

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Executive Committee Teleconference

Minutes

November 21, 2011

7:30 P.M.

Order of Business

1. Organizational matters:
 - A. The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Bohmann at 7:35.
 - B. Roll Call: Members Present: Rob Bohmann, Larry Bonde, Lee Fahrney Others present: Kari Lee-Zimmermann, WCC Liaison; Shaun Hamilton, Senior Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land
2. Discussion and Action Items:
 - A. Adams County Central Sands Stewardship Grant Request: Mr. Hamilton described Adams County project and asked for WCC support for the grant request. The acquisition would involve an easement and impact sustainable forestry and support the economy. The property would remain in private hands and property taxes would be paid. The proposal includes access for all five nature-based outdoor activities. The property involved totals 9,000 acres when the acquisition is complete. Requires 25 percent non-federal funding. Stated that the Central Sands area has Property will allow access limited motorized vehicles. Property is almost totally surrounding by public roads. Non-motorized access except as the Plum creek owns the proper

Bonde: Asked about any limitations on motorized vehicles.

Hamilton: State will hold and enforce rights to access by motorized vehicles. "Shouldn't be a problem."

Bonde: Asked about restrictions or registration requirements greater than other state owned property.

Hamilton: Anything authorized by the state would be allowed.

Bonde: Asked about any type of improvements on the property.

Hamilton: Said there is Jack pine, red pine, wetlands in the Quincy Bluffs areas. That area is managed for forestry. Said there are plans to experiment on habitat. Study on various impacts on Kirtland's warblers

Fahrney: Asked if this was the only place Kirtland's warblers are found in Wisconsin.

Hamilton: Responded this is the only place he is aware of. Said it was the only place that the warblers and the Karner blue butterfly coexist in the same habitat. Noted increase in economic activity in Adams County, 294 percent, since 1996. Said there is a lot of pressure to develop land.

Fahrney: Asked about the connection between birds and economic development.

Hamilton: Said he was not sure, but there is a permit system to go see the birds.

Bohmann: Asked about the proximity of roads.

Hamilton: More than 70 miles of roads, including multiple access points. Adams county plat map would show locations.

Bohmann: Asked about logging roads.

Fahrney: Asked if logging roads are open to travel.

Hamilton: Said only those designated for motorized travel. The logging roads will be open to foot traffic. Said it is not pristine piece of property since it has been worked as a forestry operation.

Fahrney moved to approve, second by Bonde, motion carried.

B. Chippewa County Land Acquisition Stewardship Grant Request: Mr. Hamilton noted the acquisition had been supported by WCC in the past. The project will support all of the five nature based outdoor activities.

Bonde: Noted that comments from area residents were supportive of the acquisition.

Motion by Fahrney to support, second by Bonde, motion passed.

Note: Kari will get a letter to Hamilton by Nov 30, 2011.

C. AB 377: use of cross bow for rough fish:

WCC does not have a position on the bill.

Bonde said if we testify on the bill when the bill reaches the legislature, we will be more than willing to take it as an advisory question. "I think it's important to know what's on the public's mind, so we can put it on an advisory question.

Bonde: Made a motion to table, Fahrney seconded, motion carried.

Kari: The congress is in support of those who already have authority to use crossbows, i.e., 65 and older, handicapped, for rough fish.

D. AB 384: Use of cross bow with firearm licenses (lesser weapons) Gun license would allow crossbow during any firearm season, everything but during archery deer season.

Bohmann: This came up only recently. "We need to work with them to get the 55-year-old position. Congress has position on archery with gun license. We do not have anything for crossbow during turkey or bear season."

Bonde: Said we only have small bits of it.

Fahrney: Suggested we need to come out opposed because the bill does not include the 55-year-old clause.

Bonde: If we have full council approval, we can work with them on language.

Fahrney: Asked when the public hearing will be held.

Bohmann: Said it will happen in mid-January

Fahrney: Said the elements of this proposal are relatively inconsequential and appear to be nothing more than an end run around lowering the age to 55 as passed by the Congress.

Bohmann: Said he will work on it.

Kari: There was talk about having a separate crossbow license but that has been rolled into 384.

Bohmann: Said he will call the NRA representatives to see if they will support the 55-year-old clause.

Motion by Bonde to table, second by Fahrney, motion carried.

3. Members matter:

Bohmann will contact Dr. Kroll on what he wants from us.

Kari: Said it was unclear when he wanted the town hall meetings.

Bohmann will schedule a meeting with Dr. Kroll the next time he comes to Madison.

Bonde: Said it is important that someone attend the upcoming round table to represent the WCC interests.

4. Motion by Fahrney to adjourn, second by Bonde motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.