

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Executive Committee

Minutes

October 10, 2011

Teleconference, 7:30 P.M

1. Organizational Matters:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Bohmann at 7:34

Roll Call: Executive Committee members present, Rob Bohmann, Larry Bonde, Lee Fahrney

Others Present: WCC Liaison Kari Lee-Zimmermann

2. Action Item: Determine support for Hunting Heritage bill AB 311 in the State Assembly.

Provisions include:

- Establish a "Recruiting and Retention Task Force" within the DNR
- Reduced fee hunting and trapping license to anyone who has not purchased one in the past 10 years.
- Require DNR to establish adult hunter and trapper education programs that can be completed by visiting a DNR service center.
- Provides for one-half high school credit for successful completion of a DNR safety program.
- Rewards sportsmen and women who bring new people into the sport with a credit toward their next DNR license purchase.
- Ensure access to land purchased through the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program. Requires DNR to give priority to stewardship purchases where all five nature-based activities are allowed.
- Creates a free ice fishing weekend.

Motion by Bonde to support AB 311, second by Fahrney.

Discussion:

- Many aspects of AB 311 have already gone through the Congress. Some parts restore what was vetoed out by the previous administration.
- Credits can be entered into the ALIS system.
- Bohmann: Mentioned the Governor is proposing to establish an advisory committee on hunting and fishing issues.
- Bonde: There are a lot of different ways it can go. Some see it as a power grab. The idea attempts to streamline process whether Conservation Congress, Legislature or Governor. One problem stakeholders have is that there is a lot of talk and nothing happens.

- Need to make sure that those who have taken a hunter education program get the high school credit. Suggest talking to DPI about it.
- Possibility of lowering age for obtaining a sturgeon license.
- The Hunter Education course is already on line, anyone is able to test out. The Hunter Handbook is on line allowing anyone to access it.
- Reduced fee for hunting and trapping license if within the past 10 years.
- Belief that some organizations will have a problem with the stewardship part. The bill restores things taken out in the 2009 budget bill.
- Kari: Expressed concern about the DNR still needing to determine economic impact of changing license fees.

Motion to support AB 311 carried.

Kari and Larry will put together a statement for presentation at the Oct. 11 hearing on AB 311.

Member matters:

Bonde: Need to keep abreast of bills going through the legislature because things are moving quickly.

Motion by Fahrney, Second by Bonde, Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Fahrney, Secretary