

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Executive Council Minutes
DNR Science Operations Center
Tuesday, May 22, 2012

1. Organizational Matters:

A. The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Bohmann at 1:16 p.m.

B. Roll Call: Present: Weiss, Riggle, Sabota, Marquette, Aschenbrenner, Noll, Suchla, Brownell, Puhl, Maas, Koerner, Miller Fahrney, Rogers, Risley, Phelan, Shook, Bohmann, Hennlich. Absent (excused): Olson, Brown, Hraychuck, Bonde, Limmer

C. Agenda Repair: None. Motion by Puhl to approve the agenda, second by Weiss. Motion carried.

2. Discussion and Action Items:

A. Review votes of the statewide delegation, WCC Advisory Questions:

Lee Fahrney: Reviewed WCC advisory Questions.

Bohmann: Referred to Question 63 and the controversy regarding the intent of the author and the question that was presented at the spring hearings.

Kari: Explained that the author's intent was to make it a first time only hunter.

Miller: Problem is with system being open to abuse.

Riggle: Big problem was that what he proposed was changed. Thinks there is a problem with that.

Maas asked when an author's resolution becomes someone else's idea.

Fahrney: Explained that there are two separate issues. The mistake that was made is one and the second is whether the proposal should be passed. Noted it passed statewide by a wide margin.

Shook: Said this is a good idea.

Phelan: Said that the liaison shouldn't have to write any questions.

Maas: Said we shouldn't override the convention decision. Motion to leave the decision as it is, second by Phelan.

Discussion:

Fahrney: Said some people didn't realize they were voting it down.

Marquette: Asked if we could send it back to the Legislative Committee to be rewritten. Motion was made to amend the motion to send it back to the Legislative Committee, second by Shook.

Weiss: Asked if the Executive Council can sponsor a resolution?

Phelan: Said the legislature will ultimately decide.

Noll: Said the system botched this. The state wide convention rejected it. Suggests it go back to the committee or some other body.

Maas: Said if we deal with it now, it goes against the wishes of the author.

Brownell: We need to be careful about changing things. Said we are under great scrutiny.

Aschenbrenner. Queries if it is appropriate for us to vote on the state wide vote.

Maas: Withdraws original motion to leave the results as they now exist.

Motion to send Question 63 to Legislative Committee to rewrite the question carried.

Bohmann: Said he would direct that the author be invited.

Motion was made to accept report of the WCC question results by Riggle, second by Aschenbrenner. Motion carried.

Shook: Made the motion to reconsider the previous question, second by Maas. Motion carried.

Koerner: Wants to discuss Question 55, said it was sent to Forestry, Parks and Recreation as well as Migratory which rejected it. Said a Migratory member went to various landowners and biologists and they were against the idea.

Kari: Said Rules and Resolutions Committee approved sending it to FP&R. Then since it had to do with a closed area, that it should go to migratory but that it was sent to migratory as an informational item only.

Bohmann: Said any committee has the right to discuss a question and bring forth its opinion.

Motion was made to approve the WCC questions by Maas, second by Shook. Motion carried.

B. Strategic Plan:

Bohmann: Went over assignments to the strategic planning. The first meeting is June 18 at Mead, and the second meeting is July 23, also at Mead.

Maas is concerned about having the meetings on a week day after we had talked about having meetings on Saturday and avoiding weekdays.

Puhl: Questioned the large number of people on the list.

C. Study Committee Assignments:

Bohmann: Said some study committees are not well represented, e.g., Migratory has 10 people from only two counties. Every district should have representation except for Mississippi and Great Lakes. You can either support our decision or give us your recommendations. Executive Committee will meet June 22.

Maas: Believes we have to get feedback from chairs of the committees on who is involved or not involved. Should have committee chairs evaluate their committee members.

Koerner: Said we should appoint people who are interested.

Brownell: District 6 People have put down their choices. Said we shouldn't put people on committees they don't want.

Maas: Reiterated the need to evaluate committee members.

Bohmann: Said too many people want the "big six" committees.

Phelan: Agreed with Brownell. Said he will be asking that one person be removed and another appointed.

Risley: Noted that at one time District 10 had no representation on the CWD committee, when the CWD zone is in District 10... Said he was encouraged that we are not putting people on a committee if they have unexcused absences.

Riggle: Questioned if the PDS are in a computer format. Said we are duplicating effort.

Kari: Yes, they are on a computer format.

Aschenbrenner: Suggests send the date to each district.

Koerner: Are they enough positions for everyone to be on a committee. How many are filling out all four options for the PDS.

Weiss: Said the Executive Committee needs input from district and committee chairs. Need term limits on study committees.

Rogers: Said that the March meetings were the time to discuss the committees. E.g. turkey has no resolutions on its agenda.

Hennlich: Said delegates shouldn't necessarily expect to get what they want. Said he ended up on Mississippi Committee rather than Migratory.

Maas: Mentioned strategic planning and term limits. Said it's important to get the best person for the job. Said we need a mechanism for continuity.

Fahrney: Said continuity is maintained through having a vice chair on each committee.

Puhl: Noted that he has made mistakes but that we can't put a green horn in as committee chair.

Brownell: Said we should address this at the spring hearings and people can think about what committees they want to be on.

Phelan: Recommend some councilors sit in on the Executive Committee to fill committees.

Miller: Expressed concern about Ozaukee County situation where a couple of veteran members were voted out and then got on Trout Committee.

Sabota: Questioned whether we need all the committees we have. Habitat Committee hasn't had any resolutions lately.

Noll: Said he had been on Big Game for more than 20 years, and at that time all the board of directors of the WBH were on the committee. Said District chairs might not have the info necessary to make good choices. Said perhaps it is time to shuffle the deck.

Marquette: Would like to the opportunity to divvy up people in the district. Said he likes equal representation. Expressed belief that everyone knows that changes is imminent. Said he would like to see PDQ's.

Phelan: Said they go through the committee structure and see if they are represented, then go out and see if anyone is interested. Also said he doesn't feel qualified make those decisions.

Weiss: District people should know their people. Committee chairs and officers should have major input.

Brownell: Believes people keep putting down the same things every year.

Puhl: Suggested all four have to be filled in. He also suggested elimination of the Conference sign-up sheets.

Bohmann: Suggested working with people to change things up every now and then.
Weis: Include a spot on the PDS for someone who is willing to serve anywhere or that "I don't want to be on a committee."

Bohmann: Passed out committee representation list for review.

Maas: Wondered how we will keep track of data, and warned against making promises. He also would like to update sheet on line whenever he wants.

Bohmann: Reviewed number of people on each committee.

Noll: Asked about people the appropriateness of serving on multiple committees.

Sabota: Said we need to have something exciting to draw people.

Bohmann: Said to cross out ad hoc committees, Shooting Range and Ag Damage.

Aschenbrenner: Said District 4 has lots of trout water and would like to have more on Trout Committee.

D. Location for future conventions:

Bohmann: The convention next year is in Eau Claire, but no venues are scheduled after that. The question is if we want to move around or be centrally located.

Kari: Mentioned Chula Vista and that every year it gets better regarding costs.

Sharon: One idea is to rotate going to a central location and moving around to appease both sides.

Weiss: Said all counties not centrally located want it to be centrally located.

Riggle: Should you put out a three year RFP and send it to several places.

Aschenbrenner: Would like to see it centrally located.

Maas: Said if it is a three-year contract, we need an escape clause.

Kari: Said if they don't comply with the wording, and then they've broken the contract.

Maas: Said we could assign each district to host the convention.

Fahrney: Said it's not just money, it's the logistics involved as well.

Puhl: Said food was bad at the most recent convention.

Weiss: Asked if Chula Vista been approached.

Shook: Wanted to know the definition of central?

Koerner: Said he considers Stevens Point central with Wausau close by.

Kari: Said we will put out an RFP and see what we get. Said we need 425 rooms and separate room for eating and for the conference assembly.

Shook: Said he is not opposed to the Dells, maybe try it for three years but that it's not in the middle of the state.

Phelan: Said the hotel can tell us anything, but when you get there it may be different. Also said things might have changed.

E. Resolution 160412: Local Partnerships on Brule River.

Bohmann: Read 160412 (Opposes closing Brule River Fish hatchery) for review by the council.

Discussion:

Motion was made by Maas to support the Douglas County effort to keep the Brule River Fish hatchery open. Have Congress work with the DNR and Douglas County, second by Weiss.

Weiss: Discussed the value of the Brule to the area. He displayed several letters about how to retain it. Read a letter from Tom Johnson, County Chair, offering alternatives and possible compromise. Vote was 70-1 in favor at spring hearings.

Sabota: Suggested the federal fish hatchery in the area and could work together with other partners. Motion carried.

F. Adopting Hook Size Standards on Inland Waters

Bohmann: Read the resolution submitted by Mike Murphy.

Note: This was presented at the state convention. It was not on the agenda and could not be acted upon. Motion was made by Maas to refer to Warm Water Committee, second by Aschenbrenner.

Puhl: Asked if it will be assigned a number?

Kari: Not required.

Aschenbrenner: Noted it is allowed to use any kind of lure but the only way to prosecute is if the anglers have them in their possession.

Weiss: Asked if there is limit on size? He asked also about length when worms are used.

Motion carried.

3. Members Matters:

Brownell: Concerned about things he's reading about deer hunting and Dr. Kroll. Believes there is some disinformation out there.

Weiss: Said the goal is test 100 heads for CWD. Said there are 13 and-a-half square miles of the CWD location where permits are being issued to landowners to shoot deer. No other CWD positives have been found.

Riggle: Fawn capture is starting, invited anyone to volunteer. Said they had 18 volunteers yesterday.

Sabota: Also mentioned rumors about Dr. Kroll.

Risley: Mentioned wolf harvest issue. Said they have wolves in Green County. Sportsmen's groups there would like to make sure the wolf population goals are met.

Miller: Also refers to Kroll rumors. Information is going out that people should recall Walker because he's against hunting and hired Kroll to do away with public land.

Shook: Wished everybody a happy hunting season.

Aschenbrenner: Said there is a large tract of land up for sale in Forest County.

Hennlich: Said he is looking forward to working with Congress.

Maas: Asked about the situation for meals. He reported on a successful Outdoor Expo. Said we need some transparency about where we are on our budget.

Kari: Said meal reimbursement is the same.

Noll: Questioned whether we should be relying on the DNR legal counsel or if we should have our own legal counsel? He mentioned the difference between local county vote and state-wide vote. Said we should have the option of changing the vote. Said democracy is

obsolete, that we have a republic. Said he sometimes votes against county. Said we should have to explain the decision. Said he is concerned about the Executive Committee telling people they have to justify voting against their county.

Suchla: Said he is looking forward to working with the Council.

Puhl: Wants to know about the Executive Committee response to the Act 21 resolution. Said the memorial resolution at the banquet should be part of the conference.

Rogers: Disappointed in the negativity, and said if people are that concerned they need to get off the Congress.

Fahrney: Noted the need to get something into Outdoor News and other media on the disinformation out on the alleged Kroll effort to privatize all hunting land in Wisconsin.

Bohmann: Referred to the accountability involved having the county delegation to vote the wishes of their respective counties, and said holding people accountable is not intimidation.

Noll: Apologized for using the word "intimidate" at the convention.

Riggle: Said we need to hire a stenographer to take minutes at meetings.

Fahrney: Mentioned the passing of Larry Bonde's father.

Koerner: Said he would like to see a standing moment of silence also at the conference.

4. Adjourn:

Motion was made by Maas to adjourn, second by Risley. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Fahrney, Secretary
Executive Committee
Wisconsin Conservation Congress