

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

- A. Call to order at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Roll Call

Present: Risley, Miller, Adelman, Bowe, Breunig, Ebert, Gould, Kapp, Kriska, Obernberger, Peterson, Shaurette, Smaby, Thompson, Verstein, Waller, Weber, Zastrow.
Excused: Burmeister, Schmidt, Sedivy, Wilberscheid, Ziltener.

C. Ken Risley called for a moment of silence for Ron Buchmann who passed away during the week.

- D. Review Study Committee Mission Statement:

Motion passed to retain current mission statement as a draft and vote on the following mission statement at the next meeting.

(1) The mission of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Upland Game Committee is to represent the stake holders of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the DNR to affectively manage Wisconsin concerns as it relates to all upland game for the present and future generations to enjoy.

2. Discussion Items

- A. State Game Farm Update

Bob Nack presented the new power point presentation regarding the state game farm. A new land owner notification statement was added to the day old chick program to handle the resolution issue discussed at the annual convention.

The game farm management group evaluated alternative systems to the present program. The best system remains raising our own pheasants with limited help from the Department of Corrections.

- B. Upland Game Population Forecast

- (1) Grouse - up 3, at top of cycle
- (2) Pheasants - down 36%, two bad winters, CRP decline, lowest level since late 1980's
- (3) Quail - long term decline, two bad winters, population at almost 0.

- C. Pheasant Stamp Money

68 projects funded, \$750,000 spent over the last two years.

- D. Open Fields Legislation

Federal program to pay land owners to allow hunting. Some funds may be available to Wisconsin in 2010.

- E. DNR Disposition of 2009 Upland Game Committee Advisory Questions

- (1) Day Old Chick Program - wording changed to handle land owner notification.
- (2) Atlatl and Dart - currently at DNR committee level.
- (3) Combine Turkey and Pheasant Stamp - under investigation.

- F. DNR Updates

(1) Spotted knapweed is a new invasive species becoming a problem.
(2) Biomass fuels could be a detriment to upland game. Single species vegetation not beneficial to upland game.

- G. Hunting and State Parks

Resolution -

Allow hunting and trapping in the proposed conservation parks in the glacial heritage area. Motion was made and passed with one slight modification to remove the potential acres.

Resolution passed as follows:

ALLOW HUNTING AND TRAPPING IN THE PROPOSED CONSERVATION PARKS IN THE GLACIAL HERITAGE AREA

THE PROBLEM: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson County Parks and other organizations have done a final draft for the Glacial Heritage area which involves buying thousands of acres in Jefferson County, northeast part of Rock County, eastern Dane

County and southwest Dodge County. Twelve conservation parks are planned in Jefferson County around numerous lakes; Hope Lake, Rose Lake, Cushman Mill, Red Cedar Lake. Most of this acreage is presently being used for hunting and trapping, either by public land or permission from private owners. These twelve conservation parks would be closed to hunting and trapping.

WHEREAS: The WDNR has already said they would be spending millions of dollars for this project and much of the money will be coming from Stewardship funds. These are large tracks of land that should stay open for hunting and trapping;

WHEREAS: The Glacial Heritage area draft has four areas to it, and one of the areas is the twelve Conservation Parks that the WDNR is proposing. This Glacial Heritage Area draft is scheduled to go to the Natural Resources Board in October 2009;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is requesting the Natural Resources Board NOT to approve the twelve conservation parks in the Glacial Heritage Area unless they are opened to Hunting and Trapping.

Submitted August 22, 2009, in Portage,

By Dave Miller and Ken Risley