

Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
Executive Council Minutes  
Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 2009

Meeting was called to order by Chr. Edgar Harvey at 2:04 P.M. Sec Richard Kirchmeyer took roll call. Those present were Richard Kirchmeyer, Joe Weiss, Al Brown, Roger Sabota, Mike Riggle, Wade Jeske, Arold Ninneman, Mark Noll, Mark Schultz, Stan Brownell, Dale Mass, Dick Koerner, Ed Harvey, John Edelblute, Mike Rogers, Lee Farney, Ken Risley, Al Phelan, Al Shook, Rob Bohmann, Jo Ann Kurharske, and Jim Wrolstad. Those councilors excused were Ray Smith and Dave Puhl.

DNR personel and others present were Chief Warden Randy Starks, Lawyer of the year Tim Andryk, Big Game specialist Keith Warnke, Bureau Chief Tom Hauge, Steve Miller, Larry Bonde WCC delegate, George Meyer WWF, and Jane Wiley from the NRB.

There were no agenda repairs.

We discussed Ex. Council meeting places and decided to have an Ex. Council meeting in St. Point instead of Lake Geneva in May.

George Meyer from the WWF gave an informational talk on the Stewardship Public Access Rules. Larry Bonde then gave the council an update on what he knows about the proposed rules (Larry represents the WCC on the DNR stewardship comm.) Trapping is one of the outdoor activities that is sometimes excluded from some properties that are purchased with stewardship monies, in some instances other types of hunting are disallowed for some reason or another.

Keith Warnke gave a report on comments that were received from the public at the 11 hearings held throughout the state dealing with alternatives to EAB and future deer seasons. 1600 people attended these hearings with most of the people testifying against the DNR's proposals of an early deer season and any other Oct. hunts except for the 2 day youth hunt. Predominantly those people attending wanted no change from the present seasons. A few people said they didn't mind EAB> Around 500 people used the internet to give the DNR their opinions about the deer season proposal. At this point in time Keith didn't know what type of seasons the DNR is going to present to the NRB in Dec. John Edelblute said some people were in favor of a 16 day season but not if it had an early opener. Keith replied that he didn't think any proposal that has been suggested so far could replace the amount of deer or the success that EAB did. He also, stated that he wasn't sure that an early opener would affect the buck harvest but thought there would be more deer activity. Joe Weiss said that 18 people verbally testified against the 16 day early opener and 2 supported the DNR's proposed deer seasons at the Spooner hearing. Dick Koerner asked if there was any truth to the talk of having the first 4 days of the early season antlerless only. Keith replied NO Chr. Harvey stated that the season proposed by the DNR does not sunset in 2 years but the plan is scheduled to be in effect at this time for 2 years. Jo Ann Kuharske said people from her area might be in favor of a

16 season only if it had the traditional opener so they could still schedule their vacation around Thanksgiving. Joe Weiss does not believe that an early opener will not have an impact on the buck harvest. Keith said buck harvest may increase because there will be more opportunity to harvest bucks because of a longer hunt. Joe Weiss then stated that with an early opener after a few years we may decrease the quality of bucks that we may have had an opportunity to harvest in future years.

Rob Bohmann Chr. Of the Deer 2000 Review Ad-hoc Study Comm. Gave an update on the position that the comm. had taken earlier that day. He stated that we all should reflect back on how we all hunt deer, view deer, and that it is a valuable resource to Wisconsin. The comm. had 4 main objectives that they would like to see become apart of the future deer management plan.

- #1 \$.25 from every deer license sold be earmarked for deer research
- #2 Change how the DNR presents deer population estimates(deer per sq. mile of deer Range to deer per deer management unit)
- #3 Review OWG and boundaries
- #4 Adress NR. 10104

A motion was made by Dale Mass 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roger Sabota to accept the deer 2000 Review Ad Hoc Study Comm. as the official position of the WCC. The position taken by the comm. was to have the 2010 deer season remain the same as the 2009 deer season including the CWD management zone, EAB units and herd control units, the hunts in some units may be changed if there is no need for EAB or Herd control in that unit. Also included in the motion is the 4 points of contention that the deer comm. had with deer management. After the motion was made there were many comments and questions.

Shook Many people don't want EAB Some people are confused with the WCC's proposed deer hunts

Bohmann Every one had gotten a lot of positive feed back from the WCC's plan He thinks hunters will be again dissatisfied after this years hunt

Harvey EAB should never be instituted for a deer management unit for more than 2 years, If we postpone this proposal for one year we will gather more information on what units or how units respond to no EAB for 2 years. We may also be able to work some of the issues that are bothering hunters

Hauge preliminary reports on deer harvests so far show a slight decline in harvest. The Farm Bureau, woodlands and other groups would like to find a solution to EAB also. Some of these groups and others have formed allied groups that are after the same seasons or objectives.

Bohmann Why is the DNR not giving out a prehunt deer population estimate NOT ANSWERED

Jeske Doesn't want the WCC and the DNR to rush into something that we all will regret later and will have to live with our decisions or recommendations

Mass How many times is the DNR going to propose seasons and population estimates that the hunters can't agree with Public lands in the SE are barren of deer. If we can't keep people interested in deer hunting we will never have a chance of controlling the deer population

Shook NO TRUST IN THE DNR'S POPULATION ESTIMATES There are too many antlerless permits being issued in some units and the hunters want to be involved and listened to on issues dealing with deer numbers and not have seasons dictated to them  
Farney Is the WCC going to lead or follow on these deer issues. Over 99% of all hunters did not go to the 11 hearings

Risley Supports the comm. recommendation He has problems believing the DNR's population estimates We have to learn how to manage people then we can manage deer  
Koerner The 16 day season is not supported by the people The DNR can't count deer He thinks the DNR is doing the best they can with the use of the SAK formula but thinks EAB disturbs that formula

Rogers The outfitters in Buffalo Co like the early season proposal because they could sell special hunts during the rut Mike is not in favor of an early 16 day hunt

Brown Did the DNR really have or want to find an alternative to EAB or was this a ploy to make EAB look good. He supports the comm. recommendation

Weiss The votes at the spring hearings by a 5-1 vote was to eliminate EAB and the Oct hunts

Riggle Mentioned the full page ad in the Outdoor News The WCC is leading in the process to find alternates to EAB He thinks EAB is being used as a scape goat for why population estimates are so far off and other problems with deer management. We should wait a year and find out what the 2009 season and 2010 season tells us.

Farney Who will take the lead on this whole process if we wait another year

Harvey We the WCC would hope to help implement or help with a new plan

MOTION CARRIED

Warnke commented on what dollars received from a wind fall of monies from Pitman/Robinsons dollars because of increased sales of guns and ammo since Obama became president. He would like to implement a fawn mortality study, buck harvest (how does it actually effect the population estimate), human dimension study (participation and recruitment) Impacts by deer on the environment. The estimated cost of such studies would be around \$3.5 million which would be used over 5 years in which the studies would be conducted.

A motion was made by Rob Bohmann to send DNR Sec. Matt Frank the position of the WCC on the future deer seasons. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shook MOTION CARRIED

Doug Haag gave a presentation on the Stewardship Access Rule Order. He is hoping for approval by the NRB in Dec, then receive approval by the legislators, and to be implemented in April. The past few months the DNR has been collecting opinions and positions by the public and organizations on whether to permit some or all outdoor activities on lands being bought by Stewardship dollars. There are some discussions going on which outdoor activities should be allowed on certain properties (hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross country skiing) Some groups and people think these should be reason to purchase properties and that all outdoor activities should be allowed no matter if the property adjoins property already owned by the state that doesn't allow one or all of these activities.. Some reasons why some of the NBOA (Nature Based Outdoor Activities) would not be allowed and most important would be safety concerns,

potential user conflicts, and physical characteristics of the property (low lands, endangered species) There is a 15 day comment period on what a proposed property will be used for.

#### Comments

Weiss Hopefully the DNR makes final decisions on what a property gets used for not the NRB or the legislators.

Phelan When will this plan be implemented? 2010

Harvey What happens if a property has been bought and some outdoor activities are restricted and the public would like the decision reversed.

Shook who makes the final decision on why certain or all NBOA are allowed or disallowed because of safety reasons.

Motion by John Edelblute to accept Larry Bonde's recommendation on the Stewardship Access rule over the recommendation coming from the WCCs Public and Private Lands Comm. as the official position of the WCC. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lee Farney. After much discussion Wade Jeske made a motion to amend the original motion to have the Ex. Comm. look, at both Larry Bonde's and the Public and Private lands comm. recommendations and come up, with an official position of the WCC on the Stewardship Access Rule. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Shook. MOTION ON THE AMENDMENT PASSED. ORIGINAL MOTION WITH AMENDMENT PASSED.

Dick Koerner gave an update on some code of procedures changes, being recommended by the Rules and Resolutions comm.

#1 Terms of delegate Term will end at the start of the annual convention Motion by Mass 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shook to Accept MOTION CARRIED

#2 Grievance by the public Motion by Shook 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mass to bring this code change to the floor of the annual convention in May. Weiss asked if county chairman can't resolve the problem where does he go from there. Contact your Ex. Councilors and they should confer and come to a decision. All grievances should be in writing and responses should also be in writing. Mass removed his second to the motion. Jeske makes 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. MOTION FAILS( mostly covered already in code of procedures).

#3 Election of Ex. Councilor Ex. Councilor will be elected by those county/counties in their district if for some reason they cannot fulfill their term or obligations. Motion by Weiss 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeske to approve MOTION CARRIED

#4 Personal data questionnaires Motion was made by Shook and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ninneman to accept the recommendation made by the Ex. Comm. to delete a portion of the originals code and have it read as follows. On the evening of the Spring Hearings, complete the personal data questionnaire and turn it into your county chair. The questionnaires, along with recommendations from your District Councilors, which are collected during the annual convention, will be used to assign advisory committees. MOTION CARRIED

Other recommendations that were made by the Rules and Resolutions committee were discussed.

#1 The council may replace a county chair if they do not come spring hearing or annual convention. The council recommended that the comm. revisit this recommendation

#2 Have a 10% turnover of each comm. every year. Because of delegates not rerunning for election or losing an election or because of a request by a delegate to change committees we already have an 10% average change over of committees each year.

#3 Recommendations for comm. from delegates to Ex. Councilors at annual meeting . This is being handled sufficiently now by councilors

#4 Personal data sheet update Kurt/Kari may modify where needed

#5 Open Meeting Qualifications. Will have an update and refresher seminar at Jan. Ex. Council meeting.

#6 Ex. Council Vacancy. Mostly covered in code of procedures will add that the position must be filled within 45days.

#7 Spring hearing agenda. Have 3 year delegate elected first then 2 year delegate

Under the portion on the agenda that pertained to member matters there were many concerns voiced. Some of the main topics were.

Kirchmeyer We had 3 bear harvest permits this past season (1 LTH and 2 transferred) and the DNR has approved our LTH permit for 2010

Phelan Wants to make sure we stay on top of the Stewardship rules and how it is spent.

Brown Reported that wolves are still listed as endangered

Weiss appointment of the sec by NRB we all should call our legislators

Mass How should we handle emergency issues after a comm. has already met?

Koerner Updated the council on the Open water waterfowl comm. he chairs.

Shook said he has had some problems getting delegates signed up for comm. at the annual meeting, He would also like to be more informed on what is happening to Alt. Funding.

Riggle Why can't we have the spring hearings have the capability of voting on line a lot like some DNR hearings do now.

Noll Not as many people are attending the spring hearings especially farmers, it would also nice to get back to having debates on the floor of the hearings so as people can get different points of view now most people come vote and leave before the hearing even start.

Rogers The WCC is taking hits from the HRC and other groups we should quit fighting amongst ourselves

Chr. Harvey reported that we now have an internal group called FRIENDS OF THE WCC. By laws are being written for the corporation.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Rogers at 6:20 P.M. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Shook MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted;

Richard Kirchmeyer Sec.