

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Endangered Resources & Law Enforcement

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	9/22/2012	9:30 AM	Portage County Library, Stevens Point
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Al Brown, chair, at 9:30AM
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Al Brown (chair), Jim Shurts (secretary), Jim Heffner, George King, Dave Poff, Wayne Schmidt, Rich Swenson, Randy Symicek
EXCUSED	Ronn Krueger, Evan Lund
UNEXCUSED	Tom Wilda
GUESTS	Erin Crain (WDNR ER), Dan Michels (WDNR warden), Lee Fahrney, Ron Kulas, Ben Loma, Larry Margelofsky, Frank Sterzen

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	No requests for repair; motion to approve Heffner/King
ACTION	Approved

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Chair read current mission statement; no discussion occurred; motion to approve Heffner/Symicek
ACTION	Approved

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	N/A

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. 1: STATUS OF WISCONSIN'S BATS

ERIN CRAIN, WDNR-ER

DISCUSSION	Overview of Wisconsin's bat populations and the grave concern with white-nose syndrome, a fatal fungus affecting bats. It does not yet occur in Wisconsin but has been found in Iowa. WDNR expects it to occur in Wisconsin next year.		
ACTION	informational		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE	
N/A		N/A	

A. 2: WHOOPING CRANE STATUS

ERIN CRAIN, WDNR-ER

DISCUSSION	Presentation and handouts updating the committee on the status of Wisconsin's whooping crane
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	population.
ACTION	informational
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A

A. 3: UPDATE ON WI ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES LIST

ERIN CRAIN, WDNR-ER

DISCUSSION	Presentation and handouts informing the committee that the WDNR is in the process of updating the Endangered and Threatened Species List. Some species are being delisted either because they have recovered and/or have stable populations, or they are extirpated from Wisconsin. Species being added to the list are declining populations.	
ACTION	informational	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

A. 4: COUGARS IN WISCONSIN

ERIN CRAIN, WDNR-ER

DISCUSSION	Presentation and handouts updating the committee on the status of cougars in Wisconsin. There is no known breeding in Wisconsin. Evidence indicates that confirmed sightings are males passing through the state looking for suitable habitat.	
ACTION	informational	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

A. 5: LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

DAN MICHELS, WDNR WARDEN

DISCUSSION	Reports that there are still several vacancies in law enforcement. The current recruiting class should be in the field soon, and there will be a new class starting in the spring.	
ACTION	informational	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

B. 1: CITIZEN RESOLUTION 440312

BEN LOMA (REPRESENTING AUTHOR)

DISCUSSION	This resolution concerns potential safety concerns resulting from tribal members hunting on ceded lands the Friday before the general gun deer hunt. Residents of those areas worry that with all the activity in the woods by persons getting ready for the general gun deer hunt, someone will be injured with tribal hunting occurring at the same time. The committee noted that this was a matter that neither the WCC nor WDNR could effectively change. It was recommended that the concerned citizens contact the tribal game commission. The committee did, however, decide it would be a good idea for the WDNR to issue press releases and update the web site informing the public that deer hunting did occur on ceded lands the Friday before the general gun deer season.	
ACTION	1) Motion to reject resolution 440312 Shurts/Symicek: passed, no dissent 2) Motion to have chair work with WDNR on providing public information concerning hunting on ceded lands the Friday before the general gun deer season, Symicek/Schmidt: passed, no dissent	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Al Brown	10/31/2012	

B. 2: CITIZEN RESOLUTION 160312

FRANK STERZEN (AUTHOR)

DISCUSSION	This resolution requests revising the rules to allow for a firearm-mounted light or headlamp at the point of kill for predator hunting. The current law requires a hand-held light, which makes it unsafe to shoot, i.e., one-handed. The general consensus was that this was a good idea.	
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ACTION	Motion to approve, Schmidt/Symicek: passed, no dissent	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Al Brown		11/30/2012

B. 3: CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS 570212, 500212, 660212, 200112, 670512, 680512, 710212 **RON KULAS (AUTHOR, 680512), LARRY MARGELOFSKY (AUTHOR 200112) OTHER AUTHORS WERE NOT PRESENT**

DISCUSSION	All of these resolutions concern eliminating the back-tag requirement for deer and/or bear hunting and were considered together. The committee noted that this issue has been brought to the committee several times over the years and has been rejected due to safety and law enforcement concerns. The committee decided that in the interest of providing public input to the WDNR and state legislature, the resolution should be approved and forwarded.	
ACTION	Motion to approve, Swenson/King: passed, one dissenting vote	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Al Brown		11/30/2012

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Wayne Schmidt: concerns and questions about boat speeds on the upper Wolf River; committee members recommended working with local law enforcement Jim Heffner: concerns and questions about boat speeds on lakes in Oneida and Vilas Counties; committee members recommended working with local law enforcement George King: questions about wolf hunting techniques; committee members had plenty of advice Dave Poff: requested that this committee try to meet in early to mid-August; the chair replied that efforts would be made to do so next year Lee Fahrney, WCC Executive Committee, gave the committee an update on exec committee matters. The exec committee would like to have the annual convention in a central location that remains the same each year so as to get a better pricing deal from the facility. He also talked about the study section committee selection process. And he mentioned that progress is being made in having certain items/resolutions/rule changes being fast-tracked under Act 21 to help speed up the new process.	
ACTION	none	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	12:00PM
SUBMITTED BY	Jim Shurts
DATE	9/24/2012