

## Wisconsin Conservation Congress

### Outdoor Heritage Committee Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Outdoor Heritage Committee was held on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at the Schmeekle Reserve Visitor Center in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am with roll call.

Committee members present were: Wade Jeske, Lee Fahrney, Kevin Smaby, Tom Briski, Todd Cook, Jim Johnson, Mark Judd, David Mabie, Michael Pfankuch, and Jim Shurts.

Committee members excused were: Scott Bestul, Larry Dobbe, Paula Hermansen, Jay Koenig, Kyle Kulow, and Brett Weir.

Committee member unexcused was: Alan Schimelpfenig.

Present from the DNR were: Ben Mott, Theresa Stabo, Mary Kay Salwey, Dan Schroeder and Kurt Thiede.

Also present were: Rich Kirchmeyer, Executive Committee; Jim Nichols, representing Resolution 430209; Michael Kohl and Wis Fiester, representing Resolution 280209; and Gene Dallman, representing Resolution 690309.

The first order of business was the review and adoption of the Outdoor Heritage Committee's mission statement. This was approved and adopted unanimously.

Ben Mott then brought the committee up to date with the Learn to Hunt Program. There were approximately 1200 turkey Learn to Hunt program participants, 200 pheasant Learn to Hunt program participants, 100 deer Learn to Hunt program participants, and about 30 waterfowl Learn to Hunt program participants for 2009. There was a \$90,000 settlement for the turkey problem from a year ago and about half of this has been allocated to turkey starter kits for the Learn to Hunt program, Youth Expo and tracking of DNR customer numbers for kids to see if they go on to hunt later in life. Reimbursement is on a first come, first served basis. On February 19 & 20, 2010 there will be a Hunting Heritage Conference. This will have about 100 Learn to Hunt mentors and researchers meeting in Wausau to find best practices for the Learn to Hunt program. Membership for Life is being emphasized in the Learn to Hunt program—not just the day of the program, but continued on.

Theresa Stabo presented a Fisheries Education update to the committee next. The Angler Education program is doing well with reaching out to Recreation and Physical Education teaching students and also attending the state teacher conferences.

The Angler Legacy program is coming along well since 2008. The Angler Legacy is a pledge to take someone new fishing. About 200,000 anglers have taken the pledge, so far. If 10% of current anglers bring one new person into fishing, that would result in 140,000 new anglers (license sales).

The Tackle Loaner Program has switched to non-lead sinkers now.

The DNR website will be getting a facelift to spread the word to social networking sites. This is being done to keep in touch with the younger generation.

Mary Kay Salwey from DNR Wildlife Education was the next presenter to the committee. The main emphasis of her report to the committee was the NASP (National Archery in Schools Program) with its new coordinator. Mary Kay introduced us to the new director, Dan Schroeder. He gave the committee an update. The NASP program is expanding to “Beyond NASP Program”. This program is being developed as a continuation after NASP for kids and young adults.

The next state NASP tournament will be on March 26 & 27, 2010 at the Wisconsin Rapids Fieldhouse.

Hopefully the future of NASP will continue to grow even bigger than the 250 schools statewide that participate. Thoughts of incorporating NASP in with the Badger State Games and possible demonstration at Lambeau Field.

This was the conclusion of Dept. updates and we then went into resolutions for the committee to decide upon.

Resolution 280209: Buddy License. The author of this resolution was present and explained his resolution. The discussion that followed centered mostly on law enforcement issues being a nightmare on this; the thought was to create 1 or 2 day license for trial use to see if person likes the sport.

Motion to reject: Jim Shurts, second Todd Cook.

Motion rejected unanimously.

Resolution 13409: Hunter's Education Method.

Motion to accept: Todd Cook, second David Mabie.

Mike Kohl and Wis Fiester both spoke in favor of this resolution and Todd Schaller of the Wisconsin DNR spoke against the resolution. The discussion mainly centered on the "hands on" use of this course. The discussion went both directions on the issue. The deciding factor was that only 4% of Hunter Safety graduates come out of internet classes.

Vote was called and motion to accept the resolution was rejected by the majority.

The committee broke for lunch from 12:00 – 12:30 pm.

Resolution 430209: Blinds on State land.

Motion to accept: Tom Briski, second Mark Judd

The author of this resolution, Jim Nichols, was present and explained his resolution. Discussion followed against enforcement, user conflicts, claiming areas for the ability for older and disabled to hunt easier. The committee decided that in order to pass the resolution, we would need to see a wording change of “could to must”. This motion was made by Lee Fahrney with a second from Jim Shurts. The vote on the resolution was very close with 5 yes votes and 4 no votes. Resolution passed.

Resolution 690309: Crossbow Eligibility at 55.

Motion to accept: Jim Shurts, second Kevin Smaby.

The author of the resolution, Gene Dallman, was present and explained his resolution. Discussion followed with some saying that it is very easy to get disabled permit in their area and in other areas very tough to get permit. Open the sport for everyone, bad for heritage of the sport. The vote on the resolution was 7 yes votes, 1 no vote and 1 abstained. Resolution passed.

Resolution 170109: Modify Youth Hunting Rule.

Motion to reject: Todd Cook, second Jim Shurts.

Discussion was that this is covered under the Learn to Hunt program and mentorship.

Vote to reject was unanimous. Resolution failed.

Resolution 320109: Youth Hunting Expansion.

Motion to reject: Rich Kirchmeyer, second Lee Fahrney.

Discussion centered on no minimum age.

Resolution was rejected unanimously.

Resolution 600109: Turkey Preference for First Time Hunter's Education Graduate.

Motion to accept: Lee Fahrney, second Mark Judd.

Motion to amend: Wade Jeske. All youth ages 10 – 15 automatically receive an F period tag if they so choose. Second by Mike PfanKuch.

Vote on amendment failed.

Vote on resolution passed with 2 nays.

Resolution 650709: Senior Hunters.

Motion to reject: Rich Kirchmeyer, second David Mabie.

Resolution didn't really spell out what was wanted and what to do.

Resolution rejected unanimously.

Motion out of committee to go on record in support of AB577 as a committee.

Motion by Lee Fahrney, second Kevin Smaby.

AB577: 1 Day Fishing License for \$9.00 with the ability to use the \$9.00 for credit for a full fishing license if chosen in the same calendar year.

Motion passed unanimously. This motion will be sent to Greg Coleman, the “Buddy License” author.

Next on the agenda was the Youth Conservation Congress. Wade Jeske passed out a discussion outline on what direction we could go on this initiative. What is needed are ways to get younger faces in the Spring Hearings and get youth more involved in conservation issues. Through much discussion, it was determined that there won't be an overnight solution and may take several years to implement. The main thing discussed was to take small steps and ensure that we get it done correctly. Possibility of having two Outdoor Heritage meetings with one to be dedicated to this issue only; possibly a sub committee as well. No decision was made at this time.

Next on the agenda is member matters: more information is needed on youth programs for the public. There are a lot of programs, but the public is unaware of them.

Fifteen day rule on transfer to youth of permits is not fair and should be changed to start of season.

No other member matters.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Smaby, secretary of the Outdoor Heritage Committee.