

WCC Private and Public Land Use Study Committee  
Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center  
Stevens Point, WI  
December 4, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Chairman Larrie Hazen

Roll call

**Present:** Larrie Hazen, Ed Choinski, Peter Doperalski, Alan Harrison, Jerry Aulik, Greg Wysocki, Matthew Jacowski, James Griglak, Walter Camp, Gary Kanarowski, John Jones.

**Excused:** Mark Knoll, Steven Washkuhn, Allen Jacobson, Kevin Marquette.

**Unexcused:** Myron Siler, Allen Opall, Dave Natter, Jake Jandro.

Also present for the Department of Natural Resources was Alan Crossley and WCC Secretary Rich Kirchmeyer.

Bryan Johannes author of Resolution 20-02-10 asked if he could present his resolution first because of work scheduling.

Mr. Johannes spoke to the committee about what he thought was abuse by the landowners who received AG tags.

The committee felt on the surface this resolution might be a good idea, but there had to be changes to the resolution. Most of the changes needed were to remove the restrictions placed on landowners during normal hunting seasons.

More discussions took place and it was brought to this committee's attention that the Big Game Committee was also looking at this resolution.

A motion was made by Matthew Jocowski to reject and a second was made by Greg Wysocki. The resolution failed on a unanimous voice count.

Matthew Jacowski read the Public and Private Land Use Committee Mission Statement. A motion was made to approve by Allen Jacobson with second by Gary Kanarowski.

The Department of Natural Resources Liaison Alan Crossley spoke about changes to the DNR grants for Enhancing Wildlife Recreation. Walter Camp asked if it was true that the stewardship money was going to be used to purchase property closer to the population. Alan Crossley responded yes and handed out a map of the state showing the area targeted to purchase more land. He had a narrative page to go along with the map, but had forgotten it and will send to Kari.

Alan Crossley spoke about item “B” on our agenda. The Department received \$936,000 from the USDA to improve public access. This money will pay landowners for allowing people to hunt on their lands. Also there will be money for these landowners to improve their lands for hunting.

Peter Doperalski asked where the money was going to come from once it ran out. Al thought it was a good question, but believed if the program is successful the Department will find a way to continue it.

Alan Crossley finished with Item “C”. He gave all in attendance a handout with a quiz. He gave us five minutes to answer the questions which were related to Wisconsin’s State Wildlife Areas. When finished he spoke about many areas of the State that contain State Wildlife areas.

### **Citizens Resolutions Continued:**

Robert Knauss Resolution 11-04-10

Chairman Larrie Hazen read the resolution. Mr. Knauss spoke about the problems with dogs being restricted on State Trails. Badger Ordinance is a very large parcel and could accommodate dogs and should have its own rules regulating them. I guest present, Ted Rader also spoke in favor of this resolution. He wrote the same resolution in a different county and it was passed.

Both these citizens want an area to train dogs whether it is with sleds or wheeled devises. They believe this will benefit many people without interfering with others who will use the Badger Ordinance. Matthew Jacowski asked if there were other places they could train their dogs and Ted Rader replied NO.

The Author gave secretary Choinski copies of a petition that was sign by the public in favor of this resolution. These copies will be mailed with the final minutes.

Al Crossley from the DNR spoke about the State developing a Master Plan for Badger Ordinance site. He took Mr. Krauss information and will notify him and his group so they can be represented as part of the Stakeholders meetings.

A Motion to approve by Jerry Aulik and second by Ed Choinski. During the discussions Matthew Jacowski made a friendly Amendment under Item “B” to include the language (Field Trials). John Jones second. This was done to enhance the resolution so no one was left out. Mr. Krauss stated this was an oversight and had no intentions of restricting field trials.

A voice count was taken to approve the resolution. This was unanimous.

Mike Hanke Resolution 13-02-10

Mr. Hanke came before this committee last year and his resolution was approved. However the minutes of the meeting did not reach the Executive Committee until it was too late to be discussed.

Mr. Hanke spoke about hunting access around Madison and how hard it was for people to obtain permission to hunt. He wants to see a uniform state wide sign program that landowners can place to show the public if hunting is allowed or denied.

Peter Doperalski asked what colors would be used.

Mike Hanke stated green for “go ahead and hunt” Yellow “stop and ask permission” and red “no hunting allowed”.

Jerry Aulik questioned whether using yellow signs as form of stop and ask permission wouldn't be confusing to the public when yellow signs generally stand for no trespassing.

The committee talked about costs, who would shoulder the costs for implementing this statewide uniformity.

Mr. Hanke stated you wouldn't have to bother the landowner who doesn't want people to hunt. These signs will simplify the access process. He also stated this uniformity will not be mandatory across the state.

Matthew Jacowski stated people need to ask face to face. Most landowners are willing to allow hunting if they know who is going to be on their land and what they're hunting.

Jerry Aulik made a motion to reject the resolution and was second by Alan Harrison.

Motion to reject was approved unanimously by a voice count.

Dennis C. McKernan Resolution 25-05-10

The author was not in attendance and Chairman Hazen read the resolution.

Walter Camp made a motion to reject and was second by Matthew Jacowski

Water Camp stated people should be using common sense, what's wrong with walking around a tree? What is the high water mark?

Al Crossley stated this would need a Statutory change. The intent of the law already gives you the right to walk around obstacles and there is no case law to prove otherwise.

Motion to reject was approved unanimously by a voice count.

Ken Bacesinooni Resolution 65-05-10 (Not sure of last name spelling)

The author was not in attendance and Chairman Hazen read the resolution.

Motion to reject by John Jones and second by Greg Wysocki.

Matthew Jacowski spoke about how this AG issue is not as big of a problem as people think. If there is abuse, why isn't it being enforced?

Jerry Aulik asked if you're in the Ag program, can you still lease your property?

Al Crossley NO

Rich Kirchmeyer Most damage is done in August. Rumors run rampant with this issue. There seems to be no proof of this abuse.

Larrie Hazen commented that the Big Game Committee will be looking at this issue.

Motion to reject was approved unanimously by a voice count.

**This author will not receive a letter of rejection because the Chairman and Secretary were unable to read his handwriting.**

Larry Vanderhoef Resolution 70-01-10

Committee did not discuss the resolution because Al Crossley pointed out that this will be a question at this year's Spring Hearing on the Congress side.

Al Crossley asked this committee to forward language to the Executive Committee regarding firearm discharge within 100ft of state lands.

The committee drafted the following:

THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND USE COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE  
CONCEPT OF THE EXEMPTION OF THE 100FT FIREARM DISCHARGE LAW ON  
DNR LAND FOR ALL DWELLINGS.

Motion by Al Harrison and second by Greg Wysocki.

Motion to approve was not unanimous, but had a majority to forward to the Executive Committee.

Motion to adjourn by Walter Camp second by Jerry Aulik.  
Meeting was adjourned at 12:37pm

Lunch was provided by Chairman Hazen

Minutes of the meeting were provided by Secretary Choinski Oneida County

## Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

The primary objective of VPA-HIP is to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for *wildlife-dependent recreation*, including hunting or fishing, under programs implemented by State or tribal governments.

Funding priority will be given to Applications that will use the grant money in a public access and habitat program to address these program objectives:

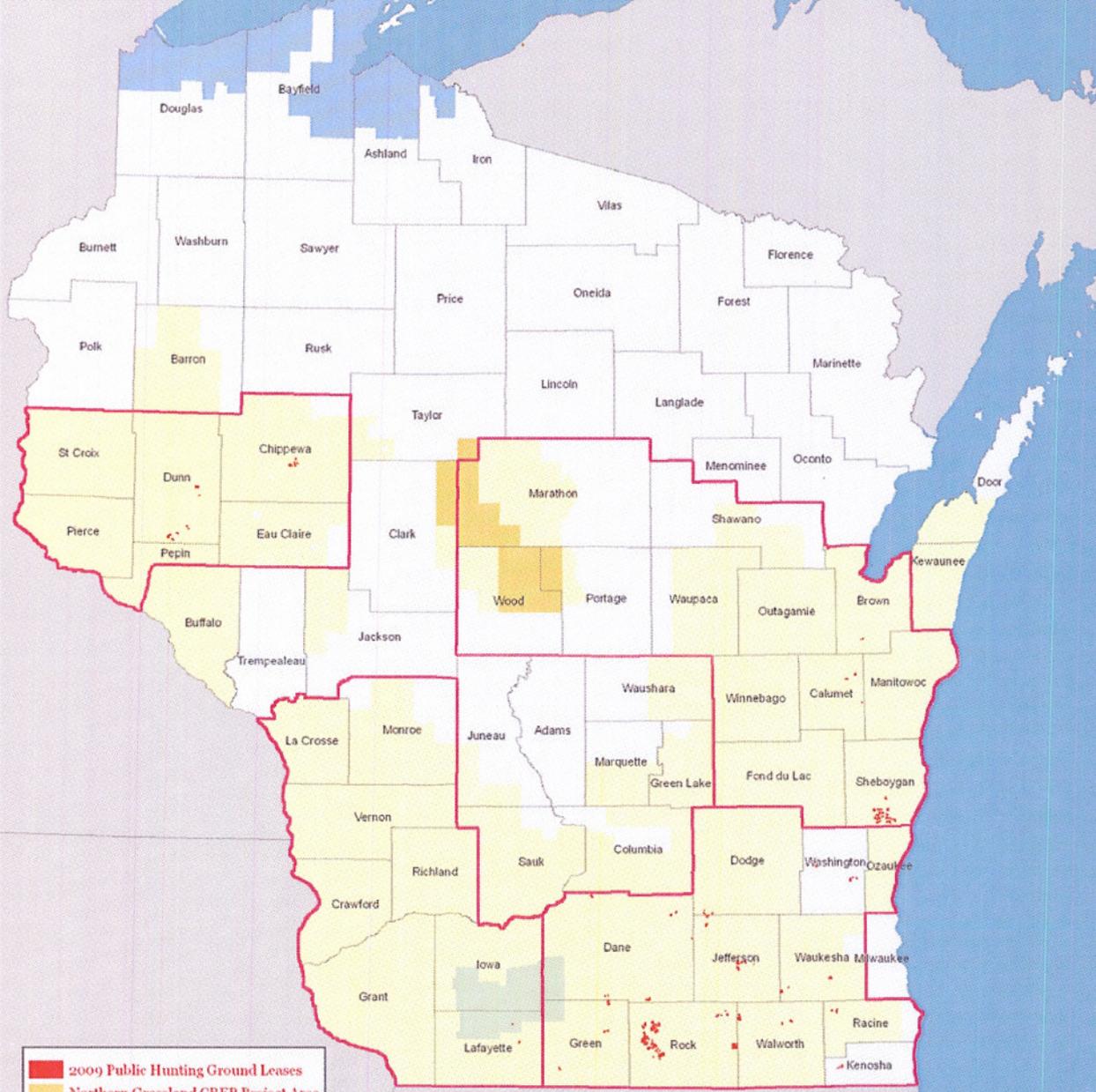
- Maximize participation by landowners;
- Ensure that land enrolled in the program has appropriate wildlife habitat;
- Provide incentives to strengthen wildlife habitat improvement efforts on land enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP);
- Supplement funding and services from other Federal, State, or tribal government, or private resources that is provided in the form of cash or in-kind services; and
- Provide information to the public about the location of VPA-HIP land.

Eligible entities can apply for projects lasting no more than three (3) years. Grants to any individual State or tribe will be no more than \$2 million per year and no less than \$75,000 per year.

### **Wisconsin's recommendations for the 2010 VPA-HIP application, as approved and supported by stakeholders**

- Create 4 focus areas near population centers and/or where hunting, fishing, trapping and bird watching access is currently limited. Focus Areas include Southeast, West Central, Northeast, and Southwest CREP.
- Merge and upgrade the payment structure with our current public hunting ground lease program using a tiered payment method or sliding scale for enrolling lands into the program.
  - \$15/acre = Forest or woodland habitat
  - \$10/acre = Grassland or Wetland habitat
  - \$3/acre = Cropland
- We anticipate 60,000 - 80,000 acres could be enrolled under this payment structure
- Set aside 20% of new USDA funding for stream/fishing access specifically targeting land enrolled in CREP to meet application requirements
- Leased lands would be open to hunting, fishing, trapping and bird watching.
- Develop a web-based hunting access website with downloadable/printable maps, distribute press releases, GovDelivery announcements, and advertisements through partnering organizations.
- Monitor and evaluate success or program in collaboration with AFWA, other states and partner organizations

# Annual Public Hunting Ground Leases and CREP Project Areas



- 2009 Public Hunting Ground Leases
- Northern Grassland CREP Project Area
- Southern Grassland CREP Project Area
- Riparian CREP Project Area
- Lake Superior CREP Project Area
- VPA HIP Focus Area



Leased grounds are private lands on which the Department of Natural Resources has issued the hunting right. The record is returned to its private owner and the public may enter and hunt at their leisure.

Database: Comprehensive River Enhancement Program (CREP) Data shown on this map were obtained from Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, and is not an authoritative source of information about legal and ownership or public access.

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