

## Upland Game Committee: Stevens Point-August 20, 2010

### Order of business

- A. Call to order at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Roll call- Present: Risley, Schmidt, Kriska, Wilberscheid, Thompson, Ebert, Bowe, Smaby, Breunig, Gould, Andraschko, Obernberger, Reas, Verstein, Tyrolt, Sedivy, Waller, Sands, Peterson  
DNR Liaison; Sharon Fandel,  
Carl Mesman

Excused: Miller, Weber, Shaurette, Ziltener, Adelman, Sovich

- C. Review study committee mission statement: Discussion took place on the draft put together in 2009. Waller submitted an alternative. Waller moved to have the committee approve his submission; seconded by Kriska. It was passed unanimously. It reads as follows: "To review matters assigned by the WCC that deal with Upland Game issues including, but not limited to: harvest & population, boundaries, land use, licensing, and research."

Action item regarding citizen resolution was moved forward to give guidance to Hunting with Dogs committee. The resolution's author, Corky Meyer was present and presented background on #670310 asking for the Congress and DNR to "take needed action to initiate a scientific study, to study the effects of dog training and trialing on nested birds." A lengthy discussion ensued. After Meyer made it clear he was only "looking for support for the concept," Wilberscheid made a motion to accept, seconded by Sedivy. The motion carried 16-3.

### DNR updates:

1) Pheasant Stamp Account: Fandel distributed a handout updating the Pheasant Stamp Program. Out of roughly 80 proposals, 41 were funded. The vast majority went for habitat. Fandel mentioned that 60% of stamp money goes to the game farm, while the remaining 40% goes to habitat. It is anticipated that roughly 30 clubs will participate in the Day-Old-Chick (DOC) program and the game farm will raise in excess of 50,000 birds for release on public hunting venues. Pheasant population has taken a hit from the poor weather the past three years.

2) Farm bill update: CRP sign-up started on Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> and will go through Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>. There has been lower than anticipated acres enrolled. 2010 Farm Bill discussions/negotiations have started.

3) Biomass information was not available due to a lack of updated materials. The biomass program is looking at alternative energy sources among other things.

4) Open fields program: Wisconsin put in for \$3 million dollars over three years. Presently, the guidelines would provide landowners from \$1-\$3 per acre to lease their lands for hunting and fishing only. The concern is these amounts are not competitive.

DNR LE updates:

Warden Mesman said there were no major small game regulation changes forthcoming in the near future. He talked about the agency's concerns with legislation enacting rules rather than the traditional process. He also voiced concern about what the fall elections will bring regarding budget cuts and funding. The possibility of a goodly number of retirements was cited, along with the lack of positions being filled. He challenged the committee to look at diversity when recruiting folks into hunting and fishing, and singled out the Hmong community as a good place to look because of its culture of hunting and fishing. Finally, he mentioned the need for members to get involved with mentoring and learn to hunt programs.

Return to action items: Resolution #240510- Asking for the Congress and DNR introduce a rule change "to open the fall crow season on August 20 and close on October 21." The author was not present due to a work conflict. Essentially, his request was to have a season framework that did not conflict with bow hunters. There was a motion to accept by Breunig, seconded by Thompson. After discussion, Breuning amended his motion to have the dates read August 1 to October 1. This amended motion was seconded by Waller and passed unanimously.

Member matters: Smaby asked members for ideas and concerns regarding the formation of a Junior Conservation Congress that is being taken up by Outdoor Heritage.

Wilberscheid asked members about the cooperation they receive from DAs in their counties regarding DNR citations. Mesman commented that questionable litigation results are a warden morale killer.

Breunig asked if we couldn't have day meetings. Lee-Zimmerman offered that day meetings were cheaper. No formal action was taken.

Bowe mentioned that the lead shot/bullet controversy will result in hunting becoming more expensive.

Reas- Talked about the outdoor bounties of Price County.

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm by Waller, seconded by Smaby. Motion carried.

Submitted by R.C. Wilberscheid, acting secretary