

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## FUR HARVEST STUDY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	08/18/12	9:30am	Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center
-------------------	----------	--------	-----------------------------------

#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chair Scott Zimmerman at 9:30am
----------------------------	---------------------------------

##### B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Scott Zimmerman, Chairman Daniel Carroll, Secretary Richard Alvin, Douglas Hilgart, David Louis, Dave Werner, Richard Pladies, Nate Stahl, Richard Clark, Michael Hurlburt, Wil Netzer, Aloze Prudlick Jr., Mike Nicholson, Scott McAuley, Daniel Cichantek, Thomas Savage, Marcus Bresee, Richard Ammon, Joshua Hennlich, Bruce Albrecht; D.N.R. Liaison John Olson, D.N.R. Liaison John Welke
EXCUSED	David Hraychuck, Vice-chair Karl Kastrosky, Jim Binder, Jeff, Stoeckigt, Wayne Stietz, Donald Bongle, David Ferris
UNEXCUSED	Glenn Henning, Kelly Tollefson
GUESTS	Robert C. WillGing, USDA Wildlife Services, Beaver Control; John Clare, UW Stevens Point- Bobcat Research; Rob Bohmann and Lee Fahrney came about 11:00 am and stayed until about 3:00 pm

##### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Noted Robert C. Willging to do beaver control, not beaver management plan
ACTION	

##### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Mission statement was read and accepted as read
ACTION	

##### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Christina Ciano of Dane County wants to stop D.N.R. wolf hunt. She feels hunting wolves with dogs will lead to dog fighting.  John Danielson of Washburn County wants to regain trapping rights on NPS-owned land along the Namekagon, St. Croix, and tributaries.  Laurie Groskopf of Lincoln County is a Conservation Congress member. She
------------	--

	wants more bobcat tags. She feels that reproduction is down because of high population numbers.
ACTION	

## II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

### A. BEAVER CONTROL

**ROBERT WILLGING, USDA  
WILDLIFE SERVICES**

DISCUSSION	He spoke on beaver management. He works in the Northern part of the state. They help with road damage and cold water trout protection. They have 1,500 miles of cold water stream under contract. A total of 1,222 beaver were taken. 70 incidental otter were taken as well. The take on cold water is decreasing. The take on roads is increasing.	
ACTION		
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

### B. BOBCAT RESEARCH

**JOHN CLARE, UW STEVENS  
POINT**

DISCUSSION	The main goal is to find out how many bobcats there are in the southern two thirds of Wisconsin, South of Hwy 64. Detection of dogs were not very cost effective. Not counting bobcats. Develop models for population density of bobcats for each habitat. A bobcat's home range is prey based. Game or trail cameras were cheaper, required less labor, and had higher detection rates than other methods tried. Bobcats were found with wolves and bears. All were using bike paths and roads. The study area concentrated on the central forest, which is forty percent forest, thirty percent cropland, and offered large tracts of public land. This year decided to use a larger grid. Decided to use dual set cameras to improve identification. Bobcats avoided pine stands, but favored forests and wet lands with good overhead cover. Live capture will be used to validate trail camera results. Best management practice approved foot hold traps and will be used to capture bobcats. No bobcat kits were captured on camera in 2012.	
ACTION		
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

### C. DNR FURBEARER UPDATES

**JOHN OLSON, DNR FURBEARER  
ECOLOGIST**

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The D.N.R. board approved the wolf season.</li> <li>- A law suit was filed to stop the season because of the use of dogs in wolf hunting.</li> <li>- The Department of Justice will represent the State in the law suit.</li> <li>- The tribes have declared they will take all the wolf quota that is available to them.</li> <li>- Wildlife Services have killed 41 wolves to date.</li> </ul>
------------	---

- Land owners have killed 9.
- Dave Ruid has projected the total take for Wildlife Service and land owners to total 100 wolves for the year of 2012.
- Because of the law suit, the D.N.R. can't talk about the wolf issue.
- Traps and cable restraints are both part of wolf season framework.
- Foot hold traps less than seven inch outside jaw spread when measured across the dog are to be used before December 1<sup>st</sup> for wolf trapping.
- After December 1<sup>st</sup>, eight inch or less jaw spread traps are legal.
- After December 1<sup>st</sup> cable restraints are legal.
- A wolf restraint must have:
  - 1500 lb roller swivel as a stop at 48 inches or less
  - a stop at 8 inches for a deer's hoof
  - 1 ¼ inch reverse bend washer lock
  - to be set as a non-entanglement
  - The larger traps are allowed after December 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid problems with bears being held.
  - The larger+ loop used for wolves on a cable restraint will capture more deer, more education will reduce take.
- wolf is no longer part of endangered resources, now part of wildlife management.
- They need an economic way to monitor wolves.
- Wolves are now managed by a minimum count.
- Talk is of a population estimate.
- Voluntary wolf trapper training at Madison, Stevens Point, and somewhere in North.
- Wolf trapper training set for early September or October.

- **Quota Recommendations:**

- Bobcat tag numbers to be reduced because of poor reproductive rates. Possibly due to low snow shoe hare population, and other lack of food. Seven years to get a tag.
- Fisher show increase in zones E and F possibly change zones in North to more East to West from North to South.
- Female fisher are killed by bobcats and great horned owls.
- Otter population shows increase in South zone and is stable in Central zone. The North zone population is down due to loss of beaver ponds. There is a need to shorten the beaver season.

-

- **Spring Hearing Proposals**

- Power activated foot snare
- 24 hour fisher and otter harvest reporting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shorten beaver and otter season in the North one month</li> <li>○ Make a permanent rule that all land sets for foot hold traps be 7 inches or less until December 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>○ We, as Conservation Congress, should ask that all seasons line-up. (example; wolf, coyote)</li> </ul>
<b>ACTION</b>	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

**D. RESOLUTION: 72 HOUR TRAP CHECK INTERVAL ON BODY-GRIP TYPE TRAPS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	(060412) 72 hour trap check interval on body-grip traps. Mike Nicholson said author was willing to date (after Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> ) Many biologists and law enforcement said it would be bad public relations.	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion by Richard Clark to reject Second by Marcus Bresee The vote was 12 to support the motion to reject. 3 were not in favor of the motion. Voted to reject resolution.	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

**E. ALLOW TRAPPING ON NPS OWNED LAND ALONG NOMEKOGAN/ ST. CROIX**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	(040212) Allow trapping on NPS owned land along the Namekagon, St. Croix, and tributaries. Author was present Gave lots of history	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion by Dave Louis to support Second by Will Netzer  Motion passed unanimously	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

**F. REPEAL LAW ALLOWING TRAPPING ON PUBLIC LANDS**

DISCUSSION	<p>(130212) Repeal law allowing trapping on public lands</p> <p>Author was present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- wasn't enough public say</li> <li>- parks are used often</li> <li>- trapping is a danger to pets and kids</li> <li>- wants to eliminate all body grips</li> <li>- says we are a minority</li> <li>- resolution states ALL public lands</li> </ul>	
ACTION	<p>Motion by Dan Cichantek to reject</p> <p>Second by Marcus Bresee</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously to reject resolution</p>	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

**G. EXTEND MUSKRAT SEASON UNTIL MARCH 31**

DISCUSSION	<p>(200512) Extend muskrat season until March 31<sup>st</sup></p> <p>Author was present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Author Chris Mannen says: You can't hurt the population because of high reproductive rates.</li> <li>- Marcus Bresee and Dan Carroll say you can hurt the population because in a normal year 80 percent die by spring.</li> <li>- Lots of trappers want more opportunity.</li> <li>- The catch in the spring is lots of males.</li> </ul>	
ACTION	<p>Motion by Dan Cichantek to support</p> <p>Second by Richard Clark</p> <p>11 voted to support the motion.</p> <p>4 voted to reject the motion.</p> <p>voted to support the resolution.</p>	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

**H. PROPOSAL FOR STATEWIDE BOBCAT SEASON**

DISCUSSION	<p>Currently hunting and trapping for bobcats is only allowed North of State Hwy 64 with two split seasons starting in the middle of October to December 25<sup>th</sup>. The second part is December 26<sup>th</sup> to the end of January. The harvest goal is split between these two seasons. The harvest goal is set each year by the Department staff. Controlling the harvest, not to over harvest. Today's technology of trail cameras, incidental take of trappers, and road kill south of State Hwy 64 shows that there is a population that can be hunted and trapped and would support a statewide bobcat season. There has been interest for years in a statewide bobcat season. The Conservation Congress at it's annual fur harvest meeting held at Mead Wildlife Area on August 18, 2012, recommended that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change allowing statewide hunting and trapping of bobcats</p>	
------------	--	--

	using the same harvest goal as is presently being used North of State Hwy 64. Do you support a statewide bobcat season?	
ACTION	Motion by Marcus Bresee to support Second by Richard Clark Unanimously passed	
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

### III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Marcus Bresee</u> Has a problem of tags being a part of conservation patron license</li> <li>- <u>Mike Nicholson</u> Is not happy with the current colony trap rules</li> <li>- <u>Aloze Prudlick Jr.</u> Says we need to promote more education</li> <li>- <u>Michael Hurlburt</u> Says our committee needs to have long term membership, for all the knowledge we bring to the committee</li> <li>- <u>Richard Clark</u> Talked about the beaver management plan</li> <li>- <u>Scott McAuley</u> Submitted a resolution about season frame works</li> </ul> <p>Because of the new wolf season being signed into law, the other seasons don't start and end on the same dates. To correct this problem we suggest that the other seasons change to match the wolf starting and ending dates. The Conservation Congress at it's annual fur harvest meeting held at Mead Wildlife Area on August 18, 2012 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change that allows coyote, fox, bobcat, fisher, and raccoon seasons all start at the same time as the wolf season. The fisher and bobcat seasons would end at their usual time. The fox, coyote, and raccoon would end at the same time as wolf season. Do you support these changes to the furbearer seasons as listed above?</p>
ACTION	Motion by Scott McAuley to support Second by Aloze Prudlick Jr. Unanimously passed

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	Motion to adjourn by Marcus Bresee Second by Mike Nicholson at 3:30 pm
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	Daniel D. Carroll, Secretary
<b>DATE</b>	August 18, 2012