

Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
Executive Council  
Minutes  
The Holiday Inn  
Manitowoc, Wisconsin  
Thursday, May 10, 2012

Organizational Matters:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Bohmann at 3:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Joe Weiss, Rich Kirchmeyer, Dale Maas, Dick Koerner, Dave Miller, Larry Bonde, Lee Fahrney, Mike Rogers, Ken Risley, Al Phelan, Al Shook, Rob Bohmann, Andrew Limmer, Jim Wrolstad, Stan Brownell, John Aschenbrenner, Mark Noll, Marc Schultz, Dave Hraychuck, Mike Riggle, Dave Puhl, Kevin Marquette, Roger Sabota, Al Brown

Agenda Repair: No changes. Motion by Puhl, second by Riggle to approve the agenda.

Motion carried

Discussion and Action Items:

Funding for Strategic Planning

Bonde: Said we could cancel meetings of committees not entertaining resolutions. There could be \$2,000 saving for smaller committees, more for larger committees. Another option would be for the Friends group to contribute funds. Said there would be 5 or 6 meetings. Art Lersch will serve as facilitator. Also mentioned that Art would be able to do a couple of Saturday meetings if necessary.

Limmer: Queried cost of a committee meeting.

Bonde: \$1,200 per meeting if delegates pay for their own lunch. Up to \$1,600 if lunch is paid for.

Limmer: Asked what committee chairs might feel about it?

Noll: Said just because there are no resolutions doesn't mean there are no issues to discuss.

Miller: Suggested asking people to pay their own way.

Bonde: Said we don't want to exclude people who might not be able to afford it.

Maas: Asked if we are talking about strategic committee members or those on study committees.

Schultz: Suggested not paying overnight costs and getting a contribution from the Friends.

Bonde: Suggested conference calls in lieu of face to face meetings if there is limited business and using Friends group as a cushion if needed.

Kirchmeyer: Asked about using the DNR congress budget.

Kari: Can't use it for that purpose.

Limmer: Suggested Congress fund half and Friends half.

Riggle: Suggested asking committee members of all committees if they can do alternatives to overnight or possibly do pot lunch.

Bohmann: Noted that there is about a 50-50 split between those committees having meetings on Saturday verses during the week.

Weiss: Suggested doing all Saturday meetings.

Maas: Agreed.

Schultz: Agree and then use Friends money as cushion

Miller Queried saving when using Schmeackle or Mead for meeting.

Kari: \$100

Risley: Noted Upland game has seen attendance go down with Saturday meetings.

Aschenbrenner: Suggested reducing the number of members on each committee.

Weiss: Queried cost of conference call meeting

Kari: Huge savings

Riggle: Recommended one-year moratorium on paying lodging cost.

Koerner: Suggested a raffle fundraiser.

Maas: Cautions about cutting size of committees. Suggested doing SKYPE at local DNR offices.

Kari: Said it would have to be during business hours and would depend on what facilities are available. DNR staff would have to be paid for coming to work a Saturday.

Bohmann: Suggested we reach out to committee chairs to have their meetings on Saturday.

Noll: Agreed. Said we don't need that room overnight.

Marquette: Agreed.

Shook: Argued against using the Friends group. Said money is to help conservation and doesn't want the money to go in that direction.

Riggle: Motion to suspend travel expenses for lodging for one year. Second by Shook.

Motion carried.

Weiss: Said it's hard enough to get guys to be on the Congress, much less committees. Said the only money they get is reimbursement and would rather we go somewhere else for the money.

Limmer: Agreed with Weiss and suggested going with conference calls.

Marquette: Suggested not throwing mileage out all together.

Limmer: Warned against deleting mileage, impacts all congress delegates to reduce mileage; Suggested cancelling committees with no resolutions.

Noll: Said we need to emphasize this is for one year only.

Brown: Agreed with Weiss. Noted we have delegate vacancies and we need to keep people coming to meetings.

Kirchmeyer: Agreed with Brown and Limmer. Suggests Turkey committee should have a meeting.

Bonde: Still wants to encourage conference calls.

Bohmann: Noted large committees might have meet regardless.

Schultz: Said we need to help get the word out regarding the need to save.

Bonde: Executive Committee will select members of strategic planning committee with meetings to start in June or July. Wants to set those dates now.

Noll: Suggested members should set the dates.

Bonde: Said nominees will be posted on Friday.

Riggle: Asked if the meetings have to start this in June and July. Suggested Dec, Jan, Feb. Art Winter months could be bad due to travel wants to get the process in motion.

Bonde: Said people don't want to take days off during the fall hunting season and noted potential bad weather in Jan.

Miller: Suggested it's important to get the work completed and the results implemented before next spring.

Kirchmeyer: Said anyone wanting to be on the committee needs to understand they will have to be fully committed.

Schultz: Said doing it now sends the message that we are serious.

Bonde: Said he will post the list of nominees tomorrow.

Bohmann: Reviewed the WCC questions.

Schultz second

Bonde: Said we won't save enough through travel expenses. We need a specific number.

Weiss: Asked if this would include executive council meetings.

Riggle: Thought it would.

Maas: Suggested \$7,000 by not having committees with no resolutions meet.

Review of county meeting results. Chair Bohmann

R & R committee report

Bonde: Reviewed the assignments of resolutions to the various study committees.

Explained that county chairs are not supposed to accept more than two resolutions. In Vilas County three were rejected even though they all passed. The R& R committee has ruled that all would have to be rejected. Bonde said he had problems with the committee decision.

Maas: Said that apparently the behavior of the author at the meeting was less than acceptable.

Limmer: Declared that they should be thrown out.

Shook: Said a mistake was made at the county level.

Motion by Shook to move 160312 to Endangered Resources rather than Fur Harvest. Second by Limmer. Motion carried.

Kirchmeyer: Motion to move 510112 from Legislative Committee to Bear Committee, second by Rogers. Motion carried.

Aschenbrenner: Motion to send 640512, 640612, 640412 to Warm Water, second by Sabota.

Shook: Wanted to know if they talked to the DNR.

Kari: Yes.

Weiss: Said it shouldn't be advanced if the author did not talk to fish biologist. Asked if the matter is addressed in the Code of Procedures and if it was necessary to reject all of them.

Maas: Wondered which two should be taken up. Said the chair did know about the limit of two.

Russ Warye: (New Vilas County Chair) Said there was no mention that there could be only two. The discussion between the author and Anderson was over format.

Noll: Suggested taking the first two.

Puhl: Said the instructions are in the questionnaire.

Weiss: Asked Russ Warye if he thought the process was legitimate.

Warye: Yes, I was reacting to the heat of the moment. I wanted to see them considered but I was not the chair.

Bonde: Said it gives the Congress a black eye if we reject the resolutions. We have one of our own who made the mistake.

Fahrney: Agreed with Bonde.

Koerner: Agreed. Said let it go and enforced the rule from here on in.

Shook: Questioned whether it would hurt the Congress if we are inflexible. Suggested it undermine the new county chair.

Motion failed

Weiss: Motion to refer the first two (640412 and 640512) to Warm Water, second by Shook.  
Motion carried.

Brown; Motion to move 160712 to Wolf from Fur Harvest, second by Wrolstad  
Motion carried

Kirchmeyer: Motion to accept the remaining resolutions, Wrolstad second. Motion carried.  
Department Informational Items

DNR Spring hearing results wildlife:

Scott Loomans: Thought things went well. Continuing split season for bobcat. Modernizing the guide permits. Asked about open water hunting issue. Said that all would go forward except Lake Koshkonong (Dane County). Rule proposals will go ahead. NRB advisory question on the use of trail cameras on state lands would go forward.

DNR spring hearing results, Fisheries:

Kate Strom-Hiorns

Noted resources available on line regarding fishing opportunities. Questions are to provide guidance for future rule proposals.

Coming soon is a fishing regulation App. Anglers will be able to pull up a map and pick up regulations on for a specific lake. Majority of people voted against uniform regulations statewide. There will be 30 regulation change proposals for 2013.

Weiss: Asked when app will be available and will it be free.

Strom-Hiorns: Should be free and available soon.

Aschenbrenner: Said there seemed to be some confusion on directions to local fish biologists.

Strom-Hiorns: Agree there was some confusion. Working to correct any misunderstandings.

Phelan: RE: 30 proposals in 2013. Asked if some of these came from Congress questions.

Strom-Hiorns: Said three or four from last year but not this year.

Weiss: Expressed concern about fish advisory questions regarding position fishing and trolling. Said it's been talked about for years and wants to know if it's on the list.

Strom-Hiorns: Said if trolling is allowed, then position fishing issue would be resolved.

Weiss: Suggested it shouldn't be looped into one question.

Law Enforcement Update

Randy Stark: Thanked Congress for support. Struggling with vacancies with 13 eligible to retire this year and 14 more next year. Would like to get Congress people involved in hiring process. Mentioned that Marc Schultz was part of the most recent hiring process. Now starting to recruit for 2013. Working to get two remaining states into compact regarding notice of license revocation. Once license is revoked in one state it applies to all. Thanked Congress for its work on the Learn-To-Hunt program. Participation is up for LTH. Department will look at age structure as some age groups are not involved. Mentored hunter goal increased 9 percent with no accidents. Now have five shooting sports programs. Emphasized that boating accidents could be cut in half if people would use life jackets. UTVs will allowed on ATV routes but the operator will need safety certificate. Both will need licensed plate on the back. Priority complaints have an average response time to 9-10 minutes. Examples of priority issues include toxic chemical spills or shining incident.

Customer Service initiative. Recommended citizens go to warden wire Survey Monkey to offer feedback. [SurveyMonkey.com/s/warden](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/warden)

Maas: Wanted to know how the license plate requirement would be handled.

Stark: Said you will need to fashion your own.

Wrolstad: Wanted to know when the rule will take effect.

Stark: July 2012

Kirchmeyer: Asked about new wardens.

Stark: Said cost of training a new warden is \$115,000.

Kirchmeyer: Will ATV owners be notified of the requirement.

Stark: Yes.

Puhl: Asked about maximum width on UTV?

Tom Van Haren: Said he will check and get the information back.

Puhl: Asked about modified exhausts and the noise level.

Stark: Said there are laws about exceeding decibel levels.

Aschenbrenner: Asked if warden recruitment was keeping pace with demands.

Stark: best we will do is hold steady. Adding 10-14 people due to budget restraints. Might make progress within 5 years.

Maas: What about gators, will they need roll bars, etc

Tom Van Haren: Has to have been included in the manufacturers design.

Bohmann: Move to member matters until arrival of DNR secretary

DNR Secretary remarks, Cathy Stepp

Thanked Rob and Exec Committee for all their work. Talks about the Congress to groups that she speaks to. Effort at DNR to improved communications efforts more outreach efforts using twitter and other social media. "We need to be partners with you."

Noll: Statewide ban on burning interfered with prairie burn. Believes the statewide ban was inappropriate.

Weiss: Asked about feedback from Kroll and about the next step.

Stepp: She has had little contact and has not been involved at the secretary level to avoid interference. Said it's been hard for the wildlife people to hear the criticism. Asked for support.

Council Member Matters:

Brown: Said he attended wolf stakeholders conference and there is another conference in June. Said there could have been more input from some groups. Noted a resolution was passed four years ago to create a wolf harvest season. Expressed concern that HSUS might file a law suit.

Sabota: Said he preferred previous (five day) turkey season structure.

Rogers: People he has heard from in the south like the extra days overall.

Riggle: Fawn capture season coming up. They will need help as part of Deer Research Project. Said it was somewhat more difficult up north than in the south. Reported that a pilot program for deer research was starting in Taylor County. Thanked Kurt Thiede for help with permitting. Said the local warden is involved and there is an article on warden wire. Will be using drop nets next year, tattooing, tagging and releasing. Sees public relations impact as positive. Said there was some resistance with In the Taylor County Sportsman's Club but now are 100 percent behind it People refer to it as "our program."

Phelan: Mentioned the unique situation in Dane county, Concerned about non-hunters getting involved. Reported that one individual filled out numerous ballots. Said she went around picking up ballots left on chairs.

Risley: Getting positive comments on town hall meetings. Some mentioned that it was more like in the past when more discussion was entertained.

Shook: Had a person wanting to videotape. One person had gotten permission to use a post office box instead of an address. The person was trying to run for office but the P.O. box was outside Waukesha County.

Miller: Said the fawn count is very educational and interesting. Last year Friends group bought a couple last year, but better trail cams are needed.

Maas: Said deer management meeting needs to get back to land conservation committee involvement. Need to allow people to ask questions from the very beginning.

Limmer: Has a strong anti-hunting community in his area. Referred to barriers to hunting, fishing and trapping and this should be expanded. Need to engage people who do not hunt, fish and trap. Mentioned one person who contacted all of the people who came and voted for her.

Noll: Asked to acknowledge Rich Kirchmeyer for his many years of service. (Applause)

Kari: Mentioned evaluation forms for the conference.

Bonde: People liked the town hall meeting, but didn't like to have to put things in writing.

Bohmann: Said Kroll and others were pleased with the support he got from the Congress.

Kroll talked about having a power point presentation for the Congress.

Motion by Limmer to adjourn, second by Shook. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Fahrney, Secretary  
Executive Committee  
Wisconsin Conservation Congress