

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Executive Committee Minutes
Conference Call
11-30-2010

Meeting was called to order by Chr. Ed Harvey at 7:32 P.M. Roll call was taken with Chr. Ed Harvey, V. Chr. Rob Bohmann, and Sec Rich Kirchmeyer present from the W.C.C. Participating from the DNR were Kari Lee Zimmermann, Erin Crain, Greg Schuurman, Dave Redell, and Laurie Osterndorf.

First on the agenda was an update on the Wisconsin bat management plan and the Wisconsin's White- Nose Syndrome management and preventive plan. Erin Crane informed the Ex. Comm. on what the DNR has done so far and what they are proposing to do for the future of bats in Wisconsin. The emergency rules that the NRB has already passed are being brought back to them to become permanent rules. They are as follows.

- 1) List the 4 main species present in Wisconsin as threatened species
- 2) List the fungus as an invasive species in the State of Wisconsin
- 3) How to implement the management practices needed to stop or slow the spread of the disease

Dave Redell commented that where the disease has been found there is around a 90% mortality rate on the bats. The most common bat in the state is the Little Brown Bat. We need to deal with the threat to Wisconsin's bat species before it happens. Transmission can be transported by humans also bats can transmit the disease from one cave site to another. They can contract the disease by just visiting an infected site. We need time to let the research catch up with the spread of the disease and the time to do more and better testing with the treatment that seems to be killing the fungus.

Chr. Harvey asked whether the state is just looking at the sites they know have bats or are they looking to the public for any new sites that they may know of.

Dave replied the state would like anybody that knows of places on public or private lands that bats hibernate to notify the DNR. Some people are real concerned over what happens to bats in the state. The DNR is looking at cataloging all hibernation sites.

Erin commented that the feds have not listed bats as a threatened species at this time.

Laurie asked about population of bats in eastern states where they already have the disease.

Dave stated that the population densities in those states where the disease is present are pretty much non-existent(5-10% of previous populations left) There are still some pockets of bats in places. Bats control insects that spread diseases; one mentioned is the West Nile virus. Wisconsin has the biggest bat population in the Midwest, as much as 15 times more than Minnesota.

Bohmann made a motion to support the DNR in their efforts to prevent and if need be control the disease and to support the DNR when they forward their recommendation to the NRB to make the 3 temporary management rules permanent management rules. 2nd by Kirchmeyer MOTION CARRIED.

Kari had information on the cost, sizes, and materials for a banner which we need for the Wall of Fame to make it more professional looking and so people can identify the WCC both at functions we attend. Kirchmeyer made a motion to purchase a 30" x 72" banner made of cloth with a pocket installed, our logo, and name printed on it for \$150(approx.). 2nd by Bohmann MOTION CARRIED.

At the Outreach committee meeting the question was asked who owns the trailer and contents of the Wall of Fame, also is there insurance on the trailer or any kind of liability on it and the contents. Also the question of what is the value of the contents for the Wall of Fame. Rich commented that maybe the Friends of the WCC should hold ownership of the trailer and contents. Chr. Harvey will check with Tim Andryk and another lawyer on what should be done or can be done to protect the people involved if anything should happen when the booth is being displayed or being transported.

Kari talked about the power point presentation she has made promoting the WCC. Chr. Harvey suggested that we need to add voice to the presentation.

Member matters. Chr. Harvey commented on the resignation of an Ex. Councilman, Bruce Thome from District 4. He will ask Arold Ninneman if he would fill out the term until the next election. Other names were suggested but Arold had held the position previously to Bruce. It was decided that the Chr. of the WCC can appoint an Ex. Councilor if the need is pertinent to the function of the WCC.

A motion to adjourn at 8:49 P.M. was made by Kirchmeyer 2nd by Bohmann MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted By
Richard Kirchmeyer Sec. WCC