

WCC Bear Committee

December 2nd, 2011

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

Role Call

Present: Rich Kirchmeyer, Jo Ann Kuharske, Bruce Prentice, Leroy Wiesner, James Morning, Michael Murphy, Scott Strook, Russell Hitz, Denis Jones, Davis Lois, Dale Detampel, Anthony Dallman, Eugene Muench, Daniel Seipel, Gary Mabie, Robb Kamiskis, Rick Fruit, Scott Plocar, Wright Allen, Alan Lobner,

Unexcused: Larry Osegard, Ken Kochevar, Robert Knorr

Excused: William Schommer, Allen Flannery

DNR: Mike Zeckmeiser, Linda Olver, Dave Oginski, Jr.

Guests: Laurie Grosskopf, Kendall Durham, Reggie Wism, Ralph Fitch, Gary Knuth, John Murphy, William Murphy, Leopold Kuharske

Review of Mission Statement

Motion by Murphy second by Hintz to approve mission statement.

Agenda Amended Motion by Wiesner and seconded by Dallman. Motion carried

Public Comments by Laurie Groskopf . She spoke about wolves. No questions were asked from the bear committee. Handout A

Resolution 110111 Use of Cable Restraints for Black Bear --Mike Schmelling. He presented the resolution about the cable restraint for bear. He demonstrated the cable restraint. Tony Dallman asked about what happens to sows. Also, how will this affect the harvest? Mike did not see many people using this method for hunting. Dave Oginski was questioning who would fund the trapper for reimbursement to release a sow. The trappers are willing to sit down with the department, and all the committees to see if we can use this. They are willing to up out the effort, time, and money to do this. They are willing to try this for 5 years. Mike Murphy is concerned about the language in the resolution. He would like it to be more specific. He understands that this resolution is not perfect. We need to do a study before we can put a size for the cable restraint. Murphy recommends that Mike go directly to Kathy in the DNR and ask if you can be on a study committee. Mike Zeckmeister stated that this sounds like a research project to him. Leroy also made comments/concerns about the sows being caught. Oginski likes

the option of doing the study first and then come back to the committee to move this forward. More discussion ensued. Al Lobner suggested that maybe Aphis could use cable restraints when dealing with complaints, this would be a good controlled study. Kendall Durham. Talked about who is going to be responsible for protecting the cubs while the sows is in a cable restraint. Schmelling would like to have the availability of a electric release but it is not available yet. Rob Kamiskis wanted to know why not trap like a coyote vs. by this method of the paw? Jim Morning wanted to know the effect of the drugs you would have to use on the sow on future human consumption.

Motion by Mike Murphy to reject the question. Second by Tony Dallman. Discussion: Hitz—wants data. Rich felt that Al's comment about using APHIS for a study on the use of cable restraints for bear should be checked into. Tony Dallman wants more answers before moving forward.

Chr. Kirchmeyer informed the committee that all votes taken by the committee will be done by roll call. Roll call taken. Motion not to forward this resolution carried. To reject. Yes means to reject. See handout AA.

Mike Zeckmeister—Reported on the tet study results so far for Dave MacFarland. Presented Handout B, C

85% compliance on collecting rib sample. Next year the rib sample collection is mandatory.

Mike Zeckmeister and Linda Olver—Gave information on 2011 harvest, other management issues, and 2012 harvest quotas.

Success rates may change as more data comes in from some of the registration stations. The unknown sex data on Handouts D, E, and F were due to lack of information on the registration stubs. Handouts G, H, and I addressed all of the success rates.

Bard Cooley provided Linda with a summary of the bear damage and nuisance complaints. Handouts J, K, L, M, and N. Handout K lists the permits issued, and showed the permit harvest in another column. You can have multiple tags for a damage permit.

APHIS report Handout P – P6

We, taxpayers, pay APHIS for the trapping. The first complaint is free. After that you have to pay \$350 per instance to trap the nuisance bear.

Estimated Proposed 2012 Quotas were presented by Linda Oliver.

The R Packet shows car killed bear data. The R packet also contained bear bait trends, and bear harvest trends.

Lynda explained how they come up with the quota by comparing the data from handout S and T1.

Motion to deal with all zones individually. Motion by Murphy to discuss individually. Second by Hitz. Motion Carried

Jim Morning motion to reject zone A 2012 estimate proposed quotas. Second by Murphy. Dallman feels that using just the success rate is not what to focus on when determining the quota. Lynda feels that we are dipping into the population based on the age of the bears being harvested. Lynda doesn't feel the length of time we have is affecting the size of the bear we harvest. Al and Jim had some discussion about the Tetracycline study. Leroy, all the indicators have that the population is down statewide. We need to look at their data and back off a little bit. Al doesn't believe there are that many bear on public land. Murphy called the question. Decrease the amount of quota from 2200 to 1900. Roll call vote taken. The motion is to reject the departments estimated 2012 proposed quota for zone A. If you vote yes, you reject the motion. If you vote no, okay with the number. Motion failed 12 opposed, 7 in favor. Leroy Weisner made a motion to accept the DNR and Scott Plocar made the second. Motion carried.

Zone B. Motion by Scott Plocar to approve. Second by Scott Strook. Discussion. Mike Murphy thinks that all the numbers are too high. We are still harvesting too many. Tony Dallman questioned the population goal. Linda informed us that the goals are written in administrative code. R. Kirchmeyer stated that the population goals have not been revised since the tetracycline study so they are still using the old ways of setting them. The DNR is going to start writing a new bear management plan and at that time new population goals will be set. Motion carries.

Zone C Russ Hitz motion to approve. Jim Morning 2nd. Daniel Siepel feels that the data is skewed with harvest due to hunting with dogs and bait sitters taking turns alternating the start of the season. The data is consistent in zone c due to bait only.

Motion carried

Zone D. Motion by Wright Allen second by Russ Hitz. Motion carried to approve department recommendation.

Youth Bear Hunt Transfer. Handout V

How do you transfer the tag? You have to draw it, you buy it, and then you transfer it.

Dave Oginski----

Learn to hunt 37 Bear were harvested out of 68 available tags. Enforcement trends and issues. Guiding issues, conflicts, not providing a quality hunt. How many baits per hunt, some guys locking up large chunks of land. Dogs running at large(trespassing), too many dogs running. Taxidermists think hide quality would be better if season was later.

100311 Zone C Bear Season Two Weeks Earlier for Bait Hunters

Motion to reject by Mike Murphy second by Dennis Jones. Hide quality of the bear will be poor. Al Lobner-get the bears before they go nocturnal in the fall. Rich K Noted that the author last year stated he would like the season earlier thus giving hunters a chance to harvest bear before they start doing damage to crops and start eating natural foods more readily. Motion is to reject. Yes if you do not want it. No if you do want it. Motion to reject carries.

WCC LTH Bear Permit

Gary Maybie—took Sarah. She saw bear but did not harvest.

R. Kirchmeyer helped transfer 3 Class A permits using the WCC LTH applications.

Review of other committees bear resolutions.

200611—minimum fine change from \$250 to \$500 dogs running at large.

A motion was made by Al Lobner to oppose 370111 second by Russ Hitz. Train dogs only in areas where can hunt with dogs. Vote yes—do not forward to the spring hearing—we don't support the rules and resolutions committee—

Motion carried.

Mike Murphy would like to make a motion to submit this to the executive committee. Second by Dave Lois. See handout W.

Chr. Kirchmeyer read a letter from Chr. Bohmann. He then asked the committee if they had any suggestions on how to simplify the bear regulations.

Al Lobner suggests that to simplify bear hunting regulations we should combine the application fee with the class B permit. Extra money could be used for bear study. Someone commented that this would be fine for hound hunters being as that they get to bear hunt every year but this would cost the bait sitter more money and they only get to hunt every 5 – 10 years.

Russ Hitz felt we should have been able to act upon the wolf issue. We should be able to act on it even though it is not on our agenda. (We had received an email that said we can only act on items on our agenda.) How can we call the WCC the voice of the citizens if we don't let them participate in our meeting.

R. Kirchmeyer stated that we must follow the WCC COP, RR of O and the Open Meetings Laws of the state being as we are a citizens organization, we need items listed on our agenda so the citizens of the state have a chance to comment on them at WCC meetings.

Some committee members voiced their concerns about Act 21 and the fact that the WCC is just going along with the law even though it greatly handicaps the WCC.

Motion to adjourn Dave Lois, 2nd Robb Kamiskis Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 pm

Jo Ann Kuharske Sec.