

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Outreach Committee Minutes
Sat. Oct. 15, 2011
Meade Wildlife Area Visitor Center

Meeting was called to order by Chr. Larry Bonde at 9:03 A.M. Roll call was taken by the Sec. Richard Kirchmeyer Those present were Larry Bonde, Richard Kirchmeyer, Dale Mass, Laurie Groskopf, Ben Loma, Jeff Klem, and DNR liaison Kari Lee Zimmerman.

Agenda Item 1c: Review study committee mission statement. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Dale Mass to approve the mission statement as read. 2nd was made by Jeff Klem MOTION CARRIED.,

Agenda Item 1d: Public comment. None

Discussion and action items;

A Review work from 2010 committee.

Chr. Bonde gave a presentation of the power point he presented to the Ex. Council in Jan of 2011.

Mass commented on whether there is a record of the positions taken by the WCC as a whole, Ex. Council or the Ex. Committee.

Kirchmeyer stated he was asked by past Chr. Edgar Harvey to start looking into past positions taken by the WCC by looking at minutes of committees and annual meetings this past April but being he is no longer on the Ex. Committee has stopped the work. It could be possible to have all committee chairs look at past minutes to see what positions committees have taken.

Loma Who are the people who want to know the positions taken by the WCC?

Bonde There are many requests being asked about our positions mainly from delegates and the public.

Loma Would it be possible to put a 1/4 page in all regulation pamphlets to inform the public about the WCC, its process, and about the spring hearings to increase the publics awareness of the WCC.

Klem stated that he has attended the spring hearings the past few years and thinks his generation does not communicate so much in the arena the WCC is in at the present time but use more face book and twitter. Many do not know that they have a chance or capability to make changes in hunting and fishing regulations.

Bonde Young people are not uninformed they just use a different method to receive information.

Mass Not many older people use the newer electronic gadgets, in the same token many younger people don't subscribe to local news papers, they get their information off the internet.

Kari We need to have more informed WCC delegates on all issues. Many delegates don't volunteer for additional duties, engage in the outdoor issues, or don't have the fire to get that involved with the WCC.

Kirchmeyer In District # 1 I use emails to keep the delegates informed on issues that I am aware of happening locally, within the district, or at meetings that I have attended. He

also thinks that many delegates are just on the WCC to say they are a delegate not really there to help improve the WCC and help the DNR manage the natural resources of this state.

Bonde It is the intent this year at the annual convention to educate the WCC delegates on the COP, open meeting laws, and how the WCC operates. Maybe some of the problem is that we (EX. Council- Ex.Com.) don't ask for help or assistance as much as we should from the delegates.

Loma Commented the reason he asked to be put on this committee because he is concerned about the future of the WCC.

Groskopf stated that too many decisions are made at the Executive level, so many WCC delegates don't feel they are engaged in the process of the WCC. She thinks the WCC needs to have a more team atmosphere.

Mass Many delegates need to have some type of accountability for their actions, many do not fully fill their obligations or responsibilities as a WCC delegate..

Groskopf Many WCC delegates represent themselves at club meetings and hearings not the WCC.

Mass A WCC delegate must announce that he or she is representing themselves not the WCC when at hearings or club meetings especially if they are not supporting the position taken by the WCC.

Bonde stated that he was disappointed in the WCC Ex. Council for not taking any actions on suggestions made by the committee last year. Larry wants this committee to set some directions to be forwarded to the Ex. Council so the WCC can take steps to improve itself.

Klem Some delegates that have been on the WCC may be burnt out partially because others are not held to some type of accountability to those they represent.

Loma Thinks there should be some type of structure for county delegates to follow. How do you people introduce yourself to local organizations (clubs)? County delegates should hold their own county meetings with their delegates.

Kirchmeyer If you are going to have meetings with your county delegates you must notify Kari of the meeting, the place, time and a agenda so it can be posted on the website. (Open meetings laws)

Bonde Would like to see more involvement from WCC delegates in local LCC committee meetings

Mass wondered if more or less counties are being reimbursed by their counties for the annual convention expenses.

Kari The amount of counties is less than a few years ago with all counties having budget problems.

Groskopf Each county should have a contact for the local media to get information about positions taken by the WCC or what the WCC is doing on different natural resource issues.

Kirchmeyer That is a very good idea but those contacts would have to be very knowledgeable of the positions taken by all committees of the WCC (Ex. Com., Ex. Council, Study Com.) along with anything else that is happening in the legislative or within the DNR arena. All these contacts would have to give consistent answers to questions asked by the media.

Bonde These contacts would have to be trained and would have to keep their opinions to themselves The best delegates to train would be the county Chr/V.Chrs.

Groskoph Would the contact person have to be the CHR. of the county delegation.

Bonde No

Groskoph Would like to have delegates develop agendas for com. meetings.

Mass This is not really possible, a Chr. can ask for input before finalizing an agenda or before it is posted.

Bonde There are many well run com. meetings

Mass If an item is not on an agenda no action can be taken by the committee.

Groskoph After each committee meeting there should be an evaluation survey taken on whether the meeting was run properly and if the meeting was productive also may have some suggestions on how to improve the committee meeting in the future.

Kari The Chairs of the com. need to tell the DNR personal what is to be on the agenda so they can come to the meeting prepared. Com. members can have input into the agenda.

On-Line voting; Chr. Bonde commented that it would not be the end of the WCC and the spring hearings. NRB Chr. is in favor of online voting and gave this charge to the WCC.

Klem We could have a public town hall meeting via the internet. There could be online interviews or debates on issues.

Kai There would be a reduction in participation at spring hearings because people could just stay at home instead of going to the hearing facilities.

Klem Do we need to have more public awareness of the WCC and the spring hearings?

Bonde Part of the town hall meetings would be on how to simplify the rules/regulations.

Groskoph Has there already been a decision made on what there will be at the 2012 spring hearings?

Bonde Yes This decision was made at the Sept. 02, 2011 Ex. Council meeting. There will be election of delegates, WCC advisory questions, and an open town hall meeting.

(Possible DNR advisory questions, NRB questions)

Klem The DNR now uses online reporting of wildlife seen we could do the voting on questions the same way.

Bonde NRB Chr. suggested everyone use their DNR customer ID number to be able to vote.

Kirchmeyer The WCC does not have its own website we now are attached to the DNR's website. Could the WCC have a twitter site and would there be a cost for such a site?

Kari Yes to the first question. There would be no cost to the WCC for a twitter site.

Kirchmeyer Who would monitor the site or regulate what is put on the site and who would respond to questions or comments? Would the WCC need a full time person for this.

Mass We must make sure that anything that is posted is factual or relevant to the WCC.

Loma The WCC could develop a message board.

Kari NRB CHR. Clausen is promoting to have around 5-6 questions available to be voted on in April of 2012 by online voting. They would be yes or no questions with no discussion available.

Loma citizens could access the WCC message board to read comments about a question that is on the spring hearing questionnaire and then vote.

Kirchmeyer This sounds like a good idea but someone will have to monitor the site continually, add to it continually, and make sure every one is playing nice. The message board could post past and present positions taken by any committee of the WCC. There would be a need to make sure someone is stating factual information and is not just promoting their own opinions instead of a position that had been taken by the WCC.

Bonde I will approach the Ex. Council in Jan. to get approval to recruit delegates who would be interested in working on a WCC web site and a message board.

Mass When using on line voting DNR customer ID # should be used.

Klem By using the DNR number it would stop the possibility of voting multiples times.

Mass The HSUS could develop a program to help their members have the ability to vote.

Klem We would have to decipher a way to handle the online voting versus the votes

taken at the actual hearings by citizens that took the time and effort to go and vote.

Would the votes taken at the actual hearing have more clout than the on line votes?

Loma It may help the public opinion of the WCC if citizen were able to vote online.

Term Limits

Bonde Most committee chairs are doing a very good job, but some need help in understanding our COP and Roberts Rules of Order.

Mass Stated he is against term limits for committee chairs, committee delegates, Ex. Com., or the Ex. Council. It may take some time being on the congress before you get the committee appointment you really want then to be removed after a time because of term limits. I have worked real hard, put in a lot of effort to become the Chair of a committee and to be on the Ex. Council.

Kirchmeyer I am not in favor of term limits either and agree with Dale. If you put term limits on say the Ex. Council by the time the delegate gets some kind of understanding of how things work they will have to step down. Now where would the Ex. Committee members come from? You may end up with someone because of popularity running the WCC with no past knowledge, proven leadership qualities, or the capability of running the WCC.

Mass If we are having problems with committee chairs there should be some type of review process or some type of ramification that could implemented.

Shotgun Res/Rerun Res.

Shotgun resolutions are resolutions with the same idea that are being introduced in multiple counties hoping that one county passes it so it then can be referred to a WCC committee.

Rerun resolutions are resolutions that are introduced several years in a row hoping the resolution will find a committee within the WCC that will forward it to the spring hearing questionnaire.

Environmental Issues.

Bonde The WCC has to be more diversified and in tune with these issues.

Mass We need a good environment to have fish to catch, deer to hunt., and animals to hunt. Ed Harvey is the new Air, Waste, and Water committee chair of the WCC and hopefully he will lead the WCC into more environmental issues and concerns.

Kirchmeyer For the past 2 years I have been giving a talk to the WLCV on lobby day because that group is mostly made up of environmentalists and we need to get them to come to the spring hearings and to get involved with the WCC.

Bonde The Stewardship committee is trying to reach out to the other groups to get their input and opinions. One good thing that happened in the past year to this committee is that it is now a standing committee. Some other thought that we need answers for are;

#1 We need a way to measure the effectiveness of the WCC.

#2 Who actually attends the WCC spring hearings.

#3 Who does not attend the spring hearings and why not.

#4 What do WCC the delegates expect of the WCC.

#5 Do we need more active WCC committee members.

Internal Issues- Team Building Training

- 1) How to be more effective WCC delegate.
- 2) Past history positions taken by the WCC, Ex. Council, Ex. Committee, or WCC study committees.
- 3) Set positions and have them posted so all delegates are aware of these positions.
- 4) Engagement (Active and non-active delegates) How do we get the non –engaged involved.
- 5) Define county leadership roles.
- 6) Structure of county delegations.
- 7) Roberts Rules of Order.
- 8) Training of WCC delegates on RRO, WCC, COP, and open meetings laws.
- 9) Diversity (race, ethnic, male-female balance, environmental)
- 10) Outside training.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MASS TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RECCOMENDATIONS TO BE APPPROVED BY THE EX. COUNCIL. 2nd was made by Loma

- 1) Team building/training
 - A) How to be a more effective WCC delegate.
 - B) Define county leadership.
 - C) Structure of county delegates.
 - a) Assistance in setting up county alliances.
 - b) WCC involvement in all (If the county has one) LCC committees.
 - D) RRO/COP
 - a) Training for all WCC delegates, committee chairs/v. chairs/sec.
 - E) Script for all meetings (ensuring all meetings are run according to RRO/COP and the same at all spring hearings.
 - F) Diversity
- 2) Outside training RRO/ open meetings laws, etc.
- 3) Committee recommendations /actions (ensuring all authors are duly notified by a committee chair/v.chair/sec. after a committee has taken a position on a resolution.

4) Past history on positions (Have all com. chairs/ v. chairs/ sec of committees go through past committee minutes to record any positions taken by the committee on issues.)

MOTION CARRIED

External;

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MASS TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RECCOMENDATIONS FOR APPPROVAL BY THE EX. COUNCIL 2nd was made by Klem.

1) Public awareness of the WCC.

A) WCC work with the DNR to promote the WCC by having information about the WCC in all regulation pamphlets.

B) Non traditional organizations (Organizations usually not represented on the WCC or at spring hearings)

C) Expanded Issues (issues the WCC should get more involved in)

a) Water quality

b) Run off

c) Air

D) WCC delegate business cards (more professional exposure of delegates)

E) Local notification to media of WCC meetings and issues.

2) Year end summary (a log of all positions take by the WCC study committees, Ex. Council, and Ex. Committee) Do we add DNR here?

3) Non consumptive user groups (engage with them)

A) Invite to WCC spring open house

a) Ikes, WLCV, Sierra club, etc.

MOTION CARRIED

Action Items;

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GROSKOPH TO APPPROVE THE FOLLOWING RECCOMENDATIONS BY THE EX. COUNCIL. 2nd was made by Loma

1) Surveys

A) WCC delegates

B) Spring hearing attendees

C) WCC committee members(confidential survey on how meeting was run, if committee was productive, and amount of information given to committee was sufficient to make good decisions)

D) General public.

1a) Should we ask the public for help?

b) Media contact persons.

c) Write articles. (newspapers, WCC chronicle)

d) Issue press releases.

2) Information items

A) Face book/twitter

B) Message board

C) Articles for publication

D) Volunteers at state convention (sub committee to help implement proposals)

3) Set long term goals
MOTION CARRIED

Spring hearings(Town hall)

- 1) Divide into a few small groups
- 2) Have 3 or more discussion items for town hall meeting portion for all hearings statewide
- 3) Have a portion of time for citizen matters
- 4) Ask public for rule/regulation simplification requests.
- 5) Ask WCC delegates/public. Do they want to continue spring hearings?

Annual meeting;

- 1) Leadership training.
- 2) Breakout sessions (CWD, deer research, etc.)
- 3) Invite other state organizations for an open discussion forum.
 - a) What they would like to get from the WCC.
 - b) What they are promoting or wishing for from the WCC or legislators.
- 4) Talk on wolves.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MASS TO RECOMMEND TO THE EX. COUNCIL TO HAVE AN EXTERNAL REVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS OF THE WCC BY U.W. EXTENSION. (cost would be mileage/materials Art Lersch UW person in Lincoln Co.)

Discussion;

Mass; What happens if Art's recommendations are not liked or approved by the Ex. Council?

Kirchmeyer There is a possibility Art could gather information or form some type of conclusion that could be harmful to the WCC and be used by others to do away with or lessen the effectiveness of the WCC.

MOTION CARRIED

Member Matters;

Kroskoph- Liked the committee thought it was very functional.

Loma- Glad to be on committee, one of the main reasons he wanted to be on the WCC to help its operations, would like to see more communications between the upper committees and delegates. The spring hearing/town hall meetings have to be successful.

Klem- Glad to be on committee.

Mass- New members with new ideas was good for the committee. There is a time and a place for all ideas and they need to take appropriate actions and procedures.

Kari- Pleased with the discussions.

Lersch- Thought the committee worked well.

Bonde- Thanked all committee members and thought it was a very productive meeting.

Kirchmeyer- Glad to see the committee is looking at the future not wanting to stay in the past.

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN BY Klem at 3:47 P.M. 2nd by Loma

Respectfully Submitted by
Richard Kirchmeyer Sec.