

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee
Youth Conservation Congress Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes

A. Organizational matters

1. Call to order

The first meeting of the Outdoor Heritage & Education Youth Conservation Congress Subcommittee was held on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010 at the Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center in Stevens Point, WI. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lee Fahrney at 9:10 am.

2. Roll Call

Attending this meeting were: Lee Fahrney, chairman of the OH&E committee; Jim Burmeister, secretary of the OH&E committee; Ben Loma, member of the OH&E committee; Rich Kirchmeyer, secretary of the Conservation Congress; Rhonda Bartels, Oshkosh West High School Advisor for West Woods and Waters, and former Educator of the Year; and Kari-Lee Zimmermann, Wisconsin Conservation Congress Coordinator.

3. Introductions

Each person present introduced themselves with who they are and why they are interested in a Youth Conservation Congress (YCC).

B. Discussion and Action Items Regarding the Creation of a Youth Conservation Congress

1. Recruitment responsibilities

a. Technology – social networking

It was discussed that young people today are very comfortable using a variety of social networking technologies that many older people are not familiar with. Ben felt the people selected for the YCC should determine what resources they should use, however, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) needs to implement some type of control to avoid inappropriate behavior. The WCC does not have its own website so they may have to work through the DNR website or some other site such as The Hunter's Network.

b. Survey of active youth groups

WCC Chairman Ed Harvey has indicated his preference would be to start small and grow. It was decided that Lee would draft a letter for Chairman Harvey to sign advising all WCC County Chairs that it will be

the responsibility of each county to compile a list of organizations in their county to solicit for distribution of an introduction of the program and an application form. They will forward the information to Kari. The intro and application form will also be published in the Feb. 2011 issue of The Conservation Chronicle.

c. Incentives to get involved

Incentives for youth to get involved include but are not limited to:

- An opportunity to perform community service.
- Leadership development.
- To voice their opinion and have it matter.

2. Selection process

a. Number of youth delegates

It was the consensus that the YCC not start out too large. Rich suggested 2 delegates from each of the WCC Districts for a total of 24 delegates.

b. Age / grade

One delegate should be approaching their senior year in high school and the other should be approaching their junior year in high school.

c. Timeline for selection

At least for the first group, they would be elected at the WCC District meetings in March by the WCC delegates present at that meeting.

d. Basis for selection

Applicants will receive equal treatment regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, or sexual orientation. They must be a Wisconsin resident with an interest in natural resources and must agree to uphold and promote Wisconsin's fish and game laws, rules and regulations. Lee handed out a sample application form.

e. Processing of recommendations

Applications should be submitted to Lee Fahrney along with a cover letter and letters of recommendation. Lee will forward them to the appropriate Districts.

3. Logistics

a. Name of group

At this point in time they will be referred to as the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress (WYCC). Other names suggested include:

- Future Leaders of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress
- Future Voice of the WCC
- WCC Legacy Group

No action was taken for something other than WYCC for now but it was left open to change by this committee or by the first class of delegates.

b. Code of procedures / Code of conduct

Kari handed out copies of the WCC Code of Procedures. This committee will review them and work on a code for the WYCC at the next meeting.

c. Term length

For the first class, the incoming senior will have a one year term and the incoming junior will have a two year term. In subsequent years the new incoming junior will be elected for a two year term.

d. Cost estimate

There is no money budgeted at this time. It was felt that applicants need to secure local funding. Lee will include this expectation in the package sent to each group.

e. Supervision / Chaperones / Mentorship

There needs to be some type of adult supervision if these youth delegates travel to meet. There would need to be some method of background checks on these supervisors to ensure the safety of the youth delegates. Jim will check how the high school Key Clubs sponsored by Kiwanis handle their conventions and meetings.

f. Youth involvement in planning YCC

Once the initial class is in place, they will be given the opportunity to do some of the shaping of this group for future classes.

4. Role within WCC

a. Voting rights

At the WCC state convention, WYCC delegates will be allowed to vote with their WCC county delegates.

b. Input at meetings / Committee participation

Each of the WYCC delegates will be assigned to a WCC Study Committee. They will have the right to discuss and to vote.

c. Scope of activities / projects

At a minimum, they will meet at the WCC state convention to develop their own resolutions.

d. Youth-based resolutions

They will be encouraged to develop resolutions with an eye toward the impact on youth.

e. Leadership development

At the WCC state convention, they will learn how the organization is structured, how the process works, and how to prepare resolutions.

f. Breakout session at state convention

Breakout sessions at the WCC state convention will allow them to meet each other and allow time to work on e.) above as well as work on their own Mission Statement.

C. Member matters

- Expense vouchers were handed out
- The next meeting of this subcommittee will be Dec. 11, 2010 to discuss the code of procedures and whether they have their own or if it will be part of the WCC code.

We adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Burmeister, Secretary OH&E Committee 11/05/10