



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Minutes
Executive Council Meeting
Holiday Inn & Convention Center
Stevens Point, WI
January 6, 2012

1. Organizational matters

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair Rob Bohmann
Members present: Joe Weiss, Rich Kirchmeyer, Al Brown, Dave Hraychuck, Mike Riggle, Roger Sabota, Kevin Marquette, John Aschenbrenner, Mark Noll, Mark Schultz, Stan Brownell, Dave Puhl, Dale Maas, Dick Koerner, Dave Miller, Larry Bonde, Lee Fahrney, Mike Rogers, Ken Risley, Al Shook, Rob Bohmann, Andrew Limmer, Jim Wrolstand.
Others present: DNR Liaison Kari Lee-Zimmerman.
- B. Agenda Repair: none
- C. Chairman's update: Rob Bohmann introduced Sharon Fandel as temporary replacement for Lee-Zimmermann going on maternity leave. Radios donated from Friends of Conservation Congress for the deer project have arrived. He introduced Kevin Wallenfang as the new big game specialist. Also, noted that the WCC has reached out to Dr. Kroll to assist him with town hall meetings to be held in three different locations. Executive Committee will meet with Dr. Kroll for breakfast, Wednesday, Jan. 11 and then attend the stakeholders meeting at the Dept. of Administration in Madison.
- D. Liaison update: Kari reminded councilors that we need to set district meeting dates for the first two weeks in March. She explained two options for the Congress booth at the Deer and Turkey Expo.

2. Decision and Action Items:

- A. Approval of mission statements: Bohmann read proposed mission statements for Outreach and Wildlife Health & Invasive Species committees, Motion by Kirchmeyer, second by Maas, Motion carried.
- B. Sideboards for county delegations to vote against the spring hearing vote:
Bonde: Referred to article in Conservation Chronicle regarding county delegations not voting the wishes of their constituents. Larry stated that he received feedback that was both pro and con. He questioned how to address the matter of delegate understanding of the Code of Procedures. Questioned if the matter it should be included in the convention agenda.
Noll: Need to continue the education process.

Weiss: Need to seize any opportunity to educate people.

Maas: Suggested the information should also be available to the general public.

Noll: Questioned the idea of making people write letters if they voted against their counties' intention. Stated the COP allows for people to vote against a resolution.

Andryk: The executive Committee has the authority to require a letter. Believes it helps to be accountable.

Kirchmeyer: Questioned how we would keep track of that. Suggested it would require a roll call vote.

Bonde: Said we would have to have a written record.

Wrolstad: Suggested a letter should include a rationale for the change.

Shook: Said we know what the county vote is. Said if we get a different vote count on the floor it would be obvious. Said the county should be held accountable for any change. The letter should state the reason. Unless something new is brought forward, the vote should represent the county's views. Said there is an obligation to reflect the county's vote.

Rogers: Wondered how we would let the county know of the change.

"Noll: Suggested the matter opens a new "can of worms." "Are we just an adding machine? Said we are more of a republic than a democracy. Said delegates are sent us because of their ability. Said the most important thing is voting for delegates. If we can't switch our vote, then what's the point of voting..

Riggle: Concurs with Mark. Questioned who would get the letter. Said if we are bound by the county vote, why even bring it up at the convention. Said if the turnout is small at the county level, it might not be representative of the public's views.

Shook: Suggested if there is new information, it should be ok to change. Said the people who show up should be the ones who count, regardless of the turnout.

Wrolstad: Reiterated that delegates should represent their counties.

Koerner: Suggested that the issue may not warrant further discussion. He remembers only once or twice in the last 45 years that his delegation changed its vote, also questioned who the recipients of the letter would be.

Motion by Maas, to refer to Rules and Regulations, second by Wrolstad, motion carried.

C. Outreach Committee:

Bonde: Introduced committee members, and reviewed the work of the committee.

Recommendations:

1. Conduct team building/training
2. Increase public awareness of WCC and do year end summaries.
3. Conduct surveys, ask delegates for help with media, press releases
4. Create a strategic plan

Suggested we need to put this in the Conservation Chronicle.

Put a survey in the Conservation Chronicle and a survey at the spring hearings. Also need a survey to grade committee leadership.

Introduced Art Lersch :

Overview: Lersch is experienced in organization development; Said changes going on around the state as various organizations are looking inward as to how to conduct their business. Time requirements for the Congress effort would be one or two meetings for

goal setting or that we would need six or eight meetings to do a full scale strategic plan, culminating with a comprehensive report on the plan. Suggests members of the Executive Council would be an appropriate group to come up with a plan.

Benefits besides goal setting include the best use of the organization's limited capacity.

Now is a good time to look at the matter since we are going through a period of significant change in the environment. The plan would include identifying stakeholders. With whom do we want to communicate. Define core values, look at mission statement, etc.

SWAT analysis: look at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Some we may have control over, some not. Set goals related to them. Take inventory of resources.

What do we have to work with and what will we need in the next five years. Best ways to go about organizational changes, e.g. expand the work of the committee. Set goals based on priorities within limited capacity.

Lersch mentioned some of the groups he has been doing e. g., Wisconsin County Forests Assn. Since WCC has never done a strategic plan, it may be time to do a full blown plan. Emphasized it's a learning process, learn about ourselves. Lersch said he needs only to be paid for mileage and materials since his salary is paid for by the state.

Fahrney: Requested a timeline.

He discussed possibly starting after the conference. The process would take 8 months and then a couple of months to write up the plan.

Riggle favors full scale strategic plan. Expressed that he has been pessimistic about the direction the Congress is taking. Suggested the cost is minimal for the value of the product.

Miller: Suggested doing the plan, but with a smaller group.

Lersch: Should be formally approved by group.

Schultz: Supports the idea, said he has done this kind of work. He has seen this turn groups totally around.

Maas: Concurr, and agreed that we need to go forward.

Discussed how the process would be funded, e.g., DNR budget or Friends group.

Andryk: DNR can cover mileage and materials for Art Lersch but not for the Congress. Tim suggested maybe putting a couple of committees on the shelf for a year.

Risley: Said the Congress has been reactive on many issues but this might allow us to be more proactive.

Kirchmeyer: Suggested we do not have to accept all the recommendations.

Lersch: Said the committee comes up with the recommendations.

Puhl: Motion to approve recommendation #4 of the outreach committee, second by Risley.

Motion carried. Executive Committee will appoint delegates to the group.

Discussed putting off recommendation #s 1, 2, and 3 until recommendation #4 is completed.

Bonde: Suggested we could begin accomplishing some of these things.

Riggle: Suggested putting them off is a mistake. Thinks some things can be done now.

Kirchmeyer: Agreed that we shouldn't put things off.

Maas: Wants to initiate 1, 2, and 3 recommendations. Good stuff and we should continue doing these things.

Lee Suggested the Congress is already continuing to work on some these matters on an on-going fashion. Motion was made by Maas to adopt recommendations 1, 2 and 3; seconded by Kirchmeyer. Motion carried.

Bonde: Suggests putting the matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

Lersch: one session or full blown planning.

Weiss: Suggests the size of the committee should be smaller than the entire council. Also, would like to know the cost.

Maas: Suggests one delegate from each district.

Schultz: Suggested 24 member group is too large; likes one representative from each district. Suggests district representatives could alternate even though it would be somewhat cumbersome.

Lersch: Stated he usually does a report after each session which could be sent to everyone.

Riggle: Said the representative has a duty to go back to each district and tell them what has transpired.

Shook: Agreed on a smaller group, but likes completing a full eight-session program.

D. Ag damage Ad Hoc Committee Report – Marlin Laidlaw:

Laidlaw: Reviewed several recommendations from the committee's work.

Noll: Refers to renters not eligible if they have crop insurance. Said he carries hail damage and pays crop insurance. Believes it's not fair that you can't get crop damage payments even after the insurance claim, says it's a legitimate loss above and beyond the ag-damage. He also pointed out that leases for land are expensive. He inquired about the value of a deer.

Laidlaw: Said 35 pounds of meat would sell at \$3.85 a pound and a large hide is worth \$20; about \$150 for a doe, not including processing costs. Suggests you have to consider the cost of a deer when making decisions about damage abatement.

Miller: Said he works in a sporting goods store and belongs to a number of outdoor organizations. Often hears comment that no other state pays crop damage and questions the wisdom of Wisconsin paying out for that purpose.

Kirchmeyer: Questioned whether bear should be included in the damage abatement program.

Weiss: Questioned whether bear should be included in the program when it takes years to get a permit.

Motion was made by Phelan, second Rogers to accept the report. Motion carried. (See resolutions for action on report).

Bonde: Stated the matter will be made part of the report to the board.

E. Shooting Range Ad Hoc Committee: Chair Mike Murphy discussed the committee's work.

He handed out Minnesota pamphlet on their efforts to maintain their shooting ranges and said that Minnesota officials will offer their support. Said there are 900 ranges in Wisconsin but that there is no organization to channel recommendations. Said there is money available for shooting ranges through Pittman-Robertson Act. Said he hopes to keep the committee active and mentioned a symposium on shooting ranges on March 10.

Phelan: Spoke of best practices for shooting ranges. Said some ranges are not dealing with lead issues and that it would take millions to fix. Wisconsin has no laws regarding ranges. He warned that ranges in Wisconsin are at risk and that he knows of a range near Minocqua that will be closing. He would like to know where the money went that was supposed to be used for ranges. Stated that we need to have a law dealing with how ranges will be maintained.

Koerner: Said he would like more info on the symposium.

Steve Gibbs: Said the NRA is working on legislation to secure stricter guidelines to deal with those who want to shut down ranges.

Bohmann: Suggested the NRA should be allowed to set up at the convention.

Miller: Would like clarification on the amount of money involved.

Kari: Stated that the money used for other things. The DNR controls the distribution of the money.

Motion was made by Murphy to accept; seconded by Wrolstad. Motion carried.

F. Proposed Code of Procedures changes:

Tony Blattler: Discussed resolutions that came out of the spring hearings.

Resolution 650111: Maas moves adoption, second by Koerner. Motion carried.

Resolution 650211: The resolution would have the county votes combined to determine if it passes.

Fahrney: Suggests one county with a large voting population could trump the intent of all other counties.

Shook: Suggested if a resolution is voted on in several counties but only passes in one that should be sent forward.

Schultz: Wanted a definition of "shotgun." Said two resolutions could be similar but not exact and might be submitted for varying reasons.

Shook: Cited the issue of the golf course at Rainbow Springs as an example of a shotgun resolution.

Maas: Believes a shotgun resolution is one which is identical brought up in many other counties. Thinks this idea would streamline the process.

Riggle: Suggested educating county chairs about how to handle these resolutions.

Noll: Declared he throws away any resolution when the author isn't there. Said there has to be someone there to sign it. Sometimes things are sent out from someone in one county where it doesn't even pass that county.

Motion was made by Maas to approve, seconded by Puhl; the motion fails, 11-12.

Tony Blattler: Discussed adding two more members of the Executive Committee.

Question was how to get adequate representation on the Committee.

Shook: Moved to reject the election of two more positions to the Executive Committee, second by Bonde.

Bonde: Suggested making the matter part of the proposed strategic plan.

Shook: The argument was to make it a little easier for the executive committee. But there haven't been any complaints so we don't need more committee members.

Brown: Said the measure was designed to protect the committee from exposure to violation of open meetings laws.

Blattler: Said the process can be slowed down. Said he is not aware of any district that feels it is not represented.

Maas: Said another issue was leadership training for the top three positions.

Motion to reject fails 11-12.

Motion was made by Maas to accept, seconded by Kirchmeyer. Motion carried 14-9.

Blattler: Discussed proxy voting at meetings in cases where the assigned delegate is unable to attend.

Motion by Maas to allow proxy voting, second by Kirchmeyer,

Maas: Thought the opportunity to take part should not be denied due to someone not being able to attend.

Kirchmeyer: The COP now allows someone to attend and join in, but not vote.

Noll: Suggested the situation won't happen that often and makes things too complex.

Miller: Agrees with Noll.

Marquette: Said things might come up that are important enough to have someone there.

Andryk: Congress chair can appoint someone on a temporary basis.

Bonde: Called the question. Motion failed.

Blattler: Made recommendation to have a more-defined strategic plan for additional education and training for WCC members in leadership positions.

Motion by Bonde to accept, second by Schultz, motion carried

Blattler: Discussed the process of appointing personnel to committee leadership positions: chair vice or co-chair to each committee.

Fahrney: Would like to go with chair and a vice chair for each committee rather than co-chairs and suggests each committee should have a vice chair in case of chair not being available and as a process for leadership development.

Maas: Said he is okay with co-chairs, but would like to see vice chairs on all committees.

Riggle: Doesn't want it in the Code. The decision should be left up to the individual chairs.

Motion was made by Bonde to leave decision up to the Executive Committee, seconded by Maas, motion carried

Blattler: Recommends leaving Act 21 alone until next year.

Kari: Will add Wildlife Health, Awards, Outreach Committees as permanent.

Recess for Lunch

G. Study Committee Reports:

- Hunting with dogs:

Puhl: Asked that the Executive Council support a request that hunting with dogs be included in the sharp-tailed grouse habitat plan, motion by Puhl, seconded by Phelan, motion carried.

Puhl: Asked that Exec Council support to exempt hunting, training and trialing in all state forests NR45 special use zones (leash law) not be upheld.

Motion was made by Puhl, seconded by Risley. Motion carried.

- Outdoor Heritage:

Marquette: Made a request to recommend to the DNR to create a centralized information location for hunting and shooting links. Motion was to reject by Bonde, seconded All Phelan. Motion to reject failed.

Motion was made by Bonde to put the information on the WCC website, second by Phelan. Motion carried

Marquette: Recommend WHEP program for a breakout session at the WCC convention.

Bonde: Said he likes the program as it explains habitat needs for various species.

Marquette: Said we are missing the boat on what it takes to develop habitat.

Motion was made by Bonde to accept the recommendation for the breakout session, second by Phelan. Motion carried.

Marquette: Need to set up procedures for establishing Youth Conservation Congress. He expressed his concern about legal assistance regarding liability. Wants to address liability issues first, then deal with financing.

- Warm water:

Weiss: Addressed 13 different bass regulations down to three – follows Governor's desire for simplification; Walleye, smallmouth/largemouth, and trophy largemouth. Motion was made by Weiss to support, second by Kirchmeyer.

Phelan: Wondered if there would no longer be a small mouth trophy.

Weiss: Said walleye and smallmouth would be combined.

Miller: Commented on the need to simplify. Sometimes there is one regulation for one lake only. Said this simplifies the matter.

Motion carried.

Weiss made a motion regarding panfish overharvest with the following question: Do you support establishing a panfish aggregate bag limit of 30 of which 10 crappie, 10 bluegill and 20 yellow perch on inland waters? Motion was seconded by Wrolstad. Motion carried.

Maas: Questioned whether the rules should apply statewide.

Weiss: Said this covers virtually every case. Weiss would like to see it on the questionnaire to see what people want.

Miller: Said the size of crappie is declining, especially in the north. Said people target some lakes and overharvest the species.

Bonde: Said this is outside-the-box thinking and some good feedback could result.

Aschenbrenner: Said targeting crappies is important and we need to protect them since walleye populations are down.

Maas: Said this could generate interest in spring hearings.

H. Dr. Kroll's Request for WCC Coordination of Town Hall Meetings:

Bohmann: Reported that the Executive Committee will meet with Dr. Kroll about providing assistance for town hall meetings. A meeting with stakeholders is also planned.

3. Proposed 2012 Conservation Congress Advisory Questions

- Air Waste & Water:
 - #1: 130311 Phase Out Felt Sole Wading Products: Motion by Puhl to advance; second by Shook; motion carried.
 - #2: 040711 Wisconsin Recycling Program: Motion by Puhl to advance, second by Limmer; motion carried.
 - #3: Consolidating jurisdictions for Wetland Management Regulations: Motion by Limmer to advance, second by Shook; motion carried.
 - #4: Consolidating jurisdictions for storm water management regulations:
Andryk: Numbers 4 and 5 would not be able to transfer jurisdiction. These are federal issues that federal authorities would have to address. Said there is a possibility of sharing responsibilities.
Edgar Harvey: Disagreed. Said local municipalities don't want to give up prerogatives. We understood that the state had the authority to delegate.
Schultz: Said there is some disagreement on who has what authority.
Motion by Limmer to advance; second by Shook; motion carried.
 - #5: Consolidating jurisdictions for erosion control management regulations: Motion by Limmer to advance, second by Shook; motion carried.
- Big Game:
 - #7: 590511 Allow the Use of Rifles in All of Shawano County: Mike Eisch spoke in support. Motion by Shook to advance; second by Weiss; motion carried.
 - #8: 640211 Archers in quota units must apply for antlerless permits: Motion by Shook to advance; second by Limmer; motion carried.
 - #9: 450511 Use of rifles for deer hunting north of Hwy 54 in Outagamie County: Motion by Shook to advance; second by Wrolstad; motion carried.
 - #10 : 580611 Wisconsin elk population:
Discussion:
Noll: Referred to input from Laine Stowell saying that there are too many bulls, which disrupts the rut. Said Stowell believes harvesting a few bulls would not have a negative impact. Noll believes if the committee had that info they would have defeated the proposal. Continues that
Stowell reports 93 bulls for 100 cows which is a higher ratio than in other areas of North America. Noted that wolves prefer to attack smaller and weaker cows rather than pursuing bulls.
Tom Hauge: DNR biologists have zero concerns about having a bull harvest when the population hits 200 animals. Said taking 10 bulls out of 90 would not hurt the population. Motion by Rogers to reject, second by Bonde
Weiss: Supports the motion.
Shook: Said this is a situation where new information comes forward that should lead us to reject. Motion to reject carried
 - #11: Creation of public/private antlerless deer system:
Riggle: Said he reviewed the spread sheet on public/private harvest broken down by unit and year. Said we need to allow people who can hunt only public lands a fair opportunity. Believes the idea will keep the population up on public lands

Noll: Deer distribution is a difficult issue. Said with antlerless quotas we went to where the deer were located, now we go to where the access is. He questioned if the public will be willing to address separating these things out.

Phelan: Suggested the problem is people going to the public lands to shoot does while shooting bucks on private land.

Hauge: Said Dr. Kroll is looking into the issue and that the issue won't go away. Said more information will be coming out.

Marquette: Agreed that people go to public lands to get their doe and that needs to be addressed.

Miller: Said the question should go forward.

Motion by Puhl to advance; second by Noll; motion carried.

#12: Northern DMU boundaries: Motion by Shook to advance; second by Weiss. Motion carried.

- Endangered Resources & Law Enforcement:

#13: 440411 Allow trolling while positioning when fishing:

Shook: Said the purpose was primarily for muskie fishing. Thinks the measure could include or other fish.

Sabota: Said the author does not mind if "or other fish" is added.

Aschenbrenner: Said rather than "live sucker," it should be simply "sucker."

Motion to amend; second by Weiss to remove the work "live;" Motion carried.

Motion by Shook to advance; second by Weiss; motion carried.

#14: 180411: Allow sale of turkey bones and feathers: Motion by Shook to advance; second by Phelan. Motion carried.

#15: 330111 Legalize cage type traps for turtles:

Wayne Stietz (Lafayette County): Spoke in favor of the trap. Motion was made by Puhl to advance; second by Weiss. Motion carried.

#16: 320311 Use of handheld artificial lights to scan while predator hunting. Motion by Shook to advance; second by Kirchmeyer; motion carried.

- Forestry Parks and Recreation:

#17: 240211 Allow bowhunting on the closed area of Grant River Wildlife Area

Clint Wendt: Spoke in support of the question. He also questioned the confusion over the measure having been taken up by two committees.

Koerner: Explained the confusion by noting that the resolution was sent to the Migratory Committee for input only.

Noll: Suggested we let the people decide by advancing the question.

Bonde: Suggested that sometimes managers want to simplify matters by keeping people out.

Shook: The intent of the restriction is for waterfowl only.

Kirchmeyer: Expressed concern about sending it to another committee.

Weiss: Public land is open and the public should be allowed to use it.

Motion by Puhl to advance; second by Kirchmeyer; motion carried.

- Fur Harvest:

#18: 720211 Four-day check for weasel traps. Motion was made by Shook to advance; second by Phelan. Motion carried.

#19: 500111 Combine muskrat & mink zone into one. Motion made by Miller to advance; second by Shook. Motion carried.

#20: Increase trapping license by \$2.00 fund permanent position to administer trapper education. Motion made by Puhl to advance; second by Shook. Motion carried.

- Great Lakes:

#21 380111 Spring closure for northern pike on Green Bay and tributaries. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Limmer. Motion carried.

- Legislative:

#22: 520411 Allow use of crossbow during bear season. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Kirchmeyer. Motion carried.

#23: 520311 Allow use of crossbows during fall and spring turkey seasons. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Weiss. Motion carried.

#24: 560111 Ban deer farms in Wisconsin

Discussion involved violation of fair chase rules related to the North American model.

Shook: Said there are deer farms in his area where they are raised for sale as food. He opposed because all facilities are included.

Weiss: Said he wants to see it go to a statewide vote.

Miller: Opposed, suggests that the next step could involve pheasant farms.

Bonde: Noted that not one fallow deer that has ever had CWD. If we don't raise them here, someone else will in some other state.

Riggle: Said that the measure won't go anywhere because DTCAP sees it as wild deer threatening captive deer. Said if we want attack something we should attack shooting preserves. Motion made to reject by Miller to reject; second by Shook. Motion carried.

#25: Create a maximum of 25 mph on frozen water.

Puhl: Said some clubs have radar runs.

Shook: Noted that organizations have to get a permit for radar runs. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Koerner. Motion carried.

#26: 320211 Extra fishing hook/bail/lure stamp. Motion made by Miller to reject; second by Sabota. Motion carried.

#27: Increase fine for hounds running at large while bear hunting. Motion was to reject by Puhl; second by Risley. Motion to reject carried.

#28: 520711 Lesser weapon option for deer, bear and turkey. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Wrolstad.

Miller: Opposes based on lessor weapon clause. Friendly amendments were made to go to a 55-age limit and drop the term "lessor weapon." Motion carried.

#29: 650611 Make land owner preference tags property specific

Jim Houck (Walworth County): Wants to even the playing field between landowners and non-landowners. Friendly amendment made to specify "private property." Motion made by Limmer to advance; second by Shook. Motion carried.

#30: Sturgeon spearing preference point. Motion made by Phelan to advance; second by Koerner. Motion carried.

#31: 440111 Transfer of license/permit to senior or disabled person. Motion made by Maas to advance; second by Risley. Motion carried.

#32: 200111 Use of crossbows for rough fish with valid fishing license. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Wrolstad. Motion carried.

Migratory:

#33: 350211 Fifty percent concealment rules for waterfowl hunting: Motion made by Limmer to advance; second by Koerner. Motion carried.

#34: 550111 Sandhill crane season: Motion made by Weiss to advance; second by Limmer. Motion carried.

#35: 700211 Mekan Springs area – Waushara County. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Limmer. Motion carried.

#36: 520811 Canada goose tagging – Horicon Zone. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Limmer. Motion carried.

#37: 490111 Exterior Canada goose season dates. Motion made by Koerner to advance; second by Shook. Motion carried.

#38: 060311 Delay start to spring crow season. Motion made to advance by Risley; second Kirchmeyer. Motion carried.

- Rules and Resolutions:

#39 370111 Allow training of dogs only in zones that allow hunting with dogs:

Rogers asked what are people supposed to do if they live in Zone C.

Risley: Also questions what alternatives exist.

Kirchmeyer: Said enactment would create a loss of opportunity.

Miller: Agrees that it would be a loss of opportunity.

Shook: Said it used to be about running on private property, now the argument has been shifted.

Bonde: Noted that if one owns property they wouldn't be able to run dogs on their own land.

Riggle: Maintained that there is still an issue about crossing private property.

Motion made by Shook to reject; second by Koerner. Motion carried.

- Trout:

#40 660411 Continuous open season for trout in put-and-take lakes. Motion was to advance; seconded by Shook. Motion carried.

- Warm Water

#41: Walleye restoration on Lake Chetac in Sawyer County. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Weiss. Motion carried.

#42: 580111 Eliminate the late opening of the largemouth bass season in Northwest: Motion by Shook to advance; second by Weiss. Motion carried.

#43: 590611 Reduce the largemouth bass size limit to 12" on Shawano Lake. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Weiss. Motion carried.

#44: 590711/590811 Reduced bag and increases size for northern pike on Caroline Pond, Shawano County. Motion made by Weiss to advance; second Weiss. Motion carried.

#45: 700311 Reduced daily bag limit for panfish on Little Hills Lake in Waushara County. Motion made by Weiss to advance; second by Wrolstad. Motion carried.

#46: Allow motor trolling statewide. Motion made by Aschenbrenner to advance; second by Shook. Motion carried.

#47: 500211 Prohibit the spearing of panfish by divers.

Bob Chojnowski spoke in favor.

Bonde: Said it's ridiculous to take away this opportunity. He also pointed out that only a handful of people engage in this activity.

Aschenbrenner: Concern in his county

Motion made by Wrolstad to advance; second by Shook. Motion carried.

#48: 200411 Largemouth bass size limit on Winnebago system. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Wrolstad. Motion carried.

#49: 210511 Largemouth bass size limit reduction on Pickerel and Crane lakes. Motion made by Shook to advance; second by Weiss. Motion carried.

#50: 440311 Lower daily bag limit of crappies to five on Oneida Lake. Motion made by Weiss to advance; second by Shook. Motion carried.

#51: 540411 Spearing rough fish within 200 feet of a dam. Motion was by Wrolstad to advance; second by Maas. Motion carried.

#52: 580511 Forty inch minimum size limit for muskie on Spider Lake. Motion was by Shook to advance; second by Weiss. Motion carried.

- Wolf Committee:

#53: 440211 Allow statewide coyote harvest during deer firearm season. Motion made by Kirchmeyer to advance; second by Limmer. Motion carried.

#54: 350111 Notification of wolf depredations or attacks to livestock. Motion was to advance by Miller; second by Noll. Motion carried.

Shooting Range Committee

#55: 040211 Motion by Limmer to advance; second by Marquette. Motion carried.

#56: Shooting range initiative. Motion made by Kirchmeyer to advance; second by Wrolstad. Motion carried.

4. Spring meeting/town Hall Training for District Meetings

Bonde: The town hall portion of the spring hearings/meetings would focus on the items discussed at the Sept 2 Executive Council meeting. He would like to have a congress person and DNR rep to take the statements. It would be a scripted activity for the county delegations.

Maas: Asked if there will be anything for the district councilors.

Bonde: Said in a town hall format, the issues are not debatable. We're just getting input

Andryk: Asked if this would be at the end of the meeting. He expressed concern that there would not be enough time with all the questions.

Bonde: Noted that at the time the decision was made we didn't know that DNR advisory questions would be presented.

Schultz: Asked who would record all the info.

Maas: Said the chairman won't have time to document everything.

Weiss: Said at their meeting 40-50 people are in attendance at the beginning, but by 9:00 only 10. Suggested at the beginning we could ask people to submit their ideas in writing.

Kirchmeyer: Said if we don't have an easel, how will they know what the questions are?

Schultz: Said it's a public meeting so it should be on the agenda.

Theide: Said we need to let people know what we want them to do. There needs to be something in the book.

Fahrney: We need to be careful not to confuse people with the difference between a resolution and town hall input.

Motion by Bonde to scale back town hall meeting to simplification of the rules and regulations by Bonde, second by Weiss. Motion carried.

5. Department of Natural Resources Presentations

- A. DNR Executive Assistant remarks: Mr. Gunderson needed to leave.
- B. C. D. Law enforcement, Wildlife and Fisheries representations provided handouts from their respective area rather than reports due to time limitations.
- E. a. DNR will offer advisory questions at the spring hearings. Scott Loomans reviewed the advisory questions on Wildlife Management. He said the agency will be back in 2013, with the same questions as proposed rule changes.
- b. Kate Strom Hiorns reviewed fisheries management advisory questions. All the questions look to simplification and can lead to issues to be discussed at the town hall meetings.

6. Members matters

Riggle: Discussed what he believes are mistakes in the way the council meeting was conducted. He apologized to the DNR staff saying it was rude to DNR staff that we had to end the meeting at 5:00. Said we should be looking at pending legislation. Said he is naïve about politics in that he thought we weren't supposed to be political. Said Act 21 was not aimed at hunting and fishing, but it limited input from sportsmen and women. Said his district reps were not aware of the implications of Act 21. Said he would not vote on the measure based on where it came from but on its merits. Said a discussion of ACT should have been on the agenda and disagreed with the decision of the executive committee.

Hraychuck: Said he would like to get more input. Said 30 or 40 people have called him about it.

Brown: Agreed that the DNR folks should have had time to speak. He's concerned that the Congress was going to fold. Thanked Lee for writing Wisconsin Outdoor News article refuting the notion that the congress is folding.

Noll: Said our Congress is getting more political. Said he discussed Act 21 with Sen. Vinehout several times. He wanted SB 319 on the agenda. He doesn't want to believe that it was left off the agenda for political reasons.

Schultz: Regarding Act 21 and SB 319 said he made a point of speaking with people outside the Congress

Sabota: Expressed his concern about lack of deer in the north

Wimmer: Said we need to focus on what the Outreach Committee is doing and that we have to get more people involved. Said he looks forward to the strategic planning process.

Maas: Questioned Noll comment regarding his talk with representative. No doubt that it has been a stumbling block. Asked Ms. Wiley how a decision on Act 21 would be addressed by NRB.

Jane Wiley (NRB): Said we will deal that process depending on what comes before the board.

Miller: Mentioned the Deer and Turkey Expo saying we should be involved in with that. He questioned if Act 21 will be as disastrous as some have expressed. Said we will know more

after spring hearings. Said we should work with it. If it really is going to be a huge problem then we'll look at it (again). Said we should pick and choose battles that we can win.

Weiss: Said we need to take a stand and not worry about politics. Said we should ask them to pass SB 319.

Kirchmeyer: Said he understands the position of the Executive Committee.

Shook: Thanked everyone for their condolences on the passing of his wife. Referring to Act 21 he said we need to be mindful of where our funding comes from. If they change the rules then we will have to go with that. Once, the Congress takes a stand; that should be our position. He acknowledged that our life was easier before Act 21, but that it's the same for everyone else. Suggested we stop discouraging people regarding the future of the Congress.

Risley: Said we need to do what needs to be done for the good of the organization. Need to look at this as a positive.

Phelan: Thanked the department for coming up with advisory questions for the spring hearing. Said he would much rather deal with people on cooperative basis.

Puhl: Said the Congress has been in a lot of tough battles but that we're still here. Said we need to support one another.

Brownell: Mentioned ag-tags as a significant problem.

Fahrney: Thanked everyone for their support of efforts to put the Congress message to the public in a positive way.

Bonde: Said the congress can emerge stronger from this controversy. Said he expects Act 21 can be tweaked. Said he's not afraid of the challenge. Said if we throw up our hands and say the Congress will disappear, it will.

Bohmann: Read a letter he intends to send to all delegates regarding SB 319.

7. Motion by Puhl to adjourn at 5:20; second by Kirchmeyer. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Fahrney
Secretary