

OUTDOOR HERITAGE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Outdoor Heritage & Education committee met in Stevens Point at the Ramada Inn on Saturday September 10th 2011. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by chairman Kevin Marquette with roll call.

Members present were: Kevin Marquette, Kevin Smaby, Allen Pribnow, Tom Briski, Chris Jepson, Todd Cook, Kelly Tollefson, Mark Judd, Al Briese, Frank Pratt, Jeff Kelm, Dale Compeau, Brett Weir, Thomas Daluga, Scott Bestul, John Hedtke, and Micheal Pfankuch. Larry Bonde was present from the Executive Committee of the WCC.

Absent but excused members were: James Burmeister, Jim Shurts, Jim Johnson, Ben Loma, John Cler, and Larry Dobbe.

Unexcused absent member: David Mabie

DNR was represented by Keith Warnke, Theresa Stabo, and Dan Schroeder.

Also present were Doug Thompson of the 4-H Shooting Sports, Norb and Barb Yogerst of the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP), Bob Holsman Professor at UW-Stevens Point.

The first order of business was the reading of the mission statement for the OH&E committee. Chairman Marquette brought up that he would like to have more emphasis on habitat management and land stewardship. A short discussion took place on this and all agreed that there should be more emphasis put on this.

Doug Thompson of 4-H Shooting Sports gave us a presentation on the 4-H Youth development Program. The 4-H shooting sports consist of archery, air pistol, air rifle, rifle, shotgun, and muzzleloader disciplines. Over 8,200 youth are enrolled in this program statewide. Doug gave us a very informative presentation on what the program is about, how to get one started in any county, and what is involved in putting on the program, as well as the leadership training they provide for volunteers. Questions and answers followed with the biggest question being whether there was a centralized spot available on the WIDNR website for youth organizations like this. It is, but is hard to find.

Motion was made by Smaby and seconded Pfankuch to make a formal request to the DNR for a centralized information spot on the DNR website for hunting and shooting links. Motion carried unanimously.

As an introduction to our next presentation, chairman Marquette showed the committee a power point presentation of work he had done on habitat restoration and the benefits of cutting trees. This led into Barb and Norb Yogerst's presentation on the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP). The WHEP program is for ages 8 – 19, and is a natural resource program dedicated to teaching wildlife and fishery habitat management. WHEP is hands on and covers local and state wildlife species, habitat requirements and is set up to test wildlife knowledge in local, state and national competitions. This program seems to be a fantastic way to get youth involved more deeply in the outdoors and the committee found the presentation very good and informative.

With the new formats for the “Spring Hearings” having an impact on the WCC state convention and the possibilities of break out sessions in the new format, a resolution was brought up. The committee formally recommends to the Executive Council that Barb and Norb Yogerst attend the state convention and lead a break out session on the WHEP program. Motion by Daluga and seconded by Briski. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Youth Conservation Congress. The status on this at present is to have 24 members, 2 from each district. Chairman Marquette briefly explained to the committee he had looked at this issue and sent a letter to the Exec. Committee, Kari, and Preston Cole explaining he thought we needed some type of legal/human resources type person to help set up the procedures for the safety of the youth involved, and address the potential liabilities of the congress; as well as the issue of the money we would need to have budgeted to be able to pay for this. The discussion on this included more questions on safety, legal, and monetary issues that have not been addressed yet. To Marquettes understanding, Preston Cole was the Youth Conservation Congress author, and had e-mailed Preston to get a better understanding of his intentions. Based on the issues we discussed, it was decided to table this until we have legal/human resources type help supplied to the committee to work through the above mentioned issues. Motion to table by Pfankuch, seconded by Bestul. Motion carried.

Larry Bonde addressed the committee next explaining the “Governor's Challenge” for simplification of rules and laws. Larry also explained how Act 21 will affect the “Spring Hearings” and the “WCC State Convention.” The challenge was also made to remove some of the hurdles or obstructions for “Recruitment and Retention.” Committees need to keep this in mind when passing resolutions.

The committee then broke for lunch at 12:20 pm and reconvened at 12:55 pm.

Theresa Stabo from DNR Fisheries gave the committee a presentation on diversification for the growth of Fish Education with a power point of “Centro Hispano.” Undocumented residents and documented minorities don't often know how or why they need to get licenses. Something simple for us but not necessarily so for them. Very informative. “Get the Lead Out” program still ongoing.

The committee decided they would like the chairman to write a letter to the department fisheries director requesting more money be budgeted for angler education.

Dan Schroeder from the NASP program was next on the agenda with his update of the program. Ten percent of the Wisconsin schools are now participating in NASP. The 2012 goal is to have 1000 archers at the State Tournament. The program is averaging about 30 new schools per year. The interest in NASP is now growing in the Park & Rec Dept. also. The question by the kids in the program is...now that we are done with NASP, what do we do next. This is where we need to take over and get them into Archery and the outdoors.

Keith Warnke, the Recruitment and Retention coordinator gave the next presentation along with a guest, Bob Holsman, from UW-Stevens Point. Keith asked if we all wanted new hunters, wanted to keep them and others. Of course, the answer was “yes.” The next question was, “Where are we going to put them?” Something to think about. Next he informed us the Pittman-Robertson funds will be used to help restore shooting ranges at Yellowstone Lake and in Iron County, as well. Keith then turned the presentation over to Bob Holsman. Bob is being hired by the DNR to develop a strategic plan for Recruitment and Retention. Planning will include workshops that will include the Outdoor Heritage Committee. We need to go beyond exposure to achieve the total goal. We need to target kids and families that normally would not hunt. There were a lot of questions and answers on this subject.

Motion was made to recommend the DNR change the Deer and Turkey Youth Hunt title to Deer and Turkey Youth and Mentored Hunt. Motion by Bestul, seconded by Tollefson. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Pfankuch, seconded by Pratt. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by acting secretary, Kevin Smaby