a transferred harvest permit that was donated to the WCC.

Mark Loka also mentored a youth that received a transferred harvest permit that was donated to the WCC. All 3 youth harvested bear

Last year the WCC had 42 youth apply for one LTH harvest permit. The committee that selects the recipient of the WCC's LTH bear permit will consist of either the chairman or secretary of the Bear ,Outdoor Heritage, and the Hunting with Dogs committees.

2010 LTH permit logistics==We have one permit this year. The deadline in April 21st, 2010. Announce it at the hearings. All three of the youth that received harvest permits from the WCC will be in the Conservation Chronicle with pictures and stories in January issue.

Pat Quaintance Youth Bear Hunt Proposal – Handout P
Robert Kaminskis made the motion, Mike Murphy seconded the motion.
All in favor.

Legislative update covered previously by Mike Gappa.

The unit review of deer management zones on Dec 17th.
Corky wanted to see the other 4 points of the Bear Bill be individual questions on the spring hearing. The bill is circumventing the process of the congress.

Motion by Mike Murphy to make these all individual questions. Seconded by Russ Hitz
Motion carried with one opposed by Al Lobner.

1 Remove the requirement for Class B permit holders to wear a back tag during training and the bear harvest season. Mike Murphy made the motion to reject, seconded by Tony Dallman. Mike stated that there was a deal cut to push for the back tag issue. The history of this is to help police our own sport so that we don't have negative publicity. Al Lober stated that this is not working. People are not calling in back tag numbers to complain. Wright pointed out it is successful with deer. Al Lobner wanted to know why we don't require other hunters to wear or have backtags. Tim Ebert says it is a valuable tool to have people call in serious violations. It helps greatly. Al Flannery agrees with Tim. The more restrictions you have, the less likable it is. It makes you appear as if you are a criminal. Scott Plocar believes that it is a minor inconvenience. It is not that big of a hindrance. Mike Murphy—the big thing in today's world is perception. Mike Murphy made a motion to have a roll call.

Roll Call Vote

Not to Reject	Reject
Allen	Murphy
Dallman	Plocar
Dale	Seipel
Datempel	Wiesner
Flannery	
Hitz	
Jones	
Kamiskis	
Knorr	
Kocheaver	
Lobner	
Lois	
Mabie	
Morning	
Osegard	
Prentice	
Kuharske	

Motion failed.

Motion to move forward to the Ex. Council for consideration for the spring hearing by Knorr seconded by Morning. Motion carried. Rejected by Murphy, Plocar, Seipel, Wiesner, and Prentice.

1. Allowing a person with a Class harvest permit to have a back up shooter over the age of 16. Motion to advance by Kocheaver seconded by Dallman. Mike Murphy asked warden if this would be an enforcement problem. The warden responded that this could wind up with a dead Bear and no Class A license holder. The discussion led to what type of weapon would be used for backup. Motion carried. Mike Murphy opposed.
2. Training during the kill season in Zone A, B, D. without your hound group in possession of a Class A harvest permit. This would allow you to be out training hounds without a harvest permit; Al Lobner made the motion to move it forward, seconded by Kocheaver. Mike Murphy makes a motion to amend that this runs concurrent with only hound hunting portions of the harvest season. Seconded by Kuharske. All in favor of the amendment – unanimously in favor. Scott Strook is concerned that this will get bait sitters upset. He feels that people from out of state will run their dogs during the harvest season. Dan Seibel stated that this should not

be an issue. People who have hounds are looking to have people hunt with them. Wright called the question. All in favor—motion carried.

3. 16 and younger don't need to have a Class B to hunt. This has already been forwarded to the executive council from the resolution submitted by Corky Meyer earlier. No need for a vote on this aspect of the bear bill.
4. Free training weekend, This would allow a person to participate in training of hounds without purchasing a Class B permit, the free weekend would not be during the hunting season. Motion my Murphy to accept. Seconded by Lobner. Mike Murphy made an amendment to the motion to make it for residents only. Seconded by Larry Osegard. Mike asked for a roll call.

In favor of Resident Only	Reject Resident Only
Dallman	Allen
Detampel	Flannery
Hitz	Jones
Knorr	Kamiskis
Osegard	Kocheaver
Wiesner	Lobner
	Lois
	Mabie
	Morning
	Murphy
	Plocar
	Seipel
	Kuharske

Prentice abstained

The amendment to the motion fails.

The motion for a free training weekend passed with all in favor, and Mike Murphy opposing.

Rich gave an update on Turkey Fund settlement. A committee consisting of representatives from the WCC, Wisconsin Bear Hunters, Wisconsin Bow Hunters, Turkey Federation and the WWF spent around \$43,000 of the \$90,000 received. \$6,000 will be spent on starter kits for learn-to-hunt turkeys. Vest, call, decoy. \$2000 for Postage \$32,500 for LTH programs starting with the LTH bear hunts this fall

\$5,000 for start up for youth expo in Wausau on the Monday prior to the Youth Expo now being held in Beaver Dam. The rest of the money has been frozen. We are looking to do a study to see if the people who participate in a LTH programs participate again in hunting.

Member Matters

Motion to adjourn by Russ Hitz. Seconded by Mike Murphy.