

## **Wisconsin Conservation Congress Endangered Resources and Law Enforcement Committee**

The regular meeting of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Endangered Resources Committee & Law Enforcement Committee was held on Saturday, August 28, 2010, at the Gander Mountain Conference Room, Wausau, Wisconsin.

### **Order of Business**

#### 1. Organizational Matters

A) The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by chair Ray Smith.

#### B) Roll Call

Committee members present: Ray Smith (chair), Jim Shurts (secretary), Claude Bohn, Don Camplin, Dave Ferris, Henry Garn, George King, Ron Krueger, Art Malin, Scott Strook, Rich Swenson, Randy Symicek, Tom Wilda

Committee members excused: Mike Gruenhagen, Jim Heffner, Matt Jacowski, Ken Thorpe

Committee members not excused:

DNR staff present: Randy Jurewicz, Dan Michels, Kim Grveles

Others present: Len Pubanz, Judy Pubanz, Pat Dugan, Dorothy Huffman, TJ Huffman, Elwyn Fossedal

#### C) Approval of Committee Mission Statement

The agenda called for a review of the Study Section Committee Mission Statement. The existing mission statement was affirmed and approved on a voice vote.

#### 2. Discussion and Action Items

##### A) Department Updates

a. Informational: *Kim Grveles, WI DNR*, discussed the background of and gave an update on the status of the Kirtland's warbler in Wisconsin. Highlights of the presentation:

Kirtland's warblers continue to have nesting success in Wisconsin and the population is increasing. Trapping cowbirds seems to be having a positive effect.

b. Informational: *Randy Jurewicz, WI DNR*, gave an update on the status of the gray wolf in Wisconsin. Highlights of the presentation:

The wolf population continues to increase and wolves are being spotted in non-prime habitat. The on- and off-again listing of the wolf on the Endangered Species list continues. Wolves are currently listed, which hampers DNR control efforts on problem wolves. Damage payments continue to rise with the wolf populations and will continue to do so until the DNR is allowed to manage wolves.

c. Informational: *Dan Michels, WI DNR warden*, did not have anything to report to the committee.

## B) Citizen Resolutions

The resolutions were reviewed in a different order than on the agenda. There were resolution authors at the meeting who wished to speak, and the chair moved those resolutions to the front.

### **590210 Restricted Wake Zone for Wolf River (Balsam Dam to Menominee County) No vote on resolution**

The author of this resolution, Ms. Pat Dugan, spoke to the committee in favor of the resolution. It was discussed by the committee, and confirmed by Warden Michels, that speed/wake issues on rivers are under the authority of the town/village/city. Neither the DNR nor the Congress can do anything. Ms. Dugan then asked if the committee would write a letter of support to the two townships with jurisdiction. The committee on a voice vote agreed to write letters of support. (Please see attached copies.)

### **530110 List Feral Cats as Unprotected Rejected**

The author, Mr. Elwyn Fossedal, was present and spoke in support of the resolution. Discussion ensued. It was agreed that this resolution essentially identical to the resolution of several years ago. That motion was passed state-wide, but was very contentious at several county meetings. The executive committee eventually decided not to forward the resolution to the DNR. The committee decided not to enter the fray again. Motion to reject by Shurts, seconded by King. Passed 10 – 3

**230110 Crossbow for Rough Fish Approved**

The resolution asks that anyone with a valid crossbow permit be allowed to shoot rough fish, as is allowed with a bow. Very little discussion; Warden Michels noted that this will require legislation. Motion to approve by Malin, seconded by Ferris. Passed 13 – 0

**520110 Use of Crossbows During Bear Season Rejected**

The resolution asks that crossbows be made a legal weapon for any hunter during bear season. The committee expressed concerns about the proliferation of crossbows into all hunting seasons. A majority did not want crossbows to be allowed by the general public, but continue as allowed, i.e., disabled hunters and over 65. Motion to reject by Krueger, seconded by Camplin. Passed 13 – 0

**520210 Use of Crossbows During the Fall and Spring Turkey Seasons Rejected**

The committee decided this was the same as the previous resolution, just a different species. Motion to reject by Shurts, seconded by Symicek. Passed 13 – 0

3. Member Matters

A. Chairman Smith brought to the committee's attention an issue from Ken Anderson (WCC delegate) concerning regulations about weapons being cased. Mr. Anderson was wondering that in light of recent Supreme Court rulings, would the DNR continue to enforce cased weapon requirements. Warden Michels replied that yes, they would until ordered otherwise. There was no further discussion.

B. The committee again discussed the issue of speed limits/no wake zones on rivers. There was general agreement that it is an environmental and public safety concern. The committee was unsure how to approach this given the local municipality authority. Dave Ferris offered to draft a resolution for the committee members to review.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jim Shurts

September 3, 2010

Mr. Steve Gueths, Chair  
Town of Richmond  
N5170 County Road MM  
Shawano, WI 54166-6048

Dear Mr. Gueths:

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) Endangered Resources/Law Enforcement Committee, at its August 28, 2010, meeting, voted to support a restricted wake zone for the Wolf River from north of the Balsam Row Dam in Shawano County to the southern Menominee County Line. This issue had been raised at the April 12, 2010, WCC annual county meeting in Shawano County. A resolution requesting the creation of a restricted wake zone passed at the county meeting and was referred to our committee.

As this is an issue for which authority is vested with the local township, our committee has no jurisdiction. However, due to the concerns with environmental protection and safety of the public using the Wolf River, we strongly support the request that the township place restrictions on watercraft speeds in this section of the river. Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Jim Shurts, Secretary  
Endangered Resources/Law Enforcement Committee  
Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
2822 Chamberlain Avenue  
Madison, WI 53705-3608  
[jfshurts@mailbag.com](mailto:jfshurts@mailbag.com)

xc: Ray Smith, Chair, Endangered Resources/Law Enforcement Committee  
Pat Dugan, private citizen, Shawano

September 3, 2010

Mr. Mike Schuler, Chair  
Town of Wescott  
PO Box 536  
N5794 Old Keshena Rd  
Shawano, Wisconsin 54166-0536

Dear Mr. Schuler:

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Regards,

Jim Shurts, Secretary  
Endangered Resources/Law Enforcement Committee  
Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
2822 Chamberlain Avenue  
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[jfshurts@mailbag.com](mailto:jfshurts@mailbag.com)

xc: Ray Smith, Chair, Endangered Resources/Law Enforcement Committee  
Pat Dugan, private citizen, Shawano