

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## Private & Public Land Use

### Meeting Minutes



<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	<b>10/13/2012</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Stevens Point</b>
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#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

<b>MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY</b>	Chairman Rick Olson at 9:30am.
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##### B. ROLL CALL

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Rick Olson, Michael Hamm, David Larson, Ed Choinski, Alan Suchla, Jason Lies, Matthew Jacowski, Steven Ninneman, Gary Kanarowski, and Dave Natter.
<b>EXCUSED</b>	Richard Moncher
<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	James Houck
<b>GUESTS</b>	Also present for the Department of Natural Resources was Dick Steffes and guest Shaun Hamilton representing the Trust for Public Land.

##### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Michael Hamm to approve and second by Mathew Jacowski . No discussion.
<b>ACTION</b>	Passed

##### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	An attempt to read the Mission Statement was moved to later in the meeting while a copy of the statement could be found.
<b>ACTION</b>	The purpose of the Private and Public Land Access Study Committee is to explore and increase private land access for outdoor recreation including hunting, trapping, fishing, and other nature based activities, such as hiking and biking. It will also support and expand the consumptive sportsman's access to public lands within the state of Wisconsin.

##### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	None.
<b>ACTION</b>	None.

#### II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

##### A. CITIZENS RESOLUTIONS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	No Citizens Resolutions before this committee.	
<b>ACTION</b>		
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

## B. SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC LAND ACCESS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Chairman Rick Olson spoke about the process of large tracks of land being purchased and then subdivided into small parcels. He read a statement he prepared and explained how he helped the Chippewa Forest Legacy Program. He also stated that off shore corporate oil companies fund land and water conservation.</p> <p>Gary Kanarowski asked who is the point person in Wisconsin? Shaun Hamilton said Senator Duffy. Michael Hamm wanted to know who is helping get these funds? Dick Steffes Stated that the State of Maine is really good at consistently getting these funds from the Federal Government. Shaun Hamilton handed out a folder to each committee member and explained how he goes about getting the funds to purchase large tracks of land.</p> <p>Michael Hamm commented about the fact that he didn't see any towns or county association on the list for approval supporting the purchase of these lands. We are losing revenue when these lands are purchased because they come off the tax rolls. Shaun Hamilton stated it does make sense to have extra police, fire, and roads to off-set the tax base. Chairman Rick Olson said the Public and Private Land Use Committee should be involved in making these decisions. He further stated there is a balance between services verses taking a property off the tax rolls. These lands draw income, people, and tourism. This is the highest and best use for these properties. He would like to see this committee draft a resolution supporting land acquisitions.</p> <p>Shaun Hamilton spoke to how important it is to have our support. Steve Ninneman spoke about Florence County having problems losing the tax base and people are selling because they cannot afford the taxes. Little by little the tax base is leaving.</p> <p>Dick Steffes commented about how Plum Creek is a large land machine and buying everything. They have three branched. Timber management, big sales, and retail. Chairman Olson stated Plum Creek is a big business period. Dick Steffes commented how Plum Creek is not an evil company. They work with us. Chairman Olson we need to protect lands for the future. Michael Hamm lands in Federal Forest does no good for anyone, they won't cut. 77% of the forests cut are on private lands. Dick Steffes explain how an easement works and that they run with the land forever.</p> <p>Chairman Olson asked if all the opportunity was available on these lands. Trapping, hunting, fishing, biking, hiking, etc.. Michael Hamm is there a process to go through before the state agrees to purchase? Steffes stated there was and explained the process. He also explained payment in lieu of taxes. Dave Natter asked how or when do you want our committee's approval. Chairman Olson stated when Dick Steffes and Shaun Hamilton need our help. Chairman Olson asked do you guys want to write a resolution to support this or not?</p> <p>Chairman Olson read a resolution that he had previously prepared. This is a start and we need to be involved in the approval process. At this point is when our Mission Statement was read and was requested by the Vice Chair Alan Suchla. The Mission statement was read by the chairman. Mathew Jacowski stated that your resolution matches the mission statement. Chairman Olson stated we are asking to be involved in the process. Michael Hamm asked if we get the opportunity to vote on the final language when drafted. Yes, chairman Olson re-read his resolution. Steve Ninneman stated we need to be involved with the process.</p>	
	<p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p>Mathew Jacowski made a motion to support this to the Executive Committee. Steve Ninneman second. Motion passed with Michal Hamm opposing. There is no local support included towns/county.</p>	
	<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

## C. PUBLIC ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Chairman Rick Olson wants input from the committee. He spoke about giving land owners preference for letting others hunt. Mathew Jocowski stated he farms 1,200 acres and lets people hunt. He gives back in the form of feeding all the animals others hunt. Michael Hamm stated there should be a link in the hunting regulations where people could go to see the lands that are available to hunt. Dave Natter was concerned the map would not be accurate enough or up to date.</p>
	<p>Mathew Jocowski stated that there is abuse of the MFL process. The tax break would not be enough to cover the difference in keeping the property closed. People are still abusing the program. Dick Steffes explained the new MFL regulations. Chairman Olson asked about getting landowners preference. Dick Steffes stated if you relieve one tax payer from the burden, you ultimately increase another. Someone always ends up paying the difference.</p>
	<p>Michael Hamm asked the chairman to explain his idea. Chairman Olson stated that he is looking for more access for people. Mathew Jocowski stated how do we change the way people view hunting. Everyone is</p>

	<p>concerned with My Buck and having that trophy mentality. If I let you hunt on my property you will shoot my buck. Chairman Olson re-read a resolution he drafted and withdrew it.</p> <p>Matt Jocowski asked the chair to draft a new resolution to approve \$3 for a one-time fee once a year to be used to fund private land access. There was lots of discussion by all.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	The committee was struggling with the fee. Chairman Olson re-read the proposed resolution. It passed unanimously to forward to the Executive Committee. This new resolution asks for a once a year fee of \$1 on any license sold which would be used to generate funds to help get people on private lands.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

**D. PUBLIC FOREST INITIATIVES**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Chairman Olson stated we need to protect our forest from disease. We need to know what their plan is for our forests. Michael Hamm stated the forest committee is already looking at this. Chairman Olson wants to know if the Feds are doing the best for the forest. They need to act on these issues. The committee talked about the Federal Forest needing to be cut and the need for protection from fire hazards and disease.
<b>ACTION</b>	No action was taken. The committee felt this issue was already being pursued by a different committee and would lend our support if needed.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

**E. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION & UPDATES**

**DICK STEFFES**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dick Steffes spoke about the process of purchasing land. There is a 50/50 matching. They must have the five requirements allowing hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and skiing. Lands purchased must abide by the stewardship agreement. If violations are found we have the ability to take the land back.
<b>ACTION</b>	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

**F. TRACKING OF LANDS PURCHASED WITH STEWARDSHIP MONEY**

**DICK STEFFES**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Chairman Olson asked Dick Steffes who tracks the Stewardship Lands? Doug Haug.
<b>ACTION</b>	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Mathew Jocowski is concerned about a 345 acre parcel (Lost Creek Mitigation Site) being closed by the DOT to hunting, fishing, trapping. He wants to see this land opened up to the public.</p> <p>Jason Leis has concerns about power lines being placed on private lands with no recourse. How come alternate routes aren't researched?</p> <p>Dave Natter wanted to know if there was problems accessing current public lands?</p> <p>Secretary Choinski informed the committee of a resolution he wrote in which it didn't come out of another committee but was still being forwarded to the executive committee and asked the members who could help for support.</p> <p>Steve Ninneman had a question about Drainage Board. Once the water leaves one area who would you contact next? Mathew Jocowski is going to send him the information once he gets back home after the meeting.</p> <p>Michael Hamm is concerned about funding the Elk herd when Tribal Leaders can harvest an Elk for spiritual</p>
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	gatherings. Ceremonial Elk Harvesting while there is no current Elk hunt in the state doesn't make any sense.
<b>ACTION</b>	

## **ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	Motion to adjourn by David Larson second by Dave Natter. <b>1:35pm</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Ed Choinski Oneida County Delegate</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>10/18/2012</b>