

## **Wisconsin Conservation Congress Endangered Resources and Law Enforcement Committee**

The regular meeting of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Endangered Resources Committee & Law Enforcement Committee was held on Saturday, August 27, 2011, at the Gander Mountain Conference Room, Wausau, Wisconsin.

### **Order of Business**

#### **1. Organizational Matters**

##### *A) Call to Order*

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by chair Al Shook.

##### *B) Roll Call*

Committee members present: Al Shook (chair) Ray Smith (co-chair), Jim Shurts (secretary), Claude Bohn, Matt Jacowski, George King, Ron Krueger, Jason Leis, Art Malin, Dave Poff, Rich Swenson, Randy Symicek

Committee members excused: Dave Ferris, Henry Garn, Mike Gruenhagen, Jim Heffner, Scott Strook, Tom Wilda

Committee members not excused: none

DNR staff present: Adrian Wydeven (Endangered Resources), Dan Michels (Warden)

Others present: Scott McAuley, Arleigh Bondele, Louie Dreger, Paul J. Hansen, Randy Mau, Larry Roth

##### *C) Review Study Committee Mission Statement*

The chair read the committee's mission statement and commented on our charge.

#### **2. Discussion and Action Items**

The chair asked to change the agenda order so that the resolutions whose authors (or supporters) were present at the meeting could be discussed first. The committee approved the change on a voice vote.

*B) Citizen Resolutions*

**440411 Allow Electronic Trolling Motors for Positioning when Fishing      **Approved****

Paul Hansen spoke in support of this resolution. His main point was that this change would allow musky anglers the ability to use a trolling motor to avoid obstacles such as floating ice without needing to retrieve sucker points before using the electric trolling motor. Warden Michels saw some enforcement problems due to the somewhat vague wording of the resolution. The committee discussed trolling in general and declined to expand the scope of the resolution.

Motion to approve by Krueger, seconded by Malin; passed on a voice vote.

**330111 Legalize Cage Type Traps for Turtles      **Approved****

Arleigh Bondele (author) spoke in favor of the resolution. He commented on some of the difficulties using the currently legal hoop traps. This led him to research other types of traps legal in other states. He came upon the cage type trap and brought in a model to show the committee. Warden Daniels said that such traps were legal up to 1991. In 1991 broad changes were made to the regulations and cage traps were no longer legal. He doesn't know why the change was made and would like to have the biologists have some research on such traps. General discussion by the committee.

Motion to approve by Swenson, seconded by Symicek; passed on a voice vote.

At this time the chair returned to the regular agenda order.

*A) Department Updates*

a. Informational: *Adrian Wydeven, WI DNR*, gave an update on the status of the wolf in Wisconsin, including the population trends and the ongoing delisting process.

b. Informational: *Adrian Wydeven, WI DNR*, gave an update on the status of the cougar in Wisconsin, listing possible, probable, and known cougar sightings in recent years.

c. Informational: *Dan Michels, WI DNR warden*, did not have anything to report to the committee.

*B) Citizen Resolutions, continued*

**041011 Allow Group Bagging of Fish      Rejected**

Discussion by the committee. Warden Michels reported that the biologists don't like group bagging, as it make impact on fish populations in a given area. He also reported that the wardens don't find enforcement particularly difficult or time consuming. Motion to reject by Malin, seconded by Jacowski; passed on a voice vote.

**180411 Allow Sale of Turkey Bones and Feathers      Approved**

Discussion by the committee. Concerns were expressed that allow such sales might create a market that would result in the over-harvest of turkeys. Comment was made that this law was passed when turkeys were not abundant, which is certainly not the case today. Warden Michels stated that such a change would require legislative action. He also said that it would be difficult to track the sale of parts of individual turkeys in order to ensure harvest compliance. Motion to accept by Malin, seconded by Swenson; passed on a voice vote.

**680211 Cougar Hunting in Wisconsin      Rejected**

Al Shook (author) spoke in favor of the resolution, his main concern being that a hunting framework needed to be in place for the proper management of cougars in Wisconsin when the time came for such management. Discussion by the committee, with the consensus being that such a season is premature. Motion to reject by Swenson, seconded by King; passed 6 – 3

**510611 Eliminate Backtag Requirement for Bowhunting      Rejected**

Larry Roth (author) was present to answer questions and to support the resolution. His main contention is that no other state or Canadian province requires backtags for bowhunting, i.e., it is functionally obsolete. Committee members expressed a concern about losing the ability to ID trespassers/violators. Warden Michels stated that the sheriff departments (who are responsible for trespass complaints) oppose the elimination of backtags. Motion to reject by Poff, seconded by Jacowski; passed on a voice vote.

**720111 Feral Pigs      Rejected**

Scott McAuley (author) spoke in favor of the resolution, expressing concern that members of the public were unsure if they could shoot feral/wild pigs. Warden Michels said that law enforcement is concerned about hunting without the requirement of a permit and/or license.

Committee comments that this was more of a communications problem and that anyone with a small game or archery license can shoot feral pigs at any time.

Motion to advance by Bohn, seconded by King; motion failed, 4 – 5

**230311 Modify Definition of Firearm Carrying Case    Postponed**

The chair reported that the author contacted him and said that there was legislation recently enacted that made this resolution a moot point. The chair moved to postpone this resolution to the next committee pending legislative action and/or clarification.

Motion to postpone by Shook, seconded by Swenson; passed on a voice vote.

**140111 Non-Resident Reciprocity for Hunting/ Fishing Privileges    Rejected**

Discussion by the committee. Wisconsin has too low of non-resident fees, however it is not fair to charge different fees based on the state of residence.

Motion to reject by Symicek, seconded by Malin; passed on a voice vote.

**320311 Use of Handheld Artificial Lights to Scan While Predator Hunting    Approved**

The chair read an email from the author in support of the resolution. Discussion by the committee. The main concern was being able to tell between the differences of scanning while predator hunting versus shining for deer. Warden Michels stated that the wardens would have the same issue. Committee felt that the wider public should be involved in this discussion.

Motion to approve by Symicek, seconded by Swenson; passed on a voice vote.

*B) Governor's Charge to the Congress for Regulation Simplification*

The chair read Governor Walker's letter to WCC Chair Rob Bohmann concerning the governor's request to partner with the WCC. The chair emphasized that there are changes coming with Article 21 and that this was an opportunity for the WCC to make changes for the better.

**3. Member Matters**

A. Dave Poff reported on a lead versus copper bullets demonstration that he attended. This demonstration was presented by retired DNR staff and included live firing of the two types of bullets. Dave was very impressed with the differences and urged fellow members to consider using copper bullets.

B. Matt Jacowski said that he was concerned with the direction that the WCC is being pushed by the governor and the legislature. He is worried that the WCC will cease to exist except on paper. He urges WCC delegates to get out and work with the public on natural resources issues and put WCC in the spotlight.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm (Motion by Krueger, seconded by Symicek)

Respectfully submitted by Jim Shurts